

# Letter to Agnes Livingstone 1

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Johanna 30 Aug 1862

My Dear Mother

We came to this island a few days ago and have an opportunity of sending letters so I write though I have not much to say. We are on our way to another river called the Rovuma by which we hope to find an outlet to those discoveries which we have with so much toil effected. We wish to be away from the Portuguese who are inveterate slave traders and turn all our labours to the forwarding of

[0002]

this horrid traffic. We mean to explore Rovuma in boats - and in December next return to place the Lady Nyassa on the Lake of that name. The mission established by the High church party may yet do good but they have much to learn. I wish them every success but it may be better to stand less in contact with them than I have been as any blunders they make are put on my shoulders. The Portuguese would like to worm them out of the country by their slaves while they remain in

[0003]

the background. I lately called on the Governor  
of Tette to prevent a private  
Portuguese who had armed  
a large party of blacks  
and waged war from  
disturbing them & he has  
acceeded to my request.  
We had a great deal of  
fever in consequence of  
being so long down in  
the lowlands - and exposed  
in a way I never  
contemplated for dear  
Mary. The man whose  
culpable negligence did  
it all had fever himself  
and was jaundiced but  
was saved at death 's door .  
We can cure it in general

[0004]

very quickly but sometimes  
it resists all our efforts .  
I have written to Oswell by  
this occasion but fear  
I may not be able to do  
so to Agnes & Thomas .

With kindest salutations  
to my sisters & to you  
my dear mother and  
to Anna Mary I am  
ever affectionately

David Livingstone

I think it may be better  
for Robert to come out  
here for a while. I thought  
education the best legacy  
I could leave him but  
so thought not he & must  
rank in life accordingly .