

## Letter to [Robert Moffat 1?], 28 January 1861

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

Postscript at Kongone 28<sup>th</sup> January  
1861

We are waiting here for our new steamer  
and for the first time since my return to  
Africa I have leizure for correspondence  
We cannot divine what detains her  
as she is now two months beyond her  
time - but patience patience!

I have heard from Sir Culling  
E. Earldley and he refers to a Karross  
you gave to Lady Earldley. She  
told me about the loss she sustained  
by going to the Continent. When she  
returned it was all moth eaten. She  
was "so sorry as it came from  
you" I mentioned it to you at the  
Cape but it must have escaped  
your memory - or possibly I neglected  
to give you their address. It is 39  
Upper Grosvenor St. London.  
[0002]

If it were possible for me to buy one  
in this region I would do so but none  
are to be had for love or money. She has  
been suffering greatly from disease of  
the heart. This brings to my recollection  
that we got a glimpse of some people from  
Mosilikatze's at Senna. As soon as they  
saw the Makololo with me they decamped  
and no persuasion could induce them  
to come near us. A Senhor Isidore  
Pereira of Senna usually called Senhor  
Eezedor sent a party of his slaves to trade  
with Mosilikatze 16 months ago. they  
were away 14 months but stopped at  
different places for months at a time  
This is the second visit and the guns you saw  
came from Senna. Mosilikatze  
sent about 30 head of cattle, one a  
remarkable pure white ox. Of these only

2 arrived and one died while we were at  
Senna. About 1000 sheep & goats. Of these  
about 400 arrived & nearly all lame.  
and 2 meercat karrosses.!

The word "Falla" means to speak and it is probably the only word they  
had picked up. Isidore is commandant of Senna  
[0003]

Isidore was not well pleased with the trade  
and we heard him threatening to send his  
slaves to the fort for punishment but being  
a rather dissatisfied character we don't  
know whether this means much. He  
lost all his ostrich feathers by the camp  
taking fire. Laws very stringent against  
gunpowder & arms being sold to the natives  
but nobody observes them - not one. These  
people never went near you - they were  
afraid. They lived with a headman of  
Mosilikatzes at some distance from Moshetta  
They saw a hunter kill an elephant. Was  
this Baldwin? A chief of the Batoka  
called Sekote fled from Kalai is<sup>d</sup> to  
Mosilikatze and lives under him. The  
people who have come to Senna belong  
to his party and it so happened that we  
have a man of Sekote who came with us  
to get himself cured of leprosy. He knew  
the strangers by name but like unmitigated  
cowards they fled, though the few Makololo had no spears - nor would they return when  
[0004]

their own countryman went & tried to persuade  
them. This proves the truth of what I have  
told the Makololo that they are just a lot of  
hyaenas - cowards before all who are stronger  
than they are - they dread the Matibele and I  
suspect are dreaded by them. The account given  
you of a fight below the Falls in which the  
Matibele were victorious does not appear to  
have taken place at all. A foray was made  
to the West but the leprosy affair came on  
afterwards and embittered their success. If  
they cannot remove soon fever will break  
them up as a tribe. It is a pity that John  
did not go there but not by Linyanti  
The way is direct to Victoria Falls by Mr  
Baldwin's spoor. The swamps of the Chobe  
are then avoided and one is at the foot  
of the highlands. I cannot imagine what kept  
Helmore so long in the way. Did they use

any remedy? Was it fever? What symptoms did they observe? are questions I should like to put but cannot.

Our steamer is to be a real one. It is superintended in construction by the Admiralty & everything we we have got from them has been of first rate quality. We shall try to get an entrance exterior to the Portuguese claims but this is not made public

Mary is in England I believe children all well and doing well. The Universities' mission prospering greatly.

David Livingstone

I shall send Senna seeds first time we go to Tette.