

Letter to John Washington

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Private Shire 20 Oct^r

Baines and Thornton were left at Tette because January February and March are unhealthy months and I wished to save them the exposure of the Shire valley but left orders for C. Livingstone to go S.W. with them as soon as the unhealthy period was over. War prevented him going. And no one suspected Baines of dishonesty till he associated with certain "ticket of leave men" and unknown to any made away with some provisions barrels of white sugar, butter

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cheese hams, wine and even his companions property - stowing away some of the latter in his boxes. They were astounded on discovering it as he had been recommended by the Geographical Society, Colonial Office &c. &c . He confessed to some breaches of trust, but we don 't know all he has made away with & I put it down to his head having been affected by fever till I found that he had not only stolen his fellow members' goods but took precious good one of all his own property & of whatever he had

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appropriated. Bedingfeld made a great deal of him & favoured on him in a way you would find it difficult to believe. I have sent D^r Kirk & M^r

Rae across country from Chibisa -
to Tette to bring Thornton &
Baines away and dismiss
them into Lynx, at Kongone
I get on well when with a few
but never contemplated what
I am sure was considerate
kindness for the sake of health
would be turned into villainy .
Our party now weeded of
Bedingfeld and the Kroomen
with whom he tampered &
whom he spoiled & Baines & with D^r Kirk.
Rae & C.L. is now effective

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and our prospects daily brighter .
We mean to put a wooden bottom
outside the 1/16 of an inch one at
Kongone by beaching her and digging
out the sand below - have made
a new funnel of copper sheets
from Persian. The opening up
Shire into Nyassa I never anticipated
only to think no frosts to kill
the crops [as in America] - One sowing of foreign
cotton yields for three years, and
the staple fine & long. Their changes of
climate within a few miles of each
other. the greatest boon the
expedition has given is cure of
fever quickly [& generally] without loss of
strength in the patient. Quinine
except in the cure (and then it is in
valuable), is a farce. We are getting very
thin in flesh - hope some one will send
us a little bitter ale. David Livingstone

30 Nov^r Lynx in sight - Thornton took to work
after he was cut off & is gone up to Zumbo
with a Portuguese trader.