

## Letter to [Robert Gray], 21 March 1860

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[0001]

River Zambesi

21<sup>st</sup> March 1860.

My Lord Bishop

In a speech delivered  
at Manchester about a year ago,  
I found, for the first time a  
few days since, the very cheering  
intimation that Miss Coutts had  
subscribed £2500 towards an  
institution for the sons of  
native chiefs. As you have no  
doubt been generously supported  
in the noble undertaking by  
other members of the English  
church, and cannot fail to be,  
by the Divine blessing, extensively  
useful, I take the liberty to  
congratulate you on the enterprise.  
Feeling a deep interest in any  
plan for the elevation of the  
population of this country,  
[0002]

whether white or black, I may  
be allowed to shew my sympathy  
with yours by alluding to the  
extensive field which in the  
course of time your benevolence  
will affect.

The Kaffre or Zulu family  
extends right up to the Zambesi.  
Under the name "Landims"  
(Landeens) they have conquered  
all the gold region called  
Manica, and all the south  
bank of this river (except the  
lands in the immediate  
vicinity of the forts Senna  
and Tette) is under their

sway or depopulated.

The estate of Shupanga which, yielding the immense trees used in forming the large canoes common on the Zambesi, cannot be dispensed with by the Portuguese, is retained only by paying a large [annual] tribute.  
[0003]

Some 600 dollars are paid to the Landeens, and only 400 of rent to the Portuguese Government. The language is nearly identical with that of the Zulus of Natal and Moenekhosi or Manikhosi. (the "Manicus" of the Boers) [the paramount chief of the whole region north of Inhambane,] is of the same family as Panda. They all have a certain amount of respect for the English or as they call us Maingeretse. When D<sup>r</sup> Kirk visited a village subject to their sway, his wants were abundantly supplied, and payment refused: Your efforts and those of other bodies of Christians among these fine people will without doubt be one day crowned with glorious results.

If we turn to the influences at work hitherto in this region we see abundant reason for joy at the prospect of the introduction of better agencies. We have recieved much kindness from individual Portuguese, and can therefore  
[0004]  
speak confidentially only about their system. Their establishments are not colonies, but small penal settlements. No women are sent out to them, and frightful immorality is the result. The prevailing

drunkenness makes it wonderful  
that the people live at all. Our  
expedition is hated as a sort  
of standing protest against vice.  
and we should be "good fellows"  
only by joining in their vices.  
With a soil and climate superior  
to Natal nothing is done but  
paltry peddling in ivory and  
gold dust. When we go down  
to the coast we have abundance of  
fresh meat without trouble from  
the game, but inland the grass,  
intermingled with Indigo and cotton,  
is too tall for hunting, and we  
can get neither vegetables nor  
fresh meat for either love or  
money. I am trying to obtain  
free navigation of the Zambesi  
for all nations, and if you can  
lend any influence to effect  
it you will aid in breaking  
up the exclusive system which  
is the ruin of the country.

I am &c David Livingstone

Had the projected Institution been in existence before Sechele fell away from his  
profession of christianity his children might have recieved great benefit  
He sent them of his own accord to Kuruman for instruction and  
I believe they were supported there for a time by M<sup>r</sup> Moffats private bounty.  
I am unaquainted with the missionaries now at Sechele's  
but imagine that they would gladly induce Sechele to avail  
himself of any advantages you may have to bestow on his  
children. and to me it would be a great satisfaction  
to hear that any of the Bakwains had been so favoured. I do  
very heartily bid you God Speed