

## Letter to William Brock, 12 November 1859

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour

12 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1859

My Dear Friend

Having this day finished  
my first perusal of your admirable  
memoir of an admirable man,  
which by the way you forgot to send  
after me. I feel that I must write  
to you. No wonder you were affected  
in preaching the funeral sermon  
of the good and great General Havelock  
such a lovely character - so exalted a  
christian and yet so human - so  
sympathizing, and yet so brave. I can  
enter better into your feelings now  
and I trust this labour of love  
of yours will become a blessing  
unto many.

Here we are away  
from the exciting themes which  
agitate the public mind at home  
and we are working towards a great  
object in the hope that the Lord  
may in mercy accept our  
services and grant us our desires.

At first matters appeared un-  
toward but these very hindrances  
[0002]

now promise to turn out signally in  
our favour. We have been longer  
in the lower portion of the river than we  
anticipated but our opportunities for  
observing the fever - and trying the plan  
which I followed when alone have  
been more numerous in consequence,  
and I believe we can now cure the disease  
quickly and without (in general) loss  
of strength to the patient. This is one of  
the greatest boons our Expedition will have

to shew. We cannot however cure the brandy fever but country fever and it are two diseases Then we have been led to go up the Shire and we found that this river comes out of a large Lake called Nyassa. The region bathed by Lake & river is one of the finest cotton countries in the world - there are no frosts to cut off the crops as in America and instead of the unmerciful toil required in the slave states one sowing of foreign seed serves for three years crops. In the cotton country we have highlands which present changes of climate within a few miles of each other for we can ascend from the Shire valley where the thermometer stands about 96° in the shade and the river water is [0003]

81° - 84° or like a warm bath at home to a heights of from 3000 to 7000 feet, well cultivated and peopled too, in the course of a short days journey. The people even now cultivate large quantities of cotton and the problem of supply of the raw material of our manufactures without dependance on slave labour seems verging towards a [...] solution. The region referred to is a large section of the slave market. We saw abundant evidence of this everywhere and here English settlements would in the course of time be an incalculable benefit. Lawful commerce as a means of counteracting that in slaves but above everything the gospel which is the only remedy for the woes of Africa and the only means which can effectually raise the degraded portions of humanity would here find a most eligible field. I believe that something is in contemplation & if only carried out with vigour our efforts will be rewarded - & I shall not grieve at being detained so long from the Makololo. [0004]

It gives me much pleasure to see from some of the Papers that our Friend Binney is recovered and has been doing some good in Australia

If he is home and you happen  
to meet him please tell him that  
I am greatly rejoiced to hear of his  
welfare & usefulness - should you  
see M<sup>r</sup> Spurgeon the same thing  
will do for him - I love them  
both with very great affection  
The Lord make them & you my  
brother - abundant blessings. I am  
in apparently another line but I know  
what I am about. I had a naval officer  
who didn't. He came out I found not  
to elevate the African and prepare the  
way for the gospel but "to discover the  
Ten lost Tribes" as if of all things in  
the world we hadn't plenty of Jews  
already. I had to send him home soon  
We came down here to meet a man of  
war with provisions and tinker our  
craft with which we were cheated by  
a philanthropist (so called) Please present  
my kind regards to your lady and  
to Sir Morton Peto & family & believe me

Yours ever

David Livingstone  
[0005]

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