

## Letter to General Edward Sabine, 19 December 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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General Sabine

Sir

In transmitting this first installment of observations to your care I have to regret that M<sup>r</sup> Baines was unable from the effects of a slight sun stroke to repeat them. He is however now almost well and will be order to take a complete set at Tette. M<sup>r</sup> Livingstone will repeat his probably on both sides of the river.

I have also to beg your aid in procuring another spirit level as per enclosed pencil sketch It was broken probably when a portion of the roof of our house was blown away & the servants removed our luggage from one end of the dwelling to the other. the level itself is enclosed among some sketches sent to the Foreign Office. The part of the instruments to which this belongs was not sent to Kew for examination and was so badly constructed as to give us a world of trouble adjusting it. An upright glass tube which is required to be quite perpendicular is screwed into wood only & the thread yields either way to the brass. The socket ought clearly to have been brass. Any  
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hints you may have to offer after examining the observations will be thankfully recieved

the new level may be sent to the care of Admiral Grey

at the Cape but should  
H. M. Government decide  
on sending out a vessel of  
greater power than we at present  
possess to ascend the rapids  
of Kebra basa that may be  
the safest conveyance

I am &c

David Livingstone

Tette,

19<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

1858