

## Letter to John Murray III, 5 October 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Kongone harbour

5<sup>th</sup> October 1858

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Murray

Two Dutch clergymen  
at the Cape were once lighted  
on comfortably lodged in  
the house of a rebel who had  
a few days before had been  
actively engaged in the  
murder of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Captain  
Murray and a number of  
soldiers at Boomplaats  
I did not want to see them  
but there they were - and  
they not only circulated a  
tale of scandal to the effect  
that a black metal pot I once  
lent to a chief was a cannon

[0002]

the consequence was I was  
refused a supply of gunpowder  
at the Cape when departing  
on my great journey  
they cannot forgive me for  
seeing them as they were  
stultifying the Government  
by apparently fraternizing  
with the rebels. They said  
nothing while I had an  
ovation & £800 in Cape  
Town but when I am  
some hundreds of miles  
off make an attack not  
on the text but on  
a footnote in which  
I mention their way of  
getting land for the church  
in a commendatory style

[0003]

they evidently feel that if they  
can prove a single point  
erroneous they are safe. And  
one a Scotchman D<sup>r</sup> Robertson  
has written to me and threatens  
to write to you too. He makes  
an assertion that the stipend  
is so much but leaves  
out of view the etceteras  
which make it much  
more. I answer him  
and think he will scarcely  
publish my answer  
as I refer pointedly to  
our former meeting  
in the rebel's house &  
the onus of publication  
rests with him. If  
he likes to publish his  
own - shame he may  
[0004]

I write this in great haste  
We have got no end of the  
finest coal - It is like the Welsh  
I burned a ton and a half  
in coming down from Tette  
My men recieved me in  
transports of joy. Thirty of  
them died of ~~fever~~ small  
pox and six were killed  
by a rebel chief. Sekwebu's  
principal servant is now  
with me. I leave tomorrow  
morning again for Tette.  
Party all well. Kind  
regards to Cook & M<sup>rs</sup> M.  
M<sup>rs</sup> L is off for Kuruman  
with her father & mother

I am &c

David Livingstone