

Letter to Royal Geographical Society (Great Britain), 14 January 1855

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Extracts of letter from Rev^d D^r
Livingston dated Cassange, Angola,
West Africa, 14th January 1855.

[Communicated through D^r Shaw, by
the London Missionary Society.]

~~In the city of Loanda~~ I arrived
[in the City] wearily knocked up and suffering from fever and
dysentery. Edmund Gabriel, Esq^r, Her Majesty's
Commissioner for the suppression of the slave
trade, ~~and the only Englishman I know in the city,~~ most generously received me and my 27
Companions into his house. I shall never forget
the delicious pleasure of lying down on his bed
after sleeping six months on the ground, nor
the unwearied attention and kindness through a
long sickness which M^r G[abriel] invariably shewed.
May God reward him. My companions were
struck with awe at the sight of a city, and
more especially when taken on board H. M. ships
of war. The kindness of the officers of the cruizers
removed the last vestige of fear from their minds,
for, finding them to be all my countrymen, they
saw the fallacy of the declarations ~~of the negroes of every village we came to west of Cassange—
'that the white man was taking them to the sea, and would sell them all to be taken on board
ship, fattened, and eaten.'~~[made to them on the road.][felt themselves to be in safety.][stet]
They were afterwards engaged in discharging coals
from a ship for wages, and will marvel to
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the end of their lives at the prodigious quantity
of 'stones that burn' one ship could contain.
They previously imagined their own little canoes
on the Zambesi the best vessels, and themselves
the most expert sailors in the world.

"His Excellency the Bishop of
Angola, then the acting Governor of the
Province, received my companions with great
Kindness, and assured them of his protection and

friendship, as well as desire to promote commercial intercourse with the Country of Sekeletu. He also sent a present of a horse & handsome dress for that chief, and shewed very great attention to myself in my sickness. The Merchants too of Loanda took the opportunity of our return to send presents to Sekeletu, and, as they give much envie for the produce of his country, than can be, or is done by merchants from the Cape Colony, it is to be hoped that intercourse with either Cassange or Loanda, will promote the civilization of the Interior.

"I return, because I feel that the work to which I set myself is only half accomplished. The way out to the Eastern Coast may be less difficult than I have found that to the West. If I succeed, we shall at least have a choice. [Insert

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from the 2nd sheet of No 2

& 23 from 5th sheet of No 1] ~~I intend, God helping me, to go down the Zambesi or Leambye to Quilimane. I may, in order to avoid the Falls of Mosiatunya, and the rapid & rocky river above that Part – go across from Secheke to the Maninche Loengo or river of the Bashukulompo, and then descend it to the Zambesi. If I cannot succeed I shall return to Loanda, and thence embark for England. I expected letters at Loanda and feel much disappointed at receiving none. I asked my friends to write to that place, and now suppose they believed I should never reach it. I shall feel obliged if you send a letter to Quilimane. I know not whether I shall reach it, but I mean to try."~~