

Letter to John Kirk 2, 8 August 1863

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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

Malango 8th August 1863

My Dear D^r Kirk

I recieved your
welcome letters by the boat in
the beginning of August instead
of as you thought the middle
the ~~boat~~ [canoe] with rum & sugar
had still to come. You did all
that a man could do in the
circumstances, and I thank
you for your services -
suspecting that the silly
Cape Governor had not
sent the money which his
predecessor Sir George Grey
was always glad to do &
indeed pressed me to make
use of him in that and every
other way, I could think of.
I gave D^r Meller a bill for
£150 to Colonel Nunes instead
but you will be off by the
time of his arrival and
I fear I may not go to
[0002]

Quillimane at all - You were
quite right to get off by the
earliest safe opportunity -
that dying by inches -
slow & sure poison which
I saw in the crew of a Hamburg
vessel was just what you
describe in Saunders - Be
sure & write when you get
this & let me know how
you are yourself - I feel
naturally very anxious
about you & the rest - sorry
for poor Pearce - I shall
send off his packet as soon
as I can - We are thanks

to the Highest all well except
King who complains of
pains in his limbs but works

I have written a formal
complaint against being
subjected to the humiliation
of having our Despatch
subjected to missionary
[0003]
and other gossip at the Cape
before we knew its contents
I suspect the Governor
of the Cape as the guilty
person and after telling
how Adams came up
and hailed the ship with
"no more pay for you
Pioneer chaps. I bring the
letter as says it" and that
D^r Steere had expatiated
on the different paragraphs
before English & Portuguese
[at Quillimaine] until you had felt com-
pelled to the remark - "that
it was not likely he
could know the contents &c
I add that notwithstanding
the courteousness of its
style my companions
& self had been subjected
to very unmerited humilia-
tion - the Despatch was
sent open to the Cape Governor
and I suspect that he
[0004]
to gain a little popularity with
high church folks had sent
it to the bishop - I shall not
call on the Governor though
I go to the Cape and will take
further public notice of the
indignity if no apology is
given. I dont say a word
to the bishop about it but
will mention D^r Steere's bad
manners - Earl Russell says
he will be glad to learn
that any of the gentlemen
of the Mission have profited
by my [suggestions &] experience" &c &c.

as they know this I shall
use it as a text

We liked the bishop well
enough during his half day's
stay with - he is the picture
of Dillon of the Gorgon but
marked with small pox -
[...] cautious & no courage
[...] seems not too old to
[...] . He might as well
[...] mentioned his decision about Morambala
[0005]

as it was he let me see that he
was mainly anxious to get in
to coincide in his own views
and he did not conceal his
intention to bolt. He gave a
hint about pickings out of
Pioneer but I shall take care
that they be of the smallest
and as for Lady Nyassa
I would rather see her
forming a second bar at
Quillimane than that she
should be a slaver or a
Portuguese property which
would be the equivalent
We mean to take her to
India when the hurricane
season is over - wish we
could get into the Webbe
to wait for that.

Washington pointedly said
"On no account take any
money from private
persons for her" and he
[0006]
sanctioned several things
additional which come to
a good sum yet not a
word is said about her
I am not going to whine
about it however -

In reference to the remark
in the Despatch that the
Gov^t as yet possessed
but scanty information
about the resources of

the country. I mention
the ample materials you
have sent or taken to
the Gov^t Museum at
Kew and that there is
no instance on record
of valuable information
being arranged without
consulting Herbaria and
authorities - & refer to
Sir William Hooker
[0007]

as to whether the materials
are not as ample for
the illustration of the
natural productions of
the country as ever came
out of a barbarous
country & from a
vessel in which nothing
without incessant
trouble could be preserved
I write to Sir William
at same time. I suspect
some underling has
suggested the remark
Sir Roderick seems
no longer our friend
& he has a say in everything
I only conjecture Sir
Roderick's coldness
from his ceasing to
write

[0008]
Rae gets on very fast in
rebuilding Lady Nyassa
his heart is in it. the
worthy Laird of Limefield
say that we must be awful
"clashers" out here. We surely
must as the "clashers" got so
far before reaching us on
the spot. About a month
ago we were talking just as we
used to do about the Governor
of Quillimame making so
much of medical services
to the army & auxiliary forces
without ever thanking me

for carrying him out of the
thick of it. When it suddenly
struck me that this might
with additions be converted
into a "clash" I never
contemplated - if it does so
become, you will know
what to think of it

[0009]

Meller left us on 17th July
He is spoken of as consul
for Madagascar and had
applied for it. I dont
know if anyone is
appointed to Zanzibar
but it might be well for
you to apply. In a few
years you could retire
with a competency &
have done good service
in the mean time

Waller wished to retire
rather than go to Marambala
but the bishop gave in
to taking the freed woman
& children & he will go. It
would have been such a
mule to sit on a mountain
without people to teach
[0010]

Proctor went down river
very ill with liver & living
in a low valley doing nothing
They have it said brought
a sickly lad with them
who will soon die & give
an excuse for bolting
I have told Earl Russell
that the use made of
my previous advice
not to fight or engage
in native quarrels which
bishop Mackenzie honestly
mentions in his journal
was to place all the blame
of their subsequent fighting
on my shoulders - the
mountain Marambala to

which they now go
will subject them by
its frequent clouds to
chills & damps which
[0011]
may be as prejudicial as
the fevers in the valley
they must not blame
me for Rowley is better

We left to carry a boat
past the Cataracts & improve
the time between this &
Dec^r & had it up at
Malango when in the
water the Makalolo reported
that it would require
now to be carried - I called
all hands to do this when
five Shupanga men - I
must give the names
of the worthies. Kanyai
Peoso Arimasau -
Ropa & Maudzu (the slave)
jumped in to shew how
clever they were. the
next thing I saw was
the boat bottom upwards
[0012]
away like a shot over the
Cataracts! I am going to
do a little on foot to keep
the blood circulating

My son Robert is said to be
at Natal to join me - and
I am sorry I cannot ask
anyone save Captain
Gardner to give him
a passage and he wont
touch there - he would be
useful in the L. Nyassa
If you can drop a word
about a passage to any
likely skipper I shall be
obliged. If he cannot come
he must work his own
way in Natal - with
best wishes

I am ever yours

David Livingstone