

## Letter to [? Livingstone], 21 October 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Johanna 21<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

P.S. We went up a few miles after coming back to the ship to get ebony which grows abundantly on the Rovuma, and when returning I saw a hippopotamus put his head up right in our way in a narrow channel - several others were a few yards to the left, and I said to D<sup>r</sup> Kirk that fellow seems waiting for us

[0002]

the boat went right over him and he put up his head a few yards behind us. Then in under us and lifted a big boat with ten men and about a ton of ebony in it - giving it two tremendous bumps - as the water began to flow in we ran over to a sand bank with her to see what damage had been done

[0003]

the beast followed and D<sup>r</sup> Kirk put a bullet into his ear which probably gave him the earache We found that he had tried to bite the boat but it was too broad & slipped

out of his mouth  
the tusks cut some  
planks like a chisel  
& made some holes  
besides. We went  
next day thinking  
to get his head for  
[0004]  
M<sup>r</sup>Fitch  
but he had  
left that part and  
all his worthy family  
had followed him.  
We made some repairs  
in the ship then  
steamed over to  
Mohilla in two days  
& yesterday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct <sup>th</sup>  
came to Johanna  
whence this will be sent  
by a dhow owned by  
a Malagasse man to  
Mayotta & I hope it will  
reach you safely

David Livingstone