

Letter to Horace Waller, 12 February 1863

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[0001]

Elephant Marsh

12 Feby 1863

My Dear Waller

Johnstone passed us on
28th Alt with the melancholy intelligence
that our poor dear Scudamore had been
taken from us. We have had one blow
after another and did we not believe
in the special Providence of Him who
doeth all things well we might despair
but so it was on the West Coast
I trust here these sad experiences
may be followed with similar
successes. I fear that living in the
lowlands as you have been forced
to do by vile slavehunting com-
plications may result in worse.
We have a bad case on board in
Wilson the stoker who is quite jaundiced
and here we must stay victimized
by the deep drought of Pioneer - four
feet in front of us now is a poor
look out. Even Lady Nyassa draws
within 2 inches of four feet. We came
up easily till we got to the sudden
bends of the river beyond Ruo and
then with two ships it was trying
work. No mortal man can realize
the bother and worry one has to put
up with if he means to do good in his
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day & generation - but I need not inflict
any of it on you.

Between ourselves Earl Russell gave
me a warm touch of approbation
for our doings when last up and
sent orders to our minister at
Lisbon to make a strong representation
to the Portuguese Government about

the deeds of the Tettites. I have been following up my former statements by giving an account of the sad depopulation that has gone on by means of Mariamo - Belshore &c &c We have counted 31 bodies floating down - and I have taken good care to point out to Lord Palmerston the causes of the failure of his policy on the East coast which has been so triumphant on the West 20 missions established 20 dialects reduced &c &c lawful commerce from 20 000 to between £2 000 000 V £ 000 000, while here it is still the old paltry peddling in ivory & gold dust and the only mission attempted struggling against strangulation by slave hunters backed by Portuguese Governors. It would have been so on the West had only a few convert Portuguese been admitted to the interior. I trust that [0003]

by the blessing of the Highest this may lead to an alteration of policy, but this of course is only among ourselves to be talked of for the present. A canoe load of ammunition wines &c for Mariamo was caught up at the mouth of the Shire coming up in name of the Mission Oh the scamps! And His Excellency of Quilliamane has been writing to the other of Mozambique saying that so much merchandise as powder arms & calicoes are introduced for the scientific & exploring Expeditions under D^r L and bishop M. That the commerce of the country is injured it is likely that the Governor of Q is contriving at the supplies of Mariamo and trying to divert attention elsewhere It will all come out right at last you have lots of provisions coming I towed them over Quillimane bar for you in Col Nunes launch which was leaky and I fear may have damaged some things. We took them out of the "Rapid" a new cruiser that thrust them into the launch & set sail. We had to remain out all night. As soon as we saw her

to be leaky we took the good & aboard
though crowded with cattle & full of
provisions

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Had it began to blow we must have thrown
them & the oxen over. We put them in again
next day in the River but the slaves
probably did not bale as we hear of
damage done more than was when
we had them - the nail - a large one I
sent up to Quillimane - thinking it
would go quicker that way. Nyassa
failed us miserably - promised to sail
down for the goods and never knowing
him to lie before I advised Proctor
just to leave the affair in his hands
He did not send - and time was lost
thereby. Lots of medical comforts
coming & one cask of brandy. As
for ourselves we took as much
provisions from Johanna as we
could but we shall be out in June
so must go back. Forty mouths
eating and not an ounce coming
in. We had eight months stores and
must go back for eight more as
so as we can get Nyassa up.

I thought you were wrong in attacking the
Ajowa till I looked on it as defence
of your poor orphans. I thought that
you had shut yourselves up to one
tribe and that the Manganja but
I think differently now & only wish
they would send out D^r Pusey here
he would learn a little sense of
which I suppose I have need myself

Ever Affectionately David Livingstone

Thornton wishes to work at the Falls or cataracts. Hope you
will advise him against any point that may be dangerous.
Remember me
kindly to
D^r Dickson

A single individual is more likely to be attacked than 20 or so together.

You need never look Miss Macgregor

Leave all other topisc till we meet this way the admiralty will be with you all