Letter to Horace Waller

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

 $\begin{array}{c} {\rm Cataracts 13^{\underline{d}}~Aug} \\ {\rm Private 1863} \end{array}$

My Dear Waller

I am sorry to hear such discouraging news from the Mission I imagined that the bishop would feel in honour bound to the obligations incurred by his predecessor - there being nothing immoral in doing so but the contrary and if the constituents of the mission of the Universities should think otherwise they are not the men the world takes them to be. In the event

If at Morambala when we pass be surprised if we keep things for our future which we might now dispose of

[0002]

of his continuing [^][to think] that one black face to which the good bishop Mackenzie tendered paternal obligations as the head & representative of the Mission, is the same as one to which no such obligation was tendered. I shall take the boys and girls in Lady Nyassa to Johanna and provide for them there till I hear from the Metropolitan about their future - the Cape christians have more in them than [to] allow any disgrace

to tarnish the Mission name.

I am sorry I cannot view the Makololo in the same light as you & the Ajawa women do

[0003]

two murders reported by M^rProcter turned out to have no death in them and Daima died of hunger west of his village as you may ascertain by one of his young wives still alive - I know their wickedness very well and spoke to Ranyen about striking women but no other having been guilty so far as I can learn as he has, it would do no good to assume guilt after having in your presence been challenged to produce evidence & failing though I have tried according to the best of my ability It would only produce

[0004]

the impression that I believed reports of their having "murdered & plundered over all the country" which I have no reason to credit. the resolution "to have as little to do with them as possible" seemed confirmation of the suspicion that the mission had got on the wrong . The great teacher having commanded his first missionaries to begin "at Jerusalem" with those who had committed the worst murder the world

ever saw - and as to their conduct neutralizing the effect of the teaching of the missionaries. My dear fellow if wickedness even in the church could have done that christianity would long ago have

[0005]

been banished from the world of the first twelve you remember one was a devil - I am sorry to take such a different view from what you have done and beg to assure you my convictions though not possessing the amount of knowledge of the subject that accompanies yours have been arrived [at][^] with great care. The statement which has been made that the Makololo had been left in the country to shift for themselves being so opposite to the part of their voluntarily forsaking us led me to think often "seriously on the whole subject and while still of course free to retain your own opinions I am sure you will not feel offended by my expressing mine

[0006]

I am exceedingly obliged by your kindness in sending the wine [^][brandy] and preserved meats. I hope ours will meet us in time to repay them. At any rate I shall take care that you [^][be] refunded with the meats. Meller is a capital fellow but enormously "funky" He has no idea that a Doctor ought to keep a cheerful countenance &

blythe tongue. The croaking to the men at the Pioneer was a nuisance to them - Reid. Wilson - the steward &c &c were past all cure - and the skulking that was allowed & the wine issued were sad to see - I could not of course interfere

[0007]

tell Young send at table "When we have any work to do all go on the sick list. That any one can see" I saw their open fever skulkers ate full rations of salt junk & biscuits. and if Reid & Macleod did not come at once when "Dinner" was called all was devoured - Meller was much too good for such wicked fellows and I could not pain him by saying what I felt but he will invalid you all if you wish it - I hope he may get on well in Madagascar. I am sure that my good wishes follow him -

I guess that I shall work alone in Apuca yet £100 a year would do to support one

[0008]

i. e. what being cultivated. I dont know whether I am to go on the shelf or not if so I make the shelf Africa. If Lady Nyassa is well sold I shall manage though I be not so rich as you - there is a Ruler above and his Providence guides all things - He is our friend & has

plenty of work for all
his people to do fear being left idle if
willing to work for Him
Am glad to hear of Alington
if the work is of God it
will come out right at
last. To Him shall be given
the gold of Sheba &c and
daily shall he be praised
I always think it was
such a blessing &
be led into his work instead
of the service of the hard
taskmaster the devil & sin.

[0009]

I fear that bolt out of the country is the key to the bishops vagaries - the difficulties instead of making his mind rise with the occasion sinks it. Poor thing. A mission without difficulties would to me be like a man without a shadow if "junk" is to be the order of the day the apostolic succession must have left the Church & gone to the conventicle Think of Moffat running away from a difficulty a lion from a Turkey cock No! No! and I trust good bishop Tozer will spare us the shame & disgrace -

[0010]

He himself will rue it but once, and that will last till his dying day

As [...] Russell pointedly & strongly approved of my point in freeing the captives if obliged take them away & deliver them to the first man of war I shall of course report the whole to him. I must have the boys too. this is as I feel now and a passage you shall have if you wish it - but think well over the matter and ask wisdom from him who gives liberally & upbraid them not - if I may venture a hint raise your voice in argument pitch it in quietly as stiff

[0011] as you like or can -

I shall take an early opportunity of say all you wish to the Makololo & if they remain doing with me do it more than once. We never mince matters in speaking but we lose influence if we change them & cannot prove the accusation - I shall if well speak to Moloka & the others on my return - they seem to feel the necessity at least of sticking by the people of the country they side with Chibisa but have no confidence in any save yourselves As far as I can gather in indirect as well as direct ways they are as sorry for your

[0012]

going as any of the Ajawa of course from purely selfish considerations The great affliction to me is a consecrated bishop turning tail - More who now urge him on will be the first to say as was done of myself & the fighting "It was all his own fault"

It must have been as you say with Captain Wilson - He sends regards to you by name in my letter too. He has at last discovered that the ivory & slave trade are inter-dependent - the knowledge of whither my efforts were tending made the Portuguese frantic - this point however is not to be spoken of now I am please the Almighty not done with it yet

David Livingstone