

## Letter to Horace Waller, 18 December 1863

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

Murchison's Cataracts  
18 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1863

My Dear Waller

I wrote you  
last month but a  
short note as I was  
not very well and  
soon hoped to be down  
to you - I got a slight  
sunstroke in coming  
home and have had  
a constant ringing  
in the Ears & deafness  
ever since — It became  
worse at times can  
indisposes me for  
[0002]

writing of which I have  
a great deal to do.  
In a note sent at the  
same time to the bishop  
in answer to an offer  
to help from private  
means in citing the  
women & children I  
told him that I had doubts  
about taking them to  
Johanna though had  
the boys been free  
I would have sent all to  
the Cape — and some  
would no doubt be  
taken up by Bishop  
Gray. As it was  
I thought it might  
[0003]

be best to arrange with  
M<sup>r</sup> Ferraõ for food for  
a season but all this  
was on the supposition  
that the mission was

to continue.

I recieved a letter by  
Blair in which the  
Bishop says that  
he had kept you  
for nearly three months  
according to a previous  
arrangement and  
now he will be glad  
to hear that " I "am taking  
steps to place M<sup>r</sup> Waller  
in an independent  
position with respect  
to the mission"

[0004]

He says also that he  
strongly disapproved of  
your plans - and also  
that he concludes from  
an extant from one  
of my letters [to you][^] that you  
are carrying out my  
wishes — It is a regular  
bit of law, and is  
written on a separate  
sheet of same date as  
another letter on general  
subjects — not a word  
about the boys sent  
away — This I reject  
for I cannot trust  
Blair - Wikatani  
and two others came  
up & offered to take  
him — He seemed to agree  
[0005]

My answer amounts  
to this — You took the  
boys as I understood  
to instruct them — I depart  
to the Lake & returning  
heard with regret that  
M<sup>r</sup> Waller had been separated  
from the Mission — it  
never entered my head  
that any objection  
could be made to a  
member of the mission  
becoming a vehicle  
of christian benevolence

to poor people living  
in the vicinity of  
the station

I tell him also that  
on hearing of his  
disinclination to keep  
[0006]

The captives attached to  
mission by Bishop  
Mackenzie I at once  
offered to provide for  
them & send them to the  
Cape — — He knew that  
then why throw the  
six boys among  
heathen Ajawa who  
will tell them by the  
first opportunity —  
I also request him  
to hand over the  
remainder of the boys  
to me and I shall still  
send them to the Cape  
the sentence about  
you is as follows  
[0007]

With respect to M<sup>r</sup>  
Waller it would be  
wrong in me to take  
a side either for or  
against him or any  
member of the mission  
and it would not be  
advisable to relieve  
the society of from its  
obligations to its  
agents "Till it pleads in-  
-bility" I hope you have  
not given up your  
claims to a passage  
home — for if you  
have we shall be in  
a fix - You are quite  
welcome to a  
passage in the  
[0008]

Lady Nyassa but she  
is not going to England  
and after Johanna it  
would be more & more

expensive for you  
in the matter of passage  
every day — I dont  
think the bishop will  
venture on refusing  
a passage but his  
letter to me seems to say  
if we can we shall  
hook the doctor in  
for paying his passage  
If I am not mistaken  
the letter is an effort  
of a narrow minded  
Sea Lawyer  
[0009]

You may guess how  
anxiously we long for  
the rise of the waters  
but this as well  
as everything else is  
in the hands of the  
supreme ruler of all  
things  
Blair has talked a  
great deal and much  
that appears to me  
impossible — one ship —  
he told me that the  
boys had recieved nothing  
now you speak of his [^][(Wekatani's)]  
blue cloth! He says  
that the bishop justifies  
his burning will by  
[0010]  
"The Lord made all things  
for himself, even the  
wicked for the day of  
evil — That the death of  
the missionaries proves  
the people of this country  
to be among the doomed  
this I cant believe —  
If I mistake not we  
hear of him sneaking  
away to Madagascar  
where all the hard work  
has been done by men  
of other societies — In  
Hunolulu the bishop  
parades pictures and

crucifixes — refuses  
fellowship with the  
American missionaries  
who have been there 35  
[0011]

years and sidling up to  
the Catholic priests is  
himself snubbed in  
turn —

I am not murder[...]  
yet thanks to the [...]  
a lot of Mazite or  
Zulus gave chase  
to us & on my asking  
what they wanted  
vanished — there was  
no other warlike demon  
-stration — but in hopes  
of soon seeing you

I am ever with  
Affection

Yours D. Livingstone  
[0012]

I am sorry that I  
cannot send you any  
cloth or any money  
either — We are quite  
out of everything and  
thankful for what  
the bishop sent —  
I have sent to M<sup>re</sup>  
Ferraõ for 100 panjas  
of mapira & mexoeira  
take 30 when it  
comes your length  
but I hope I shall  
be with you soon  
I have told the bishop  
plainly what I think of  
the cowardly retreat

D.L.