

Letter to Horace Waller, 15 August 1863

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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

Cataracts 13^d 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^rProcter 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
invalid 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