

## Letter to [Roderick I. Murchison?], [24 February 1864]

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

### Private

You cannot conceive the state I was in on the stoppage of three letters somewhere I imagined that you had thrown me overboard and being in poor health I racked my thoughts to discover wherein I had been senseless enough to have offend you. I thought all manner of things - but all came right when I found the missing letters on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> and one from Lady Murchison too I thank you and her very much, and pray that the Almighty may bless you. they lifted a heavy weight off my mind and heart

Very glad to hear of the success of my friends

[0002]

Speke and Grant. I had become very uneasy about them. I would have tried to have gone in by the Webbe had I been attempting the Nile but it has turned out well for our country

I dont know whether I am destined to be thrown on the shelf or not. the Earl of Clarendon said that I had been put on the list of Consuls by way of

providing for me. If I  
am thrown into idleness  
I shall come out here again  
rather

the mission of the Univer-  
sities has not answered  
my expectations & then  
they blame me for their  
fighting which took place  
when I was away at the  
Lake - come what may

[0003]  
I shall never blame another  
for what I do myself.  
the New bishop was two  
months ago on the top  
of Morambala mountain at the mouth of the Shire  
4000 feet high - Fancy a  
mission on the top of  
Ben Nevis and no  
people near to teach.  
The clouds condensing  
drop through their roofs  
perpetually.

the river not yet up  
(4 Dec<sup>r</sup>) though we have  
been back a month  
Wish we had gone on  
to Bemba but I should  
not have been happy  
knowing that I was  
neglecting my duty to  
the Pioneer. We take  
Lady Nyassa to India if  
we can to sell her.  
Earl Russell says that

[0004]  
the expense of this expedition  
cannot be justified - I  
wonder if the expense of  
the cruizers on the coast  
one of which costs £25,000  
per annum can be justified  
if we had got the steamer  
on the Lake we should  
have done more to stop  
the slave trade than half

a dozen cruizers. Unless  
the slave trade of buba is  
stopped the Portuguese never  
will give it up

David Livingstone

the bishop is off before  
me. I take the boys & children  
whom he wished to abandon  
& send them to the Cape - there  
are about 40 altogether - having  
liberated them once I felt in  
honour bound to see them  
free. the bishop is about as fit  
to be a missionary as I am to  
be the Director at Jermyn St  
At Mozambique 24 Feb<sup>y</sup> all right