

## Letter to John Kirk 2, 8 August 1863

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[0001]

Malango 8<sup>th</sup> August 1863

My Dear D<sup>r</sup> Kirk

I recieved your  
welcome letters by the boat in  
the beginning of August instead  
of as you thought the middle  
the ~~boat~~ [canoe] with rum & sugar  
had still to come. You did all  
that a man could do in the  
circumstances, and I thank  
you for your services -  
suspecting that the silly  
Cape Governor had not  
sent the money which his  
predecessor Sir George Grey  
was always glad to do &  
indeed pressed me to make  
use of him in that and every  
other way, I could think of.  
I gave D<sup>r</sup> Meller a bill for  
£150 to Colonel Nunes instead  
but you will be off by the  
time of his arrival and  
I fear I may not go to  
[0002]

Quillimane at all - You were  
quite right to get off by the  
earliest safe opportunity -  
that dying by inches -  
slow & sure poison which  
I saw in the crew of a Hamburg  
vessel was just what you  
describe in Saunders - Be  
sure & write when you get  
this & let me know how  
you are yourself - I feel  
naturally very anxious  
about you & the rest - sorry  
for poor Pearce - I shall  
send off his packet as soon  
as I can - We are thanks

to the Highest all well except  
King who complains of  
pains in his limbs but works

I have written a formal  
complaint against being  
subjected to the humiliation  
of having our Despatch  
subjected to missionary  
[0003]  
and other gossip at the Cape  
before we knew its contents  
I suspect the Governor  
of the Cape as the guilty  
person and after telling  
how Adams came up  
and hailed the ship with  
"no more pay for you  
Pioneer chaps. I bring the  
letter as says it" and that  
D<sup>r</sup> Steere had expatiated  
on the different paragraphs  
before English & Portuguese  
[at Quillimaine] until you had felt com-  
pelled to the remark - "that  
it was not likely he  
could know the contents &c  
I add that notwithstanding  
the courteousness of its  
style my companions  
& self had been subjected  
to very unmerited humilia-  
tion - the Despatch was  
sent open to the Cape Governor  
and I suspect that he  
[0004]  
to gain a little popularity with  
high church folks had sent  
it to the bishop - I shall not  
call on the Governor though  
I go to the Cape and will take  
further public notice of the  
indignity if no apology is  
given. I dont say a word  
to the bishop about it but  
will mention D<sup>r</sup> Steere's bad  
manners - Earl Russell says  
he will be glad to learn  
that any of the gentlemen  
of the Mission have profited  
by my [suggestions &] experience" &c &c.

as they know this I shall  
use it as a text

We liked the bishop well  
enough during his half day's  
stay with - he is the picture  
of Dillon of the Gorgon but  
marked with small pox -  
[...] cautious & no courage  
[...] seems not too old to  
[...] . He might as well  
[...] mentioned his decision about Morambala  
[0005]

as it was he let me see that he  
was mainly anxious to get in  
to coincide in his own views  
and he did not conceal his  
intention to bolt. He gave a  
hint about pickings out of  
Pioneer but I shall take care  
that they be of the smallest  
and as for Lady Nyassa  
I would rather see her  
forming a second bar at  
Quillimane than that she  
should be a slaver or a  
Portuguese property which  
would be the equivalent  
We mean to take her to  
India when the hurricane  
season is over - wish we  
could get into the Webbe  
to wait for that.

Washington pointedly said  
"On no account take any  
money from private  
persons for her" and he  
[0006]  
sanctioned several things  
additional which come to  
a good sum yet not a  
word is said about her  
I am not going to whine  
about it however -

In reference to the remark  
in the Despatch that the  
Gov<sup>t</sup> as yet possessed  
but scanty information  
about the resources of

the country. I mention  
the ample materials you  
have sent or taken to  
the Gov<sup>t</sup> Museum at  
Kew and that there is  
no instance on record  
of valuable information  
being arranged without  
consulting Herbaria and  
authorities - & refer to  
Sir William Hooker  
[0007]

as to whether the materials  
are not as ample for  
the illustration of the  
natural productions of  
the country as ever came  
out of a barbarous  
country & from a  
vessel in which nothing  
without incessant  
trouble could be preserved  
I write to Sir William  
at same time. I suspect  
some underling has  
suggested the remark  
Sir Roderick seems  
no longer our friend  
& he has a say in everything  
I only conjecture Sir  
Roderick's coldness  
from his ceasing to  
write

[0008]  
Rae gets on very fast in  
rebuilding Lady Nyassa  
his heart is in it. the  
worthy Laird of Limefield  
say that we must be awful  
"clashers" out here. We surely  
must as the "clashers" got so  
far before reaching us on  
the spot. About a month  
ago we were talking just as we  
used to do about the Governor  
of Quillimame making so  
much of medical services  
to the army & auxiliary forces  
without ever thanking me

for carrying him out of the  
thick of it. When it suddenly  
struck me that this might  
with additions be converted  
into a "clash" I never  
contemplated - if it does so  
become, you will know  
what to think of it

[0009]

Meller left us on 17<sup>th</sup> July  
He is spoken of as consul  
for Madagascar and had  
applied for it. I dont  
know if anyone is  
appointed to Zanzibar  
but it might be well for  
you to apply. In a few  
years you could retire  
with a competency &  
have done good service  
in the mean time

Waller wished to retire  
rather than go to Marambala  
but the bishop gave in  
to taking the freed woman  
& children & he will go. It  
would have been such a  
mule to sit on a mountain  
without people to teach  
[0010]

Proctor went down river  
very ill with liver & living  
in a low valley doing nothing  
They have it said brought  
a sickly lad with them  
who will soon die & give  
an excuse for bolting  
I have told Earl Russell  
that the use made of  
my previous advice  
not to fight or engage  
in native quarrels which  
bishop Mackenzie honestly  
mentions in his journal  
was to place all the blame  
of their subsequent fighting  
on my shoulders - the  
mountain Marambala to

which they now go  
will subject them by  
its frequent clouds to  
chills & damps which  
[0011]  
may be as prejudicial as  
the fevers in the valley  
they must not blame  
me for Rowley is better

We left to carry a boat  
past the Cataracts & improve  
the time between this &  
Dec<sup>r</sup> & had it up at  
Malango when in the  
water the Makalolo reported  
that it would require  
now to be carried - I called  
all hands to do this when  
five Shupanga men - I  
must give the names  
of the worthies. Kanyai  
Peoso Arimasau -  
Ropa & Maudzu (the slave)  
jumped in to shew how  
clever they were. the  
next thing I saw was  
the boat bottom upwards  
[0012]  
away like a shot over the  
Cataracts! I am going to  
do a little on foot to keep  
the blood circulating

My son Robert is said to be  
at Natal to join me - and  
I am sorry I cannot ask  
anyone save Captain  
Gardner to give him  
a passage and he wont  
touch there - he would be  
useful in the L. Nyassa  
If you can drop a word  
about a passage to any  
likely skipper I shall be  
obliged. If he cannot come  
he must work his own  
way in Natal - with  
best wishes

I am ever yours

David Livingstone