

## Letter to Horace Waller, 15 August 1863

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Cataracts 13<sup>d</sup> Aug  
Private1863

My Dear Waller

I am sorry to  
hear such discouraging  
news from the Mission  
I imagined that the bishop  
would feel in honour  
bound to fulfil the  
obligations incurred by his  
predecessor - there being  
nothing immoral in  
doing so but the contrary  
and if the constituents  
of the mission of the  
Universities should think  
otherwise they are not  
the men the world takes  
them to be. In the event

If at Morambala when we pass dont be surprised  
if we keep things for our future which we might now  
dispose of  
[0002]

of his continuing [^][to think] that one  
black face to which the  
good bishop Mackenzie  
tendered paternal obligations  
as the head & representative  
of the Mission, is the same  
as one to which no such  
obligation was tendered.  
I shall take the boys and  
girls in Lady Nyassa to  
Johanna and provide for  
them there till I hear from  
the Metropolitan about  
their future - the Cape  
christians have more in

them than [to] allow any disgrace  
to tarnish the Mission  
name.

I am sorry I cannot  
view the Makololo in  
the same light as you &  
the Ajawa women do  
[0003]

two murders reported by  
M<sup>r</sup>Procter turned out  
to have no death in them  
and Daima died of  
hunger west of his  
village as you may  
ascertain by one of  
his young wives still  
alive - I know  
their wickedness very  
well and spoke to  
Ranyen about striking  
women but no other  
having been guilty so  
far as I can learn  
as he has, it would do  
no good to assume  
guilt after having in  
your presence been  
challenged to produce  
evidence & failing though  
I have tried according  
to the best of my ability  
It would only produce  
[0004]

the impression that I  
believed reports of their  
having "murdered & plundered  
over all the country" which  
I have no reason to credit.  
the resolution "to have as  
little to do with them as  
possible" seemed confirmation  
of the suspicion that the  
mission had got on the  
wrong tack. The great teacher  
having commanded his  
first missionaries to  
begin "at Jerusalem " with  
those who had committed  
the worst murder the world  
ever saw - and as to their

conduct neutralizing the  
effect of the teaching of the  
missionaries. My dear  
fellow if wickedness  
even in the church could  
have done that christianity  
would long ago have  
[0005]

been banished from the world  
of the first twelve you remember  
one was a devil - I am sorry  
to take such a different  
view from what you have  
done and beg to assure you  
my convictions though  
not possessing the amount  
of knowledge of the subject  
that accompanies yours  
have been arrived [at][^] with  
great care. The statement  
which has been made that  
the Makololo had been left  
in the country to shift for  
themselves being so opposite  
to the part of their voluntarily  
forsaking us led me to  
think often " seriously  
on the whole subject  
and while still of course  
free to retain your own  
opinions I am sure you  
will not feel offended by  
my expressing mine  
[0006]

I am exceedingly obliged  
by your kindness in  
sending the wine [^][brandy] and  
preserved meats. I hope  
ours will meet us in  
time to repay them. At  
any rate I shall take  
care that you [^][be] refunded  
with the meats. Meller  
is a capital fellow but  
enormously "funky"  
He has no idea that a  
Doctor ought to keep a  
cheerful countenance &  
blythe tongue. The croaking  
to the men at the Pioneer  
was a nuisance to them -

Reid. Wilson - the steward  
&c &c were past all cure -  
and the skulking that was  
allowed & the wine issued  
were sad to see - I could  
not of course interfere  
[0007]  
tell Young send at table  
"When we have any work  
to do all go on the sick  
list. That any one can see"  
I saw their open fever  
skulkers ate full rations  
of salt junk & biscuits.  
and if Reid & Macleod  
did not come at once  
when "Dinner" was called  
all was devoured - Meller  
was much too good for  
such wicked fellows  
and I could not pain  
him by saying what  
I felt but he will  
invalidate you all if you  
wish it - I hope he  
may get on well in  
Madagascar. I am sure  
that my good wishes  
follow him -

I guess that I shall  
work alone in Apuca  
yet £100 a year would  
do to support one  
[0008]  
i. e. what being cultivated.  
I dont know whether I am  
to go on the shelf or not  
if so I make the shelf  
Africa. If Lady Nyassa  
is well sold I shall manage  
though I be not so rich  
as you - there is a Ruler  
above and his Providence  
guides all things - He  
is our friend & has  
plenty of work for all  
his people to do - Dont  
fear being left idle if  
willing to work for Him  
Am glad to hear of Alington

if the work is of God it  
will come out right at  
last. To Him shall be given  
the gold of Sheba &c and  
daily shall he be praised  
I always think it was  
such a blessing & privelege  
be led into his work instead  
of the service of the hard  
taskmaster the devil & sin.  
[0009]

I fear that bolt out of the  
country is the key to the  
bishops vagaries - the  
difficulties instead of  
making his mind rise  
with the occasion sinks  
it. Poor thing. A mission  
without difficulties  
would to me be like a  
man without a shadow -  
if "junk" is to be the  
order of the day the  
apostolic succession  
must have left the Church  
& gone to the conventicle  
Think of Moffat running  
away from a difficulty  
a lion from a Turkey  
cock No! No! and  
I trust good bishop  
Tozer will spare us the  
shame & disgrace -  
[0010]

He himself will rue it  
but once, and that will  
last till his dying day

As [...] Russell  
pointedly & strongly approved  
of my point in freeing  
the captives if obliged take  
them away & deliver them  
to the first man of war  
I shall of course report  
the whole to him. I must  
have the boys too. this  
is as I feel now and  
a passage you shall  
have if you wish it -

but think well over the  
matter and ask wisdom  
from him who gives  
liberally & upbraid them  
not - if I may venture  
a hint dont raise  
your voice in argument  
pitch it in quietly as stiff  
[0011]  
as you like or can -

I shall take an early  
opportunity of say all you  
wish to the Makololo &  
if they remain doing with  
me do it more than  
once. We never mince  
matters in speaking  
but we lose influence  
if we change them  
& cannot prove the  
accusation - I shall  
if well speak to Moloka  
& the others on my  
return - they seem to  
feel the necessity at  
least of sticking by  
the people of the country  
they side with Chibisa  
but have no confidence  
in any save yourselves  
As far as I can gather  
in indirect as well  
as direct ways they  
are as sorry for your  
[0012]  
going as any of the Ajawa  
of course from purely  
selfish considerations  
The great affliction to me is  
a consecrated bishop  
turning tail - More who  
now urge him on will  
be the first to say as was  
done of myself & the  
fighting "It was all his  
own fault"

It must have been as you  
say with Captain Wilson - He  
sends regards to you by name

in my letter too. He has at  
last discovered that the  
ivory & slave trade are inter-  
-dependent - the knowledge of  
whither my efforts were  
tending made the Portuguese  
frantic - this point however  
is not to be spoken of now  
I am please the Almighty  
not done with it yet

David Livingstone