

## Letter to [Arthur?] Need, 20 January 1855

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Cassange 20<sup>th</sup> January

1855

My Dear Captain Need

Your very welcome  
present reached me on the morning  
in which I departed from Golungo Alto  
and I assure you made me feel  
extremely grateful for your kindness.  
I dont expect to shoot anyone  
with it, but believing in M<sup>r</sup> Roebuck's  
definition of moral force as "physical  
force in perspective" I think its  
influence will be decidely beneficial  
During my journey down to the  
Portuguese possesions we found  
the natives extremely impudent

[0002]

often surrounding us and demanding a  
man, ox or gun for leave to pass through  
their country and sometimes they pointed  
their guns at me or aimed a blow  
at my head with a sort of broad  
sword which they have. It was difficult  
to appease them for we had nothing  
left to give them. In such cases your  
weapon would have been of much  
service for they have a salutary dread  
of percussion arms. they have too  
an insuperable objection to cannon  
Indeed the Portuguese keep them in  
subjection wonderfully well by  
using this fear as one of their arms  
Pungo Andongo contains a battery  
of four guns three of which are  
perched on cross sticks. and they  
do as effectually for keeping the

[0003]

natives in awe as if mounted on the best

artillery carriages

I wait here a few days or untill  
the mail which leaves Loanda on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
currt. arrives. I am exceedingly anxious  
to hear the news of the war in the East.  
the African sun does not burn out  
our amor patrial. About 30 miles  
East of this we cross the river Quango  
or Congo. the smaller branch of the  
river adjacent to which you lay  
so long on the look out. We cross the  
Casai or Kasye in Lat 17° 22' and  
that is said to be the principal  
branch of the Zaire. It however  
goes away to the East after we  
see it. And if you should ever  
come up to explore it you will find it  
[0004]

watering an immense extent of territory  
It is said to go round to Matiamvo  
who lives about 6° of Long. East of  
this and who is reported to be  
the greatest sovereign of this  
part of Africa. Civilization must  
make more rapid progress than  
it has done or we shall be all  
mouldering in our graves long  
before it reaches him.

Again thanking you for kind  
and disinterest present and with the  
earnest prayer that God may bless  
and preserve you.

I am Dear Sir

yours very sincerely

David Livingston