

**Letter to Jean Fredoux and Ann Fredoux, 26 March,  
12 July, 12 August 1856**

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[0001]

[ms 16] Tete, or Nyungue,  
River Zambesi, Africa  
26<sup>th</sup> March 1856

My Dear Brother and Sister

Having reached this the  
furthest inland station of the Portuguese  
in Eastern Africa on the 2<sup>d</sup> Curr - I have  
much pleasure in remembering the  
friends I left behind me some years ago -  
I could give you no more than a  
wretched scrawl from Sekeletu's for  
my Arab friend who was taking some  
notes to Angola was in a desperate hurry  
to be off - I got the letter you sent the year  
before that but you would see that had  
you come yourselves we should not  
have had the pleasure of meeting. Africa  
is a very wide country, one can go  
no where quickly and while at Loanda  
I was long delayed by a severe attack  
of disease. In coming Eastward we  
followed in a general way the course  
of the Zambesi. It flows Eastwards  
from Sesheke to the falls then having  
passed that wonderful spot, it winds  
away N.N.E. till it reaches the Lat.  
15° 37' South. The falls are in 17° 57' S.  
There passing Eastward it turns down  
again to the South East to Quilimane  
[0002]

the falls are not like other waterfalls - This  
is simply an enormous rent made in  
the hard basaltic rock of the bottom or bed  
from bank to bank - and prolonged from  
the left bank away through thirty or forty  
miles of hills - The rent is about 100 feet  
deep and from 60 to 80 feet apart at the  
lips. Into this the river of a thousand  
yards precipitates itself and being compresse  
at the bottom into fifteen or twenty, the  
pressure is so great as to cause large

columns of vapour to rush up 300  
or 400 feet high - these at that height lose  
their steam colours become dark and descend  
in a constant shower of the condensed  
water. When the river has got through  
its place of confinement it flows broad  
and placid again but there are one  
or two little rocky rapids below - Here  
it is 500 fathoms or 1000 yards and  
it is often much broader - It however  
becomes spread out among numerous  
branches among the deltas of Quilimane  
and sailors passing along dont percieve  
its size except by finding fresh water  
out 20 miles from the land. It is  
never fordable but becomes lower  
in summer than it is now - the land  
is very fertile and the inhabitants raise  
immense quantities of grain. they  
had been fighting with the Portuguese before  
we came and burned all their five villas  
[0003]

Tete is in ruins - Senna \_\_\_\_\_ Quilimane  
not much better - there being real Caffreo  
there who are called Landeens. Senna  
and Quilimane are very deadly but  
Tete is better and a part higher up the  
river is still more salubrious - We  
[...] through the sickly districts  
[...] ne of the year if we can  
without the children. Get m[...] whe[...]  
we are there if we can - ! That's what  
Mr Ashton would call moral courage  
\_\_\_\_\_. is it not - ? I am waiting here  
till the beginning of April partly to rest  
myself and partly to allow the healthy  
seaso[...] to set in at Quilimane before  
breath[...] ng its febrile vapours I was  
pretty well knocked up, for the oxen all  
died of Tetse and then I had to march  
on foot - this is very well for those  
who are fond of pedestrianism or  
need their obesity reduced like Mamary -  
but for me who had become as lean  
as a lath the only good I saw in the  
constant trudging was it gave an honest  
fellow a pretty good idea of the treadmill ,  
I am very well now but drank enormous  
quantities of water after my arrival  
as if I had exchanged my own teetotal  
inner man for the derms of some

drunkard. The Portuguese have been  
remarkably kind both here and in Angola  
[0004]  
and I am very thankful to God for  
having enabled me to perform all I  
proposed and preserved my life  
where so many have fallen. Hope  
your children are better - May God bless  
you abundantly

Ever yours Affectionately

Left Quilimane 12 July  
at Maurihus 12 August  
DL.  
Rev<sup>d</sup> J. Fredoux  
Motito  
Kuruman  
Cape of Good Hope [E] [MS 16]

Now that your mission has fraternized  
with the Boer Kirk, are you permitted  
to go where you like? And preach where  
you like? Or what benefit have you  
derived from the alliance? I suppose  
you remember that you and the T. baal  
congregation were recieved together at the  
very time when the latter were making  
slaves of Sechele's children & murdering the parents