

## Letter to William J. Hooker, 16 May 1857

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

57 Sloane St

16<sup>th</sup> May

1857

Dear Sir

I fully  
intended to accept  
your very kind  
invitation today  
but I feel for  
the first time  
since I came home

[0002]

the effects of  
overwork in  
great lassitude  
and a feeling  
of illness. I attended  
the Anniversary  
of the London  
Missionary Society  
on Thursday and  
have hurt my  
throat in trying  
to speechify to

[0003]

upwards of 2000  
people a work  
for which I  
have always  
believed I was  
never intended  
It is not the speaking  
so much as the  
sitting sweating  
in agony about  
what you will  
say for hours  
beforehand. I would

be ashamed to  
[0004]  
meet Lady Hooker  
in this state so I  
now (4 O clock)  
beg you to allow  
me to come next  
[^][Friday or] Saturday instead  
~~of this~~ We shall  
be sure to come  
on either the one  
day or the other  
Please do not trouble  
yourself to write  
again, but accept  
my hearty thanks  
for the invitation D. Livingstone

The Portuguese Government has  
ordered my men to be supported by Mosambique  
Province