

Letter to James Hannan

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

On board "Pioneer" [Note: The *Pioneer*, Livingstone's steamship, arrived from England on 31 January 1861 while he was at Kongone, one of the mouths of the Zambesi River. The *Pioneer* was under British Government orders to explore the Rovuma River. She left Kongone on 4 February 1861 and anchored in the mouth of the Rovuma on 25 February 1861. This letter was penned during that voyage.] "

At Sea 15th (Feb^y) 1861.

James Hannan Esq.

My Dear Sir

I am desired
by M^r King to enclose
an answer to his
communication of
13th (Sept^r) /60 to you. You
will see that I cannot
recommend our
coloured to try
their skill in Africa

We found that our Kroomen [Note: Kroomen, a name given to a people from the West Coast of Africa, famed as boatmen and often employed aboard ships.]
even from the West Coast

[0002]

suffered from Fever [Note: Fever was the scourge of African explorers. The term did not usually refer to a specific disease but to a general disorder which might have any number of variants, for instance, malarial or intermittent, remittent, or continual. These variants were held to depend on such things as an individual's constitution, the weather, or the local terrain.]

and it is well known
that residence in a
healthy climate renders
them quite as liable
perhaps more so, to
be cut off as Europeans
a slight attack prostrates
them. When lately at
Victoria falls my
brother had a severe

attack - took our remedy [Note: Livingstone reported that in 1850 he had adopted the plan of giving quinine with a purgative in cases of fever and was successful in the cases of two of his own children and an English party ('On fever in the Zambesi. A note from Dr. Livingstone to Dr. M^r William', *Transactions of the Epidemiological Society of London* 1859-62, 1: 235). This was the "remedy" Livingstone used thereafter

for fever. Hindsight suggests the remedy worked in those cases that were suffering from malaria. Quinine, which had recently been isolated from Peruvian Bark or cinchona, is effective against the malarial parasite transmitted by mosquitoes.]

and marched next
day on foot. Africans
do not possess the
energy of Europeans
and need about as
many comforts

[0003]

The event of most
interest and importance
in this out of the
world region is the
arrival of bishop
Mackenzie and his
staff of missionaries.
They look a fine set
of fellows all of them
and the bishop is without
doubt the A.1. of the
party. They appear
to have sound practical
views of the work
before them and
with all my
heart I wish them success

[0004]

We have a real steamer
at last and with God's
blessing will now do
some service. Our
hindrances have turned
out for the best but
no thanks to the agents
who hindered us.

Please present my
very kind regards to
M^{rs}Hannan & family
and believe me

Faithfully Yours

David Livingstone

This is not my first letter

but I have none
from you.