

Letter to [Robert Moffat 1?], 28 January 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Postscript at Kongone 28th January
1861

We are waiting here for our new steamer
and for the first time since my return to
Africa I have leisure for correspondence
We cannot divine what detains her
as she is now two months beyond her
time - but patience patience!

I have heard from Sir Culling
E. Earldley and he refers to a Karross
you gave to Lady Earldley. She
told me about the loss she sustained
by going to the Continent. When she
returned it was all moth eaten. She
was "so sorry as it came from
you" I mentioned it to you at the
Cape but it must have escaped
your memory - or possibly I neglected
to give you their address. It is 39
Upper Grosvenor St. London.

[0002]

If it were possible for me to buy one
in this region I would do so but none
are to be had for love or money. She has
been suffering greatly from disease of
the heart. This brings to my recollection
that we got a glimpse of some people from
Mosilikatze's at Senna. As soon as they
saw the Makololo with me they decamped
and no persuasion could induce them
to come near us. A Senhor Isidore
Pereira of Senna usually called Senhor
Eezedor sent a party of his slaves to trade
with Mosilikatze 16 months ago. they
were away 14 months but stopped at
different places for months at a time
This is the second visit and the guns you saw
came from Senna. Mosilikatze
sent about 30 head of cattle, one a

remarkable pure white ox. Of these only
2 arrived and one died while we were at
Senna. About 1000 sheep & goats. Of these
about 400 arrived & nearly all lame.
and 2 meercat karrosses.!

The word "Falla" means to speak and it is probably the only word they
had picked up. Isidore is commandant of Senna
[0003]

Isidore was not well pleased with the trade
and we heard him threatening to send his
slaves to the fort for punishment but being
a rather dissatisfied character we don't
know whether this means much. He
lost all his ostrich feathers by the camp
taking fire. Laws very stringent against
gunpowder & arms being sold to the natives
but nobody observes them - not one. These
people never went near you - they were
afraid. They lived with a headman of
Mosilikatzes> at some distance from Moshetta
They saw a hunter kill an elephant. Was
this Baldwin? A chief of the Batoka
called Sekote fled from Kalai is^d to
Mosilikatze and lives under him. The
people who have come to Senna belong
to his party and it so happened that we
have a man of Sekote who came with us
to get himself cured of leprosy. He knew
the strangers by name but like unmitigated
cowards they fled, though the few Makololo had no spears - nor would they return when
[0004]

their own countryman went & tried to persuade
them. This proves the truth of what I have
told the Makololo that they are just a lot of
hyaenas - cowards before all who are stronger
than they are - they dread the Matibele and I
suspect are dreaded by them. The account given
you of a fight below the Falls in which the
Matibele were victorious does not appear to
have taken place at all. A foray was made
to the West but the leprosy affair came on
afterwards and embittered their success. If
they cannot remove soon fever will break
them up as a tribe. It is a pity that John
did not go there but not by Linyanti
The way is direct to Victoria Falls by M^r
Baldwin'sspoor. The swamps of the Chobe
are then avoided and one is at the foot
of the highlands. I cannot imagine what kept

Helmore so long in the way. Did they use
any remedy? Was it fever? What symptoms
did they observe? are questions I should like
to put but cannot.

Our steamer is to be a real one. It is superintended
in construction by the Admiralty & everything we
we have got from them has been of first rate quality. We shall
try to get an entrance exterior to the Portuguese claims but
this is not made public

Mary is in England I believe children all well and doing
well. The Universities' mission prospering greatly.

David Livingstone

I shall send Senna seeds first time we go to Tette.