

## Letter to Charles M. Hay, 26 November 1860

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[0001]

Tette 26<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1860.

My Dear General Hay

It was extremely kind in you to remember me, as you have done. I have had good reason to remember you, and though you have recieved no evidence of it again & again and again has it been brought to my recollection how much I owe to you and your delightful home in the Mauritius. Indeed you set me so completely up, that all the tear & wear of a fearful lionizing, though it wearied me sorely, never broke me down, and I have not had one severe attack of fever since my return. Had I gone home at once in 1856 and gone through the terrible ordeal, then come out

[0002]

I could not have done the work I do now. We have just finished a march of 1400 miles in six months. We went up the river in order to return the Makololo to their own land keeping along the North bank of the Zambesi till we were in Lat. 17<sup>o</sup> 18 South and about 28<sup>o</sup> East Long. then turned away Westward ascending the Highlands near Tabacheu where we saw hoar frost & a little ice then descended Westwards into the great central valley, to our old friends the Makololo. When within 20 miles of the Falls which I named after our Queen we saw the columns of smoke and went down to see this great

sight. I have no hesitation now  
in saying that there is none equal to  
it in strangeness in the world. the breadth is not one but nearly two  
thousand yards and it falls sheer  
down 310 feet. The river was very  
low and we could see everything clearly  
The whole river leaps into a crack & this  
crack is prolonged in the most fantastic  
manner - the country below or East of  
the falls being quite as high as the lip over

[0003]

which the Zambesi rolls - try if you can  
understand this scrawl. All these promontories are of the same  
level as the bed of the river  
above the falls and ~~and~~  
over 300 feet sheer down  
has the river of a mile wide  
jammed into a crack some eighty or  
100 feet wide at the bottom. A most  
extensive coal field extends from below  
Tette to near Victoria Falls. In some places  
a steamer could load out of the seam in  
the bank of the river. These falls will  
be visited and coal worked when we are  
no longer here to write & talk about them  
I hail with great satisfaction the  
formation of the Oxford & Cambridge  
mission, and I shall count it a  
privilege to do whatever I can to aid  
the Bishop and his clergy. It was the  
best news I have heard in Africa  
and most heartily do I thank Him  
who has put the good purpose into  
his servants hearts. No where do  
people stand more in need of christianity  
and civilization than the Africans  
and if this mission is carried on  
with faith & patience there is no  
doubt but good will eventually be  
done both to Africa & England.  
It seems to me that we ought in all  
our plans for the good of others

[0004]

specially remember our own home  
poor - our honest poor - This leads me  
to think of a small colony as likely to do  
immense good. Accompanied as it  
will be by this mission with the religious  
element I do not apprehend those frightful

scenes which have occurred elsewhere  
(except New Zealand). As for the poor  
Portuguese, I must say nothing, but you  
"can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear"

We found the chief Sekeletu labouring  
under a skin disease believed to be leprosy  
the effect of course of witchcraft & several  
influential head men had been put to  
death for the crime. We tried to put him  
to rights during our short stay and his  
spirits revived. We found that a  
missionary party from the London  
Society had been nearly [all] cut off by fever  
at Linyanti. I regret this extremely  
as the very time they were perishing  
we at a lower & more unhealthy  
part of the river were curing the disease  
so quickly that a patient would be  
stricken down and resume his march  
on foot a day or at most two  
after the operation of the remedy. This  
remedy I found effectual as long ago  
as 1850 and ever since I have not lost  
a case but I forbore to puff. I could  
not be a quack and grieve now that  
the missionaries did not know it.  
We publish the composition now. Do drop  
me a line at your leizure & you will oblige

yours affectionately David Livingstone