

## Letter to Agnes Livingstone 3

*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  
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  
[...] [Lord which] 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 this but it is  
the Lord. Your sorrowing  
& lonely Father