

Letter to John Washington, 20 October, 30 November [1859]

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Private Shire 20 Oct^r
Baines and Thornton were left
at Tette because January February
and March are unhealthy months
and I wished to save them
the exposure of the Shire valley
but left orders for C. Livingstone
to go S.W. with them as soon
as the unhealthy period was
over. War prevented him
going. And no one suspected
Baines of dishonesty till
he associated with certain
"ticket of leave men" and
unknown to any made away with some provisions
barrels of white sugar, butter

[0002]

cheese hams, wine and even
his companions property - stowing
away some of the latter in his
boxes. They were astounded on
discovering it as he had been
recommended by the Geographical
Society, Colonial Office &c. &c
He confessed to some breaches
of trust, but we dont know
all he has made away with &
I put it down to his head having
been affected by fever till
I found that he had not only
stolen his fellow members'
goods but took precious
good one of all his own
property & of whatever he had

[0003]

30 Nov^r Lynx in sight - Thornton took to work
after he was cut off & is gone up to Zumbo

with a Portuguese trader.

appropriated. Bedingfeld made
a great deal of him & favoured
on him in a way you would
find it difficult to believe.
I have sent D^r Kirk & M^r
Rae across country from Chibisa -
to Tette to bring Thornton &
Baines away and dismiss
them into Lynx, at Kongone
I get on well when with a few
but never contemplated what
I am sure was considerate
kindness for the sake of health
would be turned into villainy
Our party now weeded of
Bedingfeld and the Kroomen
with whom he tampered &
whom he spoiled & Baines& with D^r Kirk.
Rae & C.L. is now effective

[0004]

and our prospects daily brighter
We mean to put a wooden bottom
outside the 1/16 of an inch one at
Kongone by beaching her and digging
out the sand below - have made
a new funnel of copper sheets
from Persian. The opening up
Shire into Nyassa I never anticipated
only to think no frosts to kill
the crops [as in America] - One sowing of foreign
cotton yields for three years, and
the staple fine & long. Their changes of
climate within a few miles of each
other. the greatest boon the
expedition has given is cure of
fever quickly [& generally]without loss of
strength in the patient. Quinine
except in the cure (and then it is in
valuable), is a farce. We are getting very
thin in flesh - hope some one will send
us a little bitter ale. David Livingstone