

Letter to Mary Livingstone, 28 May 1852

David Livingstone

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

No4 Cape Town 28th May 1852

My ever dear Mary

This is the last note I can write
you [...] Cape Town for I must go off tomorrow morning
the waggon went off on tuesday and this is friday
I spend tuesday at the Paarl & on sunday go on
after the waggon on horseback. I have been bidding
farewell to several - as the Stapletons, Maclear
Hofmeyer &c today we go out to Mr Ruthef[r]ford's
to dine. I told old Lady Hofmeyer when she invited
you to come back to her house with your youngest
child that perhaps you might have two youngest
for you always began about six months
after the other even although you were suckling
I mentioned this that you may not be suspected
there should you go to her - She said that could
she know beforehand of your coming she
would let you have a bedroom opening
off into the stoep. A large one and you would
board with her if she were alive. She sends
lots of salutations to you.

We heard yesterday from Kuruman
they are apparently all well - they are sending
[0002]

for a grave stone for Mr Hamilton - And they
mention that Sechele has sent out Sebele, Ope
Balirileñ and Kireleolechve to the old couple
to be educated - He sent them out in his
own waggon of course - although they were
forbidden to be brought on account of
Moyle's affair - He promises to restore
all Moyle's things when he comes - This is so
far good. Several letters had passed between
Sechele and Father. It was only a hastily
written letter to M^r Thompson - They believe
that I am near the Orange river.

I wrote you two long letters or rather
one long one for yourself and another
containing three little letters for the children

They go by the same mail as this and
two daguerrotypes go by a private hand
a M^r De Schmidt of Cape Town - They
are to be left at the Mission House to the
care of either M^r Beal or to D^r Tidman
they are in a small parcel wrapped in brown [paper]
[0003]

You left your Tartan gown with me. A child's cap &
some other things not necessary for me. When you
write please number your letters so that I may know
whether any are lost this is N^o 4. of mine - Put the
numbers at the beginning - Give each of the children
my love and a kiss for me, tell them I love them
still though they are far from me, and though I have
parted with them I still love them and will pray for
them, but they must pray for themselves and for
me. And they must all learn to read & write &
then write letters to me - A servant of M^r Rutherford
wishes to go along with George but I fear he will
tire long before he gets there. He seems an Eng[...]
We heard today of M^r Oswel having touched at
Sierra Leone and that he admired the place
very much. - I have put a great deal down to the
Society, yet I am nearly two years ahead. M^r Thompson
does all he can to make the sum less. You will need
to take care how you appear and what you say
to croakers who croak against the Directors. If you
see M^r Oswel ask him to give you of me a daguerrotype
of himself - This Caffre war goes on comfortably as usual
I got as much powder as I needed from the Lieutenant
Governor - Please when you send the map to Professor
Buchanan of Glasgow send also a copy of the notes as
a loan - You might shew one to D^r Tidman too if he has
not seen it - Professor Buchanan may help
[0004]

us in the event of anyone of our children going to college
Dont let the children speak Scotch, nor aspirate the words
as the English do. The hegg of a 'enn

2 letters in another envelope by
same mail

Prepaid
M^{rs} Livingston
Care of Rev^d Dr. Tidman
Mission House
Blomfield St.
London

Farewell my dearest my own sweet love

When shall I see you again. I shall write
you from Victoria perhaps or certainly
from Kuruman.

God bless & comfort
you love to the children.

D Livingston