

Letter to Robert S. Candlish, 12, 15 March 1862

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Shupanga, Zambesi

12 March 1862

Rev^d D^r Candlish

My Dear Sir

I am happy to inform you that M^r Stewart arrived off the mouth of this river on the last day of January, and as it appeared that the most satisfactory way of going to work would be for him to come and see the country and people with his own eyes, I invited him to accompany us while trying to take a steamer up to Lake Nyassa. By the kind assistance of Captain Wilson of H. M. S. Gorgon we soon had most of the hull aboard the Pioneer, but
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soon found out that she could not carry 35 tons of her sister, so we are forced to put the Lake steamer together here, and then tow her up to the cataracts. We did not anticipate this detention of two months. M^r Stewart will however be employed in picking up what he can of the language, and supposing him to be successful in his noble purpose of organizing a mission, this will prove no loss of time. the language is unreduced, and if you have never tried to write down the gibberish that seems to be blattered out of the people's mouths, you will scarcely believe that the reduction of a language is such a gigantic task as it is. The tongue
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is spoken at Senna & Tette on the
Zambesi - and up to the end of Lake
Nyassa 400 miles to the North - the bishop [Mackenzie] is working at it, but years
must elapse before it can become
a proper or copious vehicle of
religious thought.

I have given M^r Stewart a
cordial and hearty welcome. I
rejoice in the prospect of
another mission where there is
so very much room for work.
Nineteen thousand slaves pass
annually through the custom
house of Zanzibar and according
to Colonel Rigby H M consul there
the chief portion of them comes from
Lake Nyassa. We hope to do some-
thing towards stopping this traffic
but it is only by christian

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missions and example that the
evil can be thoroughly rooted out.
From all I have observed of M^r
S. he seems to have been specially
raised up for the work, and
specially well adapted for it.
Before becoming acquainted with
him I spoke cautiously - perhaps
gave too much prominence to difficulties
of which I myself make small account
and may have been led to it by having
seen missionaries come out with
curious notions - willing to endure
hardships, but grumbling like mountains
in the family way when put about by
things that they did not expect, but to
such a man
I would say boldly, Go
Forward & with the Divine blessing
you will surely succeed.

I am &c David Livingstone

though I had not the pleasure of meeting you at D^r
Buchanan's I met your daughter there & beg to
present kind salutations

15 March - The Bishop Mackenzie & Rev^d Burrup died
in January & February - came down to meet us in a canoe which
[0005]

was overturned - clothes & medicines lost - fever & diarrhoea
proved fatal - a sad blow - but whatever effect it may have
at home not one hairs breadth will I swerve from my works.