

Letter to John Washington

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Kongone 17th March

1862

Captain Wilson returned to Shupanga on the Evening of the 14th bringing the sad news that the bishop and M^r Burrup are dead. A new route from Ruvo to the Mission station was found necessary as the Pioneer could not well go up to Chibisa's the bishop wished to come down in Nov^r & explore from Ruvo upwards but continual rains induced me to object very strongly to his going as he would certainly have been knocked up & he had only one man

[0002]

with him - ~~subsequently he~~
It was well he yielded for we were detained 6 weeks with a marsh on each side of us long before we came to the Ruvo. Subsequently he sent Scudamore & Procter to explore and they went away Eastwards to the Melanje mountains instead of Southwards as I directed. I told the bishop that Mount Clarendon must be kept well on his left but they must have had it on their right. A chief attacked and plundered them and the bishop called some Makalolo who remained

at Chibisa's instead of going
home as I directed them

[0003]

went & attacked the plundering
chief & burned his village
the Makololo took away
his goats. Afraid to go further
among that tribe (he was at
the source of the Ruo) he
returned & with Burrup
came down Shire to
meet his sister & M^{rs} Burrup
who were coming up in
the Pioneer - canoe was
overturned we suppose
in an eddy - bedding &
medicine [tea coffee &c &c] lost - came on
[in wet clothes & devoured by myriad of mosquitoes] to Ruo a fortnight after
the time appointed. We
looked out
for them two
days a mile above Ruo
and enquired among the
natives but no word of
them so we passed Ruo
on the day they ought to have

[0004]

been there - but to resume
the narrative - after the
canoe accident they came
to the Ruo - were kindly treated
but fever attacked the bishop
and without treatment or
medicine died. He left his
station with diarrhoea - & it
never left him. Burrup too
labouring under diarrhoea
returned to the mission &
died - they have had much
diarrhoea & dysentery among
their people 20 or 30 of the
children have died. he
bishop is a great loss - &
I fear the effect in England
will be sorely against us
all. Burrup & he were the
strongest of the party and
neither could believe that
aught would hurt them

the bishop wrote in a letter

[0005]

to the Cape that the "Pills were worse than the disease". In this joke we see that he thought little of it, and we now mourn his loss in consequence. All loved him he was very amiable, too much so I fear to be a leader of men as we find them. A new head must be sent out at once or the mission will break up. There are differences among the missionaries which I will not conceal from you, which can be dealt with only by an authoritative head. There is no one to fill a bishop's place. he

[0006]

romance of the thing has passed away and hard prosaic work does not go down nearly so well. Indeed some seem to have come out merely to make a good thing of it by book writing .

We have 20 boxes of preserved meats from the Ariel" a great help as now that it is known we are in want we must pay enormously for every thing. £1. per sheep for instance the regular price being four shillings. Captain Oldfield has arranged for our Johanna crew to be sent to us in May next. We are putting Lady Nyassa

[0007]

together at Shupanga and hope to tow her up in June to the cataracts.

We take 2 mules from

the mission - making our
number four - I have asked
Admiral Walker to send up
10 oxen if he is sending a
coal vessel up. We
have no tsetse except at
Shamo and we pass that
in the cold season and
will escape the bite - calico
getting very low but I shall
buy some from the
Portuguese .

Important

he Governor General of
Mosambique went up a
few months since to
Zanzibar and tried to induce
the Sultan to consent to

[0008]

Rovuma being called the
Portuguese boundary - but
the Sultan being instructed by
our excellent consul Rigby
said "No Cape Delgado is our
boundary". Finding himself
frustrated he made a commercial
treaty & returned to Mosambique.
Rovuma is therefore ours.
I have asked the Foreign Office
if possession ought to be
taken in name of Her Majesty
of our discoveries. Can you
do anything by way of
clenching the boundary to
Cape Delgado? Admiral
Walker might send boats up
while we are working with
our steamer.

Major Secard is made
commandant of Mazaro &
Shire! His watch has arrived
Portuguese all kind as usual

[0009]

o one said aught about
our liberating the captives.
Major Secard from whose

slaves we took 84 captives
gave us three sheep &
two boxes of biscuits
first time we met and
he has now sent down
for an additional
supply of medicine to
that I gave them.

I see that Du Chaillu's
birds have been bought
so D^r Kirk's birds had
better not be disturbed
till he comes home
himself = I should like
authority to send my
brother home - his
time having expired .

[0010]

Please give D^r MacWilliam
a copy of the treatment
and post mortem of
the carpenter as enclosed
in another letter - D^r
Meller goes to the Cape for
change of air on account
of enlarged spleen and
remittent fever. He is
an invaluable man.
£2 14 the proceeds of the
sale of the carpenter 's
clothes were sent to
the flag ship
to pay for
the slops he drew.

M^r Rae bought a
good carpenter & joiner
from Glasgow called

[0011]

John Reid. I enclose a
request to pay part of
his salary to his Father
in the way that may
be most convenient .

Captain Wilson & his
officers have been most
kind and obliging - they

hoped to be able to
help to land the Hull
ashore at the cataracts
which would have
been a great lift to
us. I cannot believe
that the Pioneer cannot
carry 35 tons list or no
list - but she must
have an engineer

[0012]
who does not leave the
driving entirely to the
stokers. I have not
written to the Admiral
about it - but have
desired Captain Wilson
to report what he saw
and heard.

his goes by way
of Mauritius in the brig
Hetty Ellen that brought
the Lady of the Lake.

We are all well - thanks
to Him who rules over all .
Several have had fever -
I send to the Cape for wine
for quinine - I think that
the stimulus to the stomach in
the morning does good .

David Livingstone