Letter to John Murray III, 5 October 1858

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

[0001]

Kongone harbour

5th October 1858

My Dear M$^{\underline{r}}$ Murray

Two Dutch clergymen
at the Cape were once lighted
on comfortably lodged in
the house of a rebel who had
a few days before had been
actively engaged in the
murder of the Hon$^{\underline{ble}}$ Captain
Murray and a number of
soldiers at Boomplaats
I did not want to see them
but there they were - and
they not only circulated a
tale of scandal to the effect
that a black metal pot I once
lent to a chief was a cannon

[0002]
the consequence was I was
refused a supply of gunpowder
at the Cape when departing
on my great journey
they cannot forgive me for
seeing them as they were
stultifying the Government
by apparently fraternizing
with the rebels. They said
nothing while I had an
ovation & £800 in Cape
Town but when I am
some hundreds of miles
off make an attack not
on the text but on
a footnote in which
I mention their way of
getting land for the church
in a commendatory style

[0003]
they evidently feel that if they
can prove a single point
erroneous they are safe. And
one a Scotchman Dr Robertson
has written to me and threatens
to write to you too. He makes
an assertion that the stipend
is so much but leaves
out of view the etceteras
which make it much
more. I answer him
and think he will scarcely
publish my answer
as I refer pointedly to
our former meeting
in the rebel's house &
the onus of publication
rests with him. If
he likes to publish his
own - shame he may

[0004]

I write this in great haste
We have got no end of the
finest coal - It is like the Welsh
I burned a ton and a half
in coming down from Tette
My men recieved me in
transports of joy. Thirty of
them died of ~~fever~~ small
pox and six were killed
by a rebel chief. Sekwebu's
principal servant is now
with me. I leave tomorrow
morning again for Tette.
Party all well. Kind
regards to Cook & Mrs M.
Mrs L is off for Kuruman
with her father & mother

I am &c

David Livingstone