

## Letter to James Hannan, 15 February 1861

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

On board "Pioneer" [Note: The *Pioneer*, Livingstone's steamship, arrived from England on 31 January 1861 while he was at Kongone, one of the mouths of the Zambesi River. The *Pioneer* was under British Government orders to explore the Rovuma River. She left Kongone on 4 February 1861 and anchored in the mouth of the Rovuma on 25 February 1861. This letter was penned during that voyage.] "

At Sea 15<sup>th</sup> (Feb<sup>y</sup>) 1861.

James Hannan Esq.

My Dear Sir

I am desired M<sup>r</sup> King to enclose answer to his of 13<sup>th</sup> (Sept<sup>r</sup>) /60 to you. You see that I cannot our bretheren to try skill in Africa found that our Kroomen [Note: Kroomen, a name given to a people from the West Coast of Africa, famed as boatmen and often employed aboard ships.] from the West Coast

[0002] from Fever [Note: Fever was the scourge of African explorers. The term did not usually refer to a specific disease but to a general disorder which might have any number of variants, for instance, malarial or intermittent, remittent, or continual. These variants were held to depend on such things as an individual's constitution, the weather, or the local terrain.] it is well known residence in a climate renders quite as liable more so, to cut off as Europeans slight attack prostrates. When lately at Victoria falls my

brother had a severe - took our remedy [Note: Livingstone reported that in 1850 he had adopted the plan of giving quinine with a purgative in cases of fever and was successful in the cases of two of his own children and an English party (On fever in the Zambesi. A note from Dr. Livingstone to Dr. M<sup>r</sup> William', *Transactions of the Epidemiological Society of London* 1859-62, 1: 235). This was the "remedy" Livingstone used thereafter for fever. Hindsight suggests the remedy worked in those cases that were suffering from malaria. Quinine, which had recently been isolated from Peruvian Bark or cinchona, is effective against the malarial parasite transmitted by mosquitoes. ] marched next on foot. Africans not possess the of Europeans need about as comforts

[0003]

The event of most and importance this out of the region is the of bishop and his of missionaries. look a fine set fellows all of them the bishop is without the A.1. of the. They appear have sound practical of the work them and all my I wish them success

[0004]

We have a real steamer last and with God's will now do service. Our have turned for the best but thanks to the agents hindered us.

Please present my kind regards to

M<sup>rs</sup>Hannan & family believe me

Faithfully Yours

David Livingstone

This is not my first letter I have recieved none you.