

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 28 November 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)
[0001]

Tette 28th Nov^r 1860

My Dear Tom
Having visited the Makololo
Country lately I saw Secpone and Marike
two women formerly the wives of Sebituane
who used to feed you with honey & milk
They brought back to my recollection the time
when you were with us at Linyanti and
many other things by what is called the
association of ideas. You will notice
sometimes ideas spring up in the mind
which you do not want there - one has no
power to prevent that but we have
power to change the current of our thoughts
to something else, and we are commanded
to think of whatsoever is pure & good
& lovely &c. Watch your heart and remember
that the Lord sees it.

In the last six months we have travelled
about 1400 miles partly on foot & partly
in canoes. We found Sekeletu labouring
under a skin disease which is believed
to be leprosy and as it was believed
also to be the effect of witchcraft

[0002]
several very influential men were put to death
for the crime. We tried to cure it and were
succeeding when obliged to leave. Of course
we told him we didnt believe a word
of the witchcraft but unfortunately the
persons put to death were the sons of
certain chiefs who tried to kill Sebituane
and it was believed that the children
wished to secure the chieftainship by
the same means their fathers failed in.
The Makololo are perishing - the fever affects
them as well as Europeans and all
are very anxious that we should come
and live with them - for then they could
remove to the Highlands. We went up
to a part of them near Tabacheu &

saw hoar frost and a little ice in a
valley. Down in the valley of the Zambesi
it was roasting - the ground 137° Fah^t
and the thermometer in the hand & shaded
102°. We used to sleep at the brink of the
river because there it was cooler - the
water was 84° or 86° We are now on
our way down to the sea to meet a ship
the Lord bless you[...] [David Livingstone]