

## Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 28 November 1860

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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My Dear Tom

Having visited the Makololo

Country lately I saw Secpone and Marike

two women formerly the wives of Sebituane

who used to feed you with honey & milk

They brought back to my recollection the time

when you were with us at Linyanti and

many other things by what is called the

association of ideas. You will notice

sometimes ideas spring up in the mind

which you do not want there - one has no

power to prevent that but we have

power to change the current of our thoughts

to something else, and we are commanded

to think of whatsoever is pure & good

& lovely &c. Watch your heart and remember

that the Lord sees it.

In the last six months we have travelled

about 1400 miles partly on foot & partly

in canoes. We found Sekeletu labouring

under a skin disease which is believed

to be leprosy and as it was believed

also to be the effect of witchcraft

[0002]

several very influential men were put to death

for the crime. We tried to cure it and were

succeeding when obliged to leave. Of course

we told him we didnt believe a word

of the witchcraft but unfortunately the

persons put to death were the sons of

certain chiefs who tried to kill Sebituane

and it was believed that the children

wished to secure the chieftainship by

the same means their fathers failed in.

The Makololo are perishing - the fever affects

them as well as Europeans and all

are very anxious that we should come

and live with them - for then they could

remove to the Highlands. We went up

to a part of them near Tabacheu &

saw hoar frost and a little ice in a  
valley. Down in the valley of the Zambesi  
it was roasting - the ground 137° Fah<sup>t</sup>  
and the thermometer in the hand & shaded  
102°. We used to sleep at the brink of the  
river because there it was cooler - the  
water was 84° or 86° We are now on  
our way down to the sea to meet a ship  
the Lord bless you[...]