

## Letter to Horace Waller, 5 February 1871, PB\_002\_002r

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PS. to Waller - It is not worth while noticing anything fr[...] Burton any more than from Cooley - they make statements only [...] lug themselves forward to the public - For your private information I tell you that my party consisted of fifteen Muhamadans six pagan Hindoos six christians & four Heathen - the Moslems were by far the worst in every respect - The christians had the misfortune to have been born slaves in their own tribes & had recieved the worst training in the world from Moslem slavetraders but behaved better than the Moslems till we came into close contact with Moslems again - the Heathen had been in the Portuguese service and were infinitely inferior to heathen Makololo in consequence - I have heard gentlemen from India speak of native christians with contempt because they had never seen any save the vile scum that hangs about camps which may be called moral cess pools - I have seen the native christians in India which these silly gentlemen pretend to describe and they are as different from the "Masters caste" men who say "I drink brandy" as one can concieve - I have travelled with all sorts of Africans and I can without hesitation assert that the native Christians are out of sight better than either Moslems or heathen - only let them understand thoroughly that they are servants and must work as hard as slaves - They are not gentlemen and you will have trustworthy & generally truthful attendants - The trouble you will have with them is just what all have with English servants and every other - I am to be judged by the work done -

I am truly thankful that there is some prospect of the suppression of the East African slave trade as carried on by the Sultans subjects - I have heard but little of the details but I believe a great deal is owing to the exertions of our friend Kirk on whom for his share may Heavens rich blessing descend - the sights I have in this journey seen of slaving make my blood run cold and I am not easily moved or very Sentimental - I cannot call the Arabs cruel - but [^][it is the trade that is cruel and certainly is vil[...] ] few are like those wretches the Kilwa traders or the atrocious Portuguese of Tette whose murder and arson you witnessed - But it is an awful traffic and can be congenial only to the Devil and his angels - If our statesmen stop the frightful waste of human life in this region and mitigate the vast amount of human woe that accompanies it they will do good on the large scale

and cause joy in Heaven - The whole horrible system  
North of Rovuma & Cape Delgado is to support the Sultan  
of Zanzibar who is said to be by no means very greedy  
of money save to uphold his little court & attendants -  
The system South of a point South of Cape Delgado for  
that is the boundary claimed by the [^]Portuguese[Arabs] is kept up  
not to injure the rights of the crown of Portugal " ~~so said~~  
~~one not supposed capable of abetting an atrocity~~ and  
the Governors D'Almrida destroyed our work & people  
unchecked - The most startling disease I have seen among  
slaves is not earth or clay eating which too is a disease  
per se but what really seems to be brokenheartedness  
It does not attack those who have been slaves in their own  
land but those who have been free - I saw a party taken  
across Lualaba by a slaver and when they saw this mighty  
river roll between them and home they seemed to lose all  
heart - Twenty one who were then considered safe were  
unchained all scuttled off to the mountains but eight  
still in the chain and in good health died in three days