

## Letter to Agnes Livingstone 3, 28 April 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Shupanga R. Zambezi

28<sup>th</sup> April 1862

My Dear Dear Agnes

Your beloved Mama

is I trust in Heaven. She died last night about seven oclock and we shall never see her till through mercy we meet in Heaven. I have just come back from laying her dear form in the grave in the hope of a blessed resurrection Dear Nanie she often thought of you and when once from the violence of the disease she was delirious-She called out "see, Agnes is falling down a precipice." May

[0002]

Our Heavenly Saviour who must be your Father and guide preserve you from falling into the gulph of sin over the precipice of temptation She was ill seven days. I tended her night and day myself. Yesterday morning she asked me to open the window of Shupanga house just at dawn of day - and said "I am not in pain but cannot help moaning" Soon after that she lost power of drinking which incessant vomiting excited. then gradually became insensible and at last as she was breathing with her mouth open - shut it as if to breathe through her nose and breathed no more. She looked

[0003]

exactly as if falling asleep and I believe she did then fall asleep in Jesus. Dear Agnes I feel

alone in the world now and  
what will the poor dear baby  
do without her Mama. She  
often spoke of her and sometimes  
burst into a flood of tears in  
speaking of her just as I now  
do in taking up & arranging  
the things left by my beloved  
partner of eighteen years.  
I send most of Mama's  
things to you. You may  
give what you like as keep-  
sakes for the boys & for little  
Anna Mary whom I never  
saw. I bow to the Divine  
[...] chastens me.

[0004]  
God grant that I may learn the  
lesson he means to teach. All  
she told you to do she now enforces  
as if beckoning you from  
Heaven. Nanie dear meet her  
there. Don't lose the crown of  
joy, she now wears and the  
Lord be gracious to you in all  
things. You will now need to  
act more & more from a feeling  
of responsibility to Jesus seeing he  
has taken away one of your  
guardians. A right straight-  
forward woman was she. No  
crooked way was ever hers &  
she could act with decision &  
energy when required. I pity you  
on receiving this but it is  
the Lord. Your sorrowing  
& lonely Father