

Letter to General Edward Sabine

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Kongone 17th January 1861.

My Dear General Sabine
We were gratified
by two notes containing the reductions
of the magnetical observations by D^r Chambers
on our return from a trip up the
river of some 600 miles. We left Tette
before I observed that the exact mean
time was required for those taken at
Expedition Islandnd as I believe
we have data whereby that may be
ascertainednd the observations
sent are not the only ones taken
at these stations it may be well
for you to keep what you have
by you till we can give you
the whole.

We are now down here waiting
for the arrival of our new vessel .

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I wish the instruments which were quite
spoiled by M^r Lairds wretched launch
had been reserved for the new one - you
may be disposed to blame us but
I can assure you that our utmost
endeavours could not keep our own
beds dry. he partitions pumped in
water perpetually. Our bedding was all
rotten and we lost a great deal of
both public & private property. It was
only in our last trip when we
suddenly filled that the instruments were
injured. he wet in this hot climate
had an almost instantaneous effect
on the glue and on the steel.

I am very glad to hear of the
formation of the Oxford & Cambridge
mission of which I observe you are
on the committee. I have been applied

to for information and I have not

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failed to hint at the desirableness of bearing in mind meteorological and magnetical observations for the time of comparative which will follow the first hard work of the foundation. It might be well for you to follow up what I have suggested by a reference to what was done in Algeria by the missionaries under Bishop Dupuch . It is mentioned in "Blakesley's Algeria" . M^r Dupuch established 47 churches & chapels 40 almonries & hospitals , orphan asylums and a house of Trappists! which distinguishes itself by an extensive series of meteorological observations. In a climate so little known as this, similar observations are surely as necessary, and for a mercantile country such as ours magnetical observations are of no less importance. The well educated young

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men who will follow the bishop would no doubt cheerfully undertake any work tending to advance the interests of either science or civilisation. This is merely a hint the value of which you are best qualified to judge. rom the high position you occupy your personal influence would be sufficient.

With very kind greetings to M^{rs} Sabine

I am Faithfully Yours

David Livingstone

The glass tube and riding spirit level came safely. hey belong to a much larger instrument than ours. ou will have seen our application for any set of instruments that may have been returned uninjured from other Expeditions .