

## Letter to Charles M. Hay, 26 November 1860

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[0001]

Tette 26<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1860.

My Dear General Hay

It was extremely  
kind in you to remember me,  
as you have done. I have had good  
reason to remember you, and  
though you have recieved no  
evidence of it again & again and  
again has it been brought to my  
recollection how much I owe  
to you and your delightful home  
in the Mauritius. Indeed you  
set me so completely up, that  
all the tear & wear of a fearful  
lionizing, though it wearied me  
sorely, never broke me down,  
and I have not had one  
severe attack of fever since  
my return. Had I gone home  
at once in 1856 and gone through  
the terrible ordeal, then come out  
[0002]

I could not have done the work I do  
now. We have just finished a  
march of 1400 miles in six months.  
We went up the river in order to  
return the Makololo to their own land  
keeping along the North bank of the  
Zambesi till we were in Lat. 17° 18' South  
and about 28° East Long. then turned  
away Westward ascending the  
Highlands near Tabacheu where  
we saw hoar frost & a little ice  
then descended Westwards into the  
great central valley, to our old friends  
the Makololo. When within 20 miles  
of the Falls which I named after our  
Queen we saw the columns of smoke  
and went down to see this great  
sight. I have no hesitation now

in saying that there is none equal to  
it in strangeness in the world. the breadth is not one but nearly two  
thousand yards and it falls sheer  
down 310 feet. The river was very  
low and we could see everything clearly  
The whole river leaps into a crack & this  
crack is prolonged in the most fantastic  
manner - the country below or East of  
the falls being quite as high as the lip over  
[0003]

which the Zambesi rolls - try if you can  
understand this scrawl. All these promontories are of the same  
level as the bed of the river  
above the falls and ~~and~~  
over 300 feet sheer down  
has the river of a mile wide  
jammed into a crack some eighty or  
100 feet wide at the bottom. A most  
extensive coal field extends from below  
Tette to near Victoria Falls. In some places  
a steamer could load out of the seam in  
the bank of the river. These falls will  
be visited and coal worked when we are  
no longer here to write & talk about them  
I hail with great satisfaction the  
formation of the Oxford & Cambridge  
mission, and I shall count it a  
privilege to do whatever I can to aid  
the Bishop and his clergy. It was the  
best news I have heard in Africa  
and most heartily do I thank Him  
who has put the good purpose into  
his servants hearts. No where do  
people stand more in need of christianity  
and civilization than the Africans  
and if this mission is carried on  
with faith & patience there is no  
doubt but good will eventually be  
done both to Africa & England.  
It seems to me that we ought in all  
our plans for the good of others  
[0004]

specially remember our own home  
poor - our honest poor - This leads me  
to think of a small colony as likely to do  
immense good. Accompanied as it  
will be by this mission with the religious  
element I do not apprehend those frightful  
scenes which have occurred elsewhere  
(except New Zealand). As for the poor  
Portuguese, I must say nothing, but you

"can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear"

We found the chief Sekeletu labouring under a skin disease believed to be leprosy the effect of course of witchcraft & several influential head men had been put to death for the crime. We tried to put him to rights during our short stay and his spirits revived. We found that a missionary party from the London Society had been nearly [all] cut off by fever at Linyanti. I regret this extremely as the very time they were perishing we at a lower & more unhealthy part of the river were curing the disease so quickly that a patient would be stricken down and resume his march on foot a day or at most two after the operation of the remedy. This remedy I found effectual as long ago as 1850 and ever since I have not lost a case but I forbore to puff. I could not be a quack and grieve now that the missionaries did not know it. We publish the composition now. Do drop me a line at your leizure & you will oblige

yours affectionately David Livingstone