

Letter to William Thompson, November 1872

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[0001]

South Central Africa Nov^r 1872

My Dear M^r Thompson

Your note
and pamphlets kindly sent in July
1866 came to hand in Unyanyembe
in August 1872. Postal arrangements
are scarcely perfect all over the
world yet - but I was thankful to
get anything at all - I was plundered
of large amounts of goods I own
several times through my money
being handed over without any
precautions that I know of to an
oily tongued Banian, and by the
connivance of the governor
of Unyanyembe the stores were
nearly all plundered by members
of a slave trading ring or coterie
and every effort made by the
destruction of my letters to prevent
information of the losses going to the
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coast. They were pretty successful for
the Banian [^][Ludha Danji] who really was at the
bottom of all the villainy alone had
the ear of my friend, and on the
strength of a note from his agent
Shereef who sold off all my goods
at Ujiji for slaves and ivory
which stated that he was about to
send off slaves with all I needed,
the half truth was uttered "that
all D^rL's wants had been supplied"
and it was repeated in the house of
Lords. the little sent was so little and so
inferior, it was intended to force
me back - the slaves solem[^][n]ly swore
that they were instructed by the highest
authority to force me back, and they
persisted in this all over the country.
In fact quite overacted their part.

All expected me to die & deprived of
nearly all European comforts
for two years it is a wonder that
their expectations did not come true
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The Arabs outside the ring were all extremely
kind but Banian money carried on
all the slaving in Manyuema, and I gave
great umbrage by going into their midst.
they work it quietly & well for the
Manyuema women are very pretty & are
usually sold off for very large prices
as soon as captured or at least long
before they reach the coast - no gang
in chains is ever sent down, but
these wretched British Indian subjects
who would not hurt a flea are really
by their money arms ammunition
& goods in the hands of their Arab agents
really the worst cannibals in all
Africa. If my disclosures lead to
the suppression of the wickedness
I shall not grudge the pain & toil I have
endured. Captain Holmes countrymen
H.M. Stanley & James Gordon Bennett
of the New York Herald acted nobly,
and both deserve & have my lasting
gratitude for the relief sent to me -
and for Stanley's truly noble
[0004]

braving of death & danger to serve me
as a son might have done - thanks
for the notices of your family - I can
recollect them only as children & would
pass them on the street unwittingly - Ralph
was a lithe blithe boy - Jessie had smiles
and tears in perfect command. the
banker I cannot recal. My blessing on
them. Ralph's ordination was well
calculated to elicit all the pith & unction
in you, and you were very happy in your
charge - your friends paid a graceful
tribute to you in franking you home
and back again, and conferred honour
on themselves. May they long flourish
in doing similar deeds. Glad to hear
that the Africanders have got diamonds
they first set the example of plundering
me at Kolobeng - if they heard of the
Arab & Banian deeds in the same line
they would make amends by sending me

lots of diamonds [^][in expiation] - half a mind will do
[^][to ease my ghost from haunting them] as I am not greedy. Remember me fondly
to Saul Solomon & Rutherford

David Livingstone