

Letter to William Thompson, 4 October 1858

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[0001]

River Kongone

4th Oct^r 1858

My Dear M^r Thompson

I could not possibly
write you by last opportunity
from the Zambesi but there was
so little to communicate you
were no loser. We have now
had more time to look about us
and I think we have ascertained
the point that entering these
rivers at the time we did is
nearly quite safe if no delay
takes place among the mangrove
swamps. We have been
favoured with fair health
and had ailments more
like common colds than
fever. Two of the party are
now at Tete and the others
[0002]

hope to join them shortly. We got
a ton and a half of coals there
the first ever taken out of the
earth in that country and as
the Portuguese have shewn
a great deal of public spirit
we are almost certain of a
larger supply when we return
My poor fellows recieved
me with great joy - they
had often been taunted by
the Tette people that their
Englishman would never
return but they hoped on
and have amassed quantities
of beads to take back to their
own country. Thirty of them
died of small pox and
six were killed by a

rebel chief at the confluence
of the Luenya. The confidential
servant of Sekwebu is with
me now on board the Launch.
this thing is so small we
[0003]
could not bring more of them
down though they were anxious
to come on service.

We found the country in a
state of war and the Portuguese
were too busy with that to help
us with canoes. It is finished
now, and my old friend
Major Secard at once helped
us with the luggage - but it
has quite depopulated the
lands adjacent to the river
We see the river in this
month at its very lowest
and as it spreads out
into from one to three
miles in width the
broad parts are very
difficult. When we
get to Lupata our
difficulties vanish for
above that point it
is in one or two channels
of about 1000 or 1200 yards broad
[0004]

I admire its size more than ever.
When I came down in a canoe
it was full and I saw but one
channel where we now see two
or three. If the Portuguese would
beat the expense of a few piles
driven in to effect what snags
sometimes do now - deep channels
might be secured for the whole
year. they are going to build a
fort & custom house at this
or the Luabo

Your things left at Kilimane
did not go off by sale, so I
have directed my friend there
to send them back to the Cape
at my expense - and possibly they may realize the sum
which the Directors I think

most unjustly saddled upon you
I promised to pay it all
but wished to think over it,
and now I consider that the
publication of that same document
in England ought to have been
defrayed by the secretaries if
they thought you were liable too.

With kind regards to M^{rs} T. I am &c

David Livingstone

I hear the new missionaries have come. I hope they
will all reach their destinations in safety

If the articles do not bring the
whole sum I shall make it up