

## Letter to Arthur Tidman, 2 March 1856

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[0001]

Tette or Nyungwé on the

River Zambesi, Africa.

2<sup>d</sup> March 1856

Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>d</sup> Tidman

My Dear Sir

Having by the  
mercy of God reached the farthest inland  
station of the Portuguese this morning  
I gladly avail myself of an opportunity  
to Quillimane to advise you (and M<sup>rs</sup> L. by the enclosed note) that I am thus far on my way  
down the river. It  
will be gratifying for you to hear that  
I have been able to follow without  
swerving from my original plan of  
"opening a way to the sea on either  
the East or West coast from a healthy  
locality in the Interior of the continent"  
Not untill two months ago was I aware  
of the existence of any salubrious point  
though I now recollect a reference made  
[0002]  
thereto by Sebituane, but I followed out the  
other points with the persuasion I was  
doing good if only be leading commerce  
towards breaking up the old sullen isolation  
of heathenism. And now I can announce  
not only a shorter path for our use  
but if not aggreiously mistaken a  
decidedly healthy locality. By this  
fine river flowing through a fine fertile  
country we have water conveyance  
to with 1<sup>o</sup> or 2<sup>o</sup> of the Makololo. the  
only impediment I know of being  
one or two ~~cataracts~~ rapids not  
cataracts and the people in some  
parts who are robbers. I have come  
thus far with but little loss and  
as we are trying to civilize those

whom the worldly wise would call  
by no better name and be content  
to pay well for getting them shot  
we may risk a little without fear

[0003]

of bankruptcy. the Portuguese have been  
amazingly kind. Here they are no less so  
than in Angola, and much of it is owing  
I believe to my public spirited friend Alfredo  
Duprat Esquire at Cape Town, and to  
the Right Reverend Bishop of Angola. the  
kind interest which many of my countrymen  
have shewn in my work makes me  
feel deeply grateful and somewhat ashamed  
withal at having done so little to deserve it  
Many would have done much more than  
I could effect and done it better. This is  
true on the one hand, but one may  
take the comfort of believing that there  
is a pretty large sprinkling of clever  
people who would not have done so much  
I am not so elated in having performed  
what has not [to my knowledge] been done before in traversing  
the continent, because the end of the  
geographical feat is but the beginning  
of the missionary enterprise. May God  
grant me life to do some more good  
to this poor Africa

[0004]

I have a report written for you but it  
requires copying. I rest a few days here  
because I have been on foot through a very  
rough stoney country. Oxen all dead by tsetse and too poor to buy a canoe. With one I could  
have been here a month ago. In excellent  
health, no fever all the way from Linyanti.

Affectionately yours

David Livingstone

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