

## Letter to Joseph B. Braithwaite, 24 January 1861

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[0001]

Kongone 24 January 1860[1]

My Dear Friend

We are waiting for the arrival of our new steamer which ought to have been [here] in November. We are surrounded with mangrove swamps which are believed to be the very hot - beds of fever yet thank God that disease so far as we have seen it is not worse than a common cold. We can cure it quickly and without loss of strength to the patient.

I tried it[the remedy] first on my own children at Lake Ngami in 1850 and have never failed in a single case since. but disliking anything like "Quackery" I said little about it more than is mentioned in the "Missionary Travels" But when we lately arrived at Victoria Falls we heard for the first time that a party of London Missionaries had arrived at and four out of six Europeans perished at Linyanti: this caused us unfeigned sorrow. We did not know of their movements except that at the Cape the Newspapers spoke of them as in "connection with the Zambesi Expedition," and they had gone inland. With all the vexatious delays we have experienced we might by straining a point have been there before them, and rendered that medical aid which they seem so much to have needed. It must have been inadvertence that led to neither Dr Tidman nor my dear friend Helmore saying a word to me about a mission in which I feel so deep an interest

[0002]

I have ventured to advise John Moffat in the event of not being allowed to teach the people of Mosilikatze freely to go to the Makololo by a straight course to Victoria Falls. The Makololo are

perishing of fever themselves and would willingly leave the swamps of Linyanti for the Highland where in passing we actually saw hoar frost and a little ice, provided one of Mr Moffat's family were with them. They look kindly to Helmore but wished to get acquainted & hence the delay which proved so fatal. I have also reminded him of your proposal to make the christians at home aware of his efforts and secure a share of their sympathies by the channel which "Evangelical Christendom" affords. Some one sent us copies for March April [May &] June - They are the first I have seen & it appears to be the largest hearted & ablest religious Periodical going. I did not like the Evangelical alliance when its only object seemed to be for Christians to meet & clap each others backs. but it has now great objects and works to do, and I wish it cordially all success

We are very much pleased & thankful to hear of the wonderful Revivals which are taking place in so many parts of our native land. the Lord pour out his spirit on all classes and make his name glorious It is with great delight that I hail the new mission by the English Universities It seems to come up to my idea of what a mission ought to be, and do in Africa

[0003]

I pray our Heavenly Father that he may draw out the Church of England and make that great and rich body feel that it stands committed to the final extermination of the slave trade by the introduction of commerce & the gospel of christ into the centre of the slave market. It is He who has drawn so many into the movement and as it is his own work we have thus a pledge that he will carry it on. I have been applied to for information by the Committees, and have recommended a steamer, and but a small party at the outset. I have not failed to warn them against an irritability produced by the climate possibly by malaria as it often though not always precedes an attack of fever We put down the feeling of being slighted or insulted as one of the symptoms of coming fever. The remedy for fever comes very

opportune for this mission. I am excessively  
grieved that the London Missionaries did  
not (probably) know it. Now for the Society  
of Friends. As soon as the Mission is  
fairly set agoing I mean to make an appeal  
to them for cooperation in helping on the lawful  
trade. What say you to that? I sympathize  
with you all in the loss of your dear mother and  
sister. They are home. O that we could feel  
that the haven which they have reached really  
really is our home. I always feel as if I had  
a work to do here and the heart is not set  
on things above as it ought. the Lord bless  
these events to us all. Remember me most  
kindly and lovingly to your Father, & to your family

[0004]

As we have a daughter more than was expected  
when the Settlement for the children was made  
can a clause be added giving her the share  
her mother was to have. I believe a pension  
will be given in case of my death. M<sup>rs</sup> L.  
will say if she is agreeable to this arrange -  
ment.

I am not aware who my injudicious  
correspondents were who published my letters  
all of which were marked Private. Hence  
forth I shall write to but few. I did not feel  
sweet on being shamefully treated by Macgregor  
Laird & Bedingfeld. Nor I suppose did Sir  
John Franklin when he discovered his preserved  
offal. I have good reason to believe that M<sup>r</sup>  
Laird behaved badly also to the great Niger Expedition.  
M<sup>r</sup> Vogel the botanists cabin was as wet as ours,  
and the ships were left ashore near Bathurst  
though the cost was enormous. A seaman in our  
employ saw that one of them was broken right  
through the middle! And a gentleman high in the  
Admiralty said to me "He ( Macgregor Laird)" treated  
us very shabbily" He wont do so to any one else  
and he would not have treated us so had  
the officers of the Niger Expedition spoken out boldly.  
I was unfortunate in having anything to do with  
the naval officers Bedingfeld & Gordon. Both quarrelled  
with Captain Duncan of the Pearl and I had orders  
to see that " Duncan was not interfered with in his  
command by any naval officer ". On the third public  
altercation before his crew I interfered by saying [to B] "we  
must have no more of these public altercations" private

remonstrance had failed, and I got Bedingfelds  
resignation next day and Gordon's spite fifteen  
months afterwards but I break not my heart for  
all that & more if it comes Affec<sup>y</sup> David Livingstone

[0005]

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D<sub>-</sub><sup>L</sup>