Letter to Agnes Livingstone 1, 30 August 1862, 21 October 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org) [0001]

Johanna 30 Aug 1862

My Dear Mother

We came to this island a few days ago and have an opportunity of sending letters so I write though I have not much to say. We are on our way to another river called the Rovuma by which we hope to find an outlet to those discoveries which we have with so much toil effected. We wish to be away from the Portuguese who are inveterate slave traders and turn all our labours to the forwarding of [0002]this horrid traffic. We mean to explore Rovuma in boats - and in December next return to place the Lady Nyassa on the Lake of that name. the mission established by the High church party may yet do good but they have much to learn. I wish them every success but it may be better to stand less in contact with them than I have been as any blunders they make are put on my shoulders The Portuguese would like to worm them out of the country by their slaves while they remain in [0003]

the background. I lately called on the Governor of Tette to prevent a private Portuguese who had armed a large party of blacks and waged war from disturbing them & he has acceeded to my request. We had a great deal of fever in consequence of being so long down in the lowlands - and exposed in a way I never contemplated for dear Mary. The man whose culpable negligence did it all had fever himself and was jaundiced but was saved at deaths door We can cure it in general [0004]very quickly but sometimes it resists all our efforts I have written to Oswell by this occasion but fear I may not be able to do so to Agnes & Thomas

With kindest salutations to my sisters & to you my dear mother and to Anna Mary I am ever affectionately

David Livingstone

I think it may be better for Robert to come out here for a while. I thought education the best legacy I could leave him but so thought not he & must rank in life accordingly