

## Letter to William O. Livingstone, [26 October 1862]

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

On the morning of 23<sup>d</sup> about 2A.M.  
we deemed that we drew near  
to Mohilla though no land was  
visible the day before and  
wished for the day as a  
heavy sea was running - We  
lay to as sailors say that is  
bring the edges of the sails as  
near the wind as possible  
little sail in front and one  
large one behind so the ship does  
not go but leans over to the  
wind. the Pioneer rose like a  
little duck over the huge waves  
and we stood peering through  
the gloom and when day dawned  
Mohilla lay before us and  
sailing round it we anchored

[0002]

off the fort of the Queen. Soon a  
canoe came off with outriggers to  
keep it from being upset by the  
waves and our old friend Abdullah  
came to welcome us. this will  
give an idea of a canoe with  
one out rigger. Two sticks are

tied across the canoe and  
then a flat piece to their ends  
this keeps it from over  
turning. Sometimes there are two  
one on each side of the canoe. We  
have a mongoose on board  
a very funny little beast  
shaped like a rat. We did not  
know that it took any notice  
of people but as soon as  
the strangers came on board  
with Abdullah he ran and tried  
to bite their feet as if to say  
What business have you in

[0003]

my ship. The Queen gave us  
a bullock in a present and  
we went and called on her - but  
saw only a part of her face  
as she had on what is called  
the yasmak which covers  
the nose and cheeks. Her  
two children had patches of  
medicine on their faces I  
suppose from a superstitious  
fear of the evil eye. I asked  
[...] [then to put some on] my  
face [...] [but the Queen's] husband  
an ugly old man said laughing  
it is only for little children  
We took a walk yesterday  
25<sup>th</sup> up the hill - saw lots of  
bats as large as half grown  
kittens. they are called flying foxes

[0004]

they are of a golden yellow colour  
on the neck breast & back &  
the head is shaped like a foxe's head  
I have eaten them and thought  
them good - but at present we  
have the queen's ox - and dont  
care for bats or such like vermin  
We are now 26<sup>th</sup> steaming to  
Johanna where this will be  
left for transmission to you.  
May the Lord be with you  
and bless and guide you  
[...]  
Thanks to the Lady who  
æ wrote in your letters  
to Mama -