Letter to Horace Waller, 26 March 1863

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Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org) 1º Above Mankokwe's [0001]26 March 1863 My Dear Waller I write a note only by way of saying how dýe do as I expect soon to be up - We are wooding or rather searching for wood our friend Mañkokwe having neglected to cut any - and we failed yesterday in getting well away from his villages by being compelled to separate the vessels in order to get through a shoal spot singly on our return I called on

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Mankokwe - He then began his Makololo plaint and when I said that as they too had a mulando it would be better to hear both sides face to face just to give him an idea of the other side I added it referred to Mankokwe shooting at them with arrows - This caused a burst of laughter in which all the company joined - Thinking that I had made some mistake I went over - the statement in different words and another hearty laugh shewed that his attack was considered a good joke - He proposed visiting the ship and asked rather earnestly if any Makololo were in it -

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During this visit he said nothing about coming up in the ship to face the Makololo - Nor did I - We bought a little maize at a very high rate and feel anxious now about our black crew

as Vianna has evidently played false with us - I shall lose no time in starting down river after reading you - If any one here understood yoking oxen I should leave at once now that D^r Kirk is here

I cannot tell you how deeply I sympathize in your affliction and I pray daily that you may be strengthened to

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endure and overcome at last. Do get away to the Highlands or move about more - no one whose opinion is worth anything will blame you -I had written again & again to friends at home that having been driven into a corner by slave hunting complications I entertained grave fears for you all - Come down & visit us if you don't go up - or Let Procter come we are usually stirring about though nominally stationary and with one exception we have brisk intercourse With kindest salutations to Procter & the others - I am &c David Livingstone