

Letter to Joseph B. Braithwaite, 21 November 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

A London city missionary came out with six Scotchmen to join me. His name is Jehan they are 2 carpenters, 2 masons and 1 smith. All work at their trades & the wages go to a common fund

Quillimane River 21st Nov^r

1862

Bevan Braithwaite Esq.

My Dear Friend

I recieved your welcome letter from Ilfracombe of the 8th Sept^r the day before yesterday from H.M.S.Rapid which called here and found us cutting wood to prosecute the rest of our voyage from Johanna to Zambesi: our coals ran down when we were 20 or 30 miles from our port of entrance and the wind being contrary we bore away back to this river for fuel. I have also to reply to a letter I recieved about 3 months ago which I cannot lay my hands upon but must say for it and all others you find time to write I am sincerely thankful We found that during our long detention down in the lowlands the river had fallen so low that we should be able to do but little work up the Shire but hauling the Pioneer through shoal water till the next flood came. so resolved to spend the time between - august & this in trying to get an outlet from the Lake region to the sea by Rovuma. We went up in boats 156 miles or 114 in a straight line & touched twice on the slave route from Nyassa to Quilwa (Keelwa) along which about 20 000 slaves pass annually for the Red Sea & Persian gulph. the Rovuma will be an outlet for us if the Portuguese continue to refuse free trade on the Zambesi. the people far up were very friendly. Near the coast they were hostile and fired upon us though we stood exposed to their arrows & muskets over an hour and having induced some to come to my boat made friends, and gave in token of friendship about 30 yards of cloth. as we then moved on they gave us a volley & bolted back among the long grass & bushes with which the river's bank was covered. In returning they shewed no wish to assault us. In the Shire we have influence now & return thither rather than commence at the bottom of the ladder there. the people on the Shire were very hostile at first but never did more than bend

the bow. We shall now go at our work at the cataracts
with a will

[0002]

They had bought 2 waggons to go overland but the magistrate wrote to the Governor about
them and
he has sent the letter & says the magistrate is a man of

We are much refreshed by our sea voyage. I could
write but little at Johanna but sent one private
letter to Sir Roderick. I would not press publication
all the influence and attention excited when at home
was done by a higher hand. It came without effort
on my part further than doing my duty here and
if the same Power sees fit they won't be able to
avoid publication. commit they way unto &c and in
all thy way acknowledge Him and he shall direct
thy steps are good words and true. Possibly it may
be best for me to be taken away but the work being
as in my heart I believe it to be - not of man - others
will carry it on, and it will be completed. Dont
you think that there is something in "He that believeth
shalt make not haste" - not make a fuss or get into
a flurry as if all were going to the dogs when the
things concerning the kingdom dont run in the
groove we have chalked out for them. Perhaps
I am a little influenced by the last despatch I received
from Earl Russell. ~~He says~~ (between ourselves only)
He says that he had received and laid the information
before the Queen "(which has been declined publication
and adds that "the reports of the proceedings of your
expedition have been read with great interest,
and the discretion, courage, and perseverance
that you have shewn in the face of great trials
difficulties merit the highest approbation".

He "read with deep regret your account of the
encouragement given by the Portuguese to the
traffic in slaves. I have desired her Majestys
representative at Lisbon to make a strong protest to the
Portuguese Government against the acts of their
authorities, and I trust that measures will be taken
to put a stop to these practices." We found a [Portuguese] barque
up at the village (I am cutting wood near the mouth
of the river as I write.) She had taken a large quantity
of rice on board. I sent an officer on board to buy
some sail needles? and the hatches were covered over
with tarpaulins as soon as he came near. the
Governor too was very anxious to explain all about
her as a perfectly legal trader &c. but our black man
found out that the slaves to be shipped are at present

in the village. I gave information to the Rapid

[0003]

sound judgement. they behave well he says which is more than our man of war crew does. I propose to employ them. Do you know anything about Jehan?

and hope she will capture her as I wish to shew our Government that there is little likelihood of the Portuguese giving up slaving so long as they are allowed to pursue an exclusive policy on this coast they have made this country a slave preserve & will continue so to keep it if allowed

As to the steamer Lady Nyassa I have thought that we could apply to the Government with more force for about half the expense after we have got her into sucessful working on the Lake If they decline doing that they may pay it in another way by increasing my salary. Lord Malmesbury said when in office that I had gone out with too small a salary, and put that opinion on record in the Foreign Office. so I have a plea there. We have slave trade commissioners with a thousand [at Cape Town] and in Loanda £1500 per annum I am doing as much work as any five of them but doing it *con amore* and I would rather if possible pay all the expense if I can than come in *ferma pauperis* before them.

I shall give all I can out of my salary to educate the children and after education it will do them no harm to work their way in the world. I have £800 at the Cape and dont want to die rich. Pity that some of these old stupidis such as he who has left a large fortune to the Emperor of Russia cant be better advised. I would spend for them a too easy thing to do you will say. Well there is some truth in Sir Roderick's nonsense. One of the Missionaries [Rowley] sent a letter to the Cape accusing me of being the author of all the Bishop's fighting. the Editor in publishing it pointed out in the Bishops's own journal furnished proof that Rowley was in error. He says in his journal written Aug. 25 I asked him (Livingstone) whether he thought that circumstances could arise which would make us go again and fight. He said "No" you will be oppressed with requests but don't go." He mentions our being attacked by the Ajawa exactly as I did." In attempting to come to a conversation with the Ajawa chiefs we were involved as we had expected in an encounter with them." I tried to retire but we were surrounded. and this

[0004]

had no connection with the bishop deliberately & with the full consent of Rowley taking the offensive on three occasions when I was away at Lake Nyassa and the bishop like a man says in his journal that he did it all on his own responsibility the clergyman who gave the letter of Rowley for publication wrote an apology to me for doing it and said he "had been blamed by all his friends both lay and clerical". I wonder that the church should send out such a man as Rowley so lately one of the pro intoning rioters in St. George's in the East as a missionary. A man who out of pure spite could say "there is no cotton on the highlands" such a story. His bishop bought a cotton gin from me to clean or shew the natives to clean it. spinning & weaving cotton meets the eye in every direction. I suppose Sir R meant that they were in the way by their folly in bringing a bad report on the country. Magomero was a cesspool because 200 people deposited without one sanitary regulation No wonder they had dysentery and ulcers. But I shall not abate one jot in doing all I can to aid them notwithstanding. their work is not of individuals but of the great church of England. I have just spent four days in wood cutting & towing their supplies over the bar of Quillimaine. In answer to the prayers of many good people success will one day come and He who [sees &] hears in secret will not overlook what is done for his sake.

Is there any truth in a rumour I see in an American paper that the Prince of Wales intends to take an active part in emigration? I am ashamed to say I have not written to your brother Charles and his wife for a long time though I have their very kind letters by me. Will you shew them this and beg their patience. It has not been for want or will. Did a paper in the Quarterly on "Dorset" draw you down to that county. Come here and I shall shew a country worth looking at. With kindest salutations to your wife & family & to all our friends

I am very affectionately yours David Livingstone