Letter to John Kirk, 26 June 1871

David Livingstone

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[MS 10768] To D^r Kirk from D. Livingstone 26th June 1871

on this page I intended to put an Arabic dismissal to the ringleaders I use it now to say please do not be offended with palayers - I am really reduced to beggary notwithstanding all the bountiful provision you with immense difficulty made for me and that too almost entirely by the villainy of the unmitigated drunken blackgaurd Shereef - His Banian owner a British subject is in part to blame for he must have known his habits and his brandy when they imposed him on us - He is reported to have bought ivory with my goods and this ivory ought to be stopped at the custom house as is done in case of Arabs till he refunds - If Seyed bin Majid sends the list of goods left by Shereef you will judge of the extent of loss - If not then the case had better wait till I return - Remember that the list containing 12 Frasilahs samsam and the watch is that destroyed by Shereef - I have that of samsam 6 Frasilahs - Langio 3 D° & Pink 3 &c - All Dugumbe's people saw the packet and think as he refused it to Dugumbe it is hidden = I feel sore most of all about the watch - though it is hard too to be living from hand to mouth in beggary while my Banian slaves lived sixteen months in clover and idleness earning they supposed from five to seven dollars per month - They are independent of the Arabs but so they are of us and of honesty - I go West of this to Lomame = 60° then buy a canoe if Dugumbe will advance the price and go South to the Watershed and four fountains = Dugumbe is very friendly and a gentleman with more exploring enterprise in him than any other - He is going to sow and be here at Nyangwe for three years sending every now & then to Ujiji letters sent to him will be safe - His people will bring some goods for me from Ujiji and I shall share liberally with him I might have mentioned that a dyke of basalt or other igneous rock cuts across the river 4 days of the canoe below this and the immense body of water is jammed rushing through the jutting ends which are not parallel [Livingstone illustrates the portion of the river described in the foregoing sentence.] and form whirlpools in which canoes wheel round & round helplessly = I am thankful I was not there for I would have been foremost in this and a cataract below it and no Makololo to help me I thought next of going up river to Kamolondo the broad part of Webbs Lake river but another cataract intervenes so I go due West on foot on the 2^d day of New about 9th July. In this jumble of odds & ends you will see how my mind is confused - I should have added up there that I dont go down river at present because in turning up Lomame from Lualaba I should probably meet the

same basaltic dyke in the ascent for such dykes run a long way across country - here I have a chance of cutting Lomame above it

David Livingstone

I had to pay the carriers of Shereefs brandy from first to last his own trade for ivory was what he followed shamelessly