

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 7 January 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

River Shire 7 January

1862

My Dear Tom

I send you through

M^r Conynham a small canoe

which I picked up on Lake

Nyassa. some little boy had

made it of a light wood of a

species of *Arschinomena* , and it

gives a good idea of the shape canoes

are made on the Lake - It ought to

be more hollowed out inside -

then a tin box contains some bits

of the rocks on the west of the

Lake, can you tell me what

they are? [I think I saw rocks of the family at Kendal] One piece was a weight

to a floating net which boys were

using to catch fish, you will

see the line with which it was tied

[0002]

then the house which an insect - a species

of cricket makes, and trails about while

its body is still soft. It is formed of

little sticks. then a number of shells

from Lake Nyassa, some are rare -

you may share them with your

brothers - Lastly a piece of a cake

made of an insect called Kungo

no bigger than midges or gnats.

I don't expect you to eat it but

to see food made of the smallest

insect used as food by man -

send it to James Aspinall Turner

Esq. Manchester - you remember

he gave you some apples &c -

when a little box like this was

sent through him. Tell him in

your letter that I sent the Kungo

to shew the use that these little

insects are put to. He does not

utilize his insects as people here do.

[0003]

I have not recieved recieved any letter from
you for a very long time. I expect
Mama soon, and am sorry to
think that baby will not be
with her for I should like to see
her - but I am afraid that she
could not live in the malaria
of the rivers here. We came through
the Elephant marsh today and
it smells so strongly of decayed
vegetable matter and has so
many mosquitoes it cannot
be healthy. If the land were
cultivated it would be more
wholesome. the soil is so rich
it could support millions of
people where now there are
but thousands or hundreds.
[...] ded ample room

[0004]
for all his creatures in our beautiful
world but a great many people
are crowded together in cities in
Europe and much misery is
endured in close ill ventilated
narrow lanes and dwellings &
to those who dont know the
world it might seem that the
discomfort, ill health & misery
that exist there are necessary
evils. The Lord is good to all
and has provided every thing
we need for time & eternity if
people will only avail themselves
of his goodness & grace. the rich
ought to help the poor to go to other
lands and all ought to embrace
Jesus Christ and with him every
good thing necessary will be added

I have written you another letter
besides this [...]