

Letter to [Arthur?] Need, 20 January 1855

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[0001]

Cassange 20th January

1855

My Dear Captain Need

Your very welcome
present reached me on the morning
in which I departed from Golungo Alto
and I assure you made me feel
extremely grateful for your kindness.
I dont expect to shoot anyone
with it, but believing in M^r Roebuck's
definition of moral force as "physical
force in perspective" I think its
influence will be decidely beneficial
During my journey down to the
Portuguese possesions we found
the natives extremely impudent

[0002]

often surrounding us and demanding a
man, ox or gun for leave to pass through
their country and sometimes they pointed
their guns at me or aimed a blow
at my head with a sort of broad
sword which they have. It was difficult
to appease them for we had nothing
left to give them. In such cases your
weapon would have been of much
service for they have a salutary dread
of percussion arms. they have too
an insuperable objection to cannon
Indeed the Portuguese keep them in
subjection wonderfully well by
using this fear as one of their arms
Pungo Andongo contains a battery
of four guns three of which are
perched on cross sticks. and they
do as effectually for keeping the

[0003]

natives in awe as if mounted on the best

artillery carriages

I wait here a few days or untill
the mail which leaves Loanda on the 16th
currt. arrives. I am exceedingly anxious
to hear the news of the war in the East.
the African sun does not burn out
our amor patrial. About 30 miles
East of this we cross the river Quango
or Congo. the smaller branch of the
river ajacent to which you lay
so long on the look out. We cross the
Casai or Kasye in Lat 17° 22 and
that is said to be the principal
branch of the Zaire. It however
goes away to the East after we
see it. And if you should ever
come up to explore it you will find it
[0004]

watering an immense extent of territory
It is said to go round to Matiamvo
who lives about 6° of Long. East of
this and who is reported to be
the greatest sovereign of this
part of Africa. Civilization must
make more rapid progress than
it has done or we shall be all
mouldering in our graves long
before it reaches him.

Again thanking you for kind
and disinterest present and with the
earnest prayer that God may bless
and preserve you.

I am Dear Sir

yours very sincerely

David Livingston