

## Letter to George C. Cato

*David Livingstone*

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[0001]

[Enclosure sent  
via N.S Field]  
Cataracts of the Shire  
3 July 1863  
[Rec<sup>d</sup> 27 March 1864]  
Dear Sir

Though I have  
not the pleasure  
of knowing you  
personally you  
were an acquaintance  
of my late good  
wife and on this  
light plea I take  
the liberty of asking  
your friendly office  
[0002]

for our son Robert  
Moffat Livingstone  
who I hear has come  
out to Natal in  
order to join me  
We are recalled by  
to M. Government  
a thing fully expected  
when we found  
that the Portuguese  
slave hunters of  
Tette  
aided by a drought  
had completely  
depopulated the  
whole Shire Valley  
They ended our work  
[0003]

and the people together  
though it may not  
be politic to put this  
as the real reason  
of the recal. Pity  
we ever believed  
in Portuguese  
professions of desire

for the civilization  
of Africa as with  
half the labour &  
expense we could  
have done more  
at the Rovuma  
though it has  
water for navigation  
for only about a few  
[0004]  
months of the year. It  
has a fine month &  
this Zambesi is the  
terror of all naval  
officers, but we  
are going away in  
January next &  
should Robert not  
have an opportunity  
of coming up to  
Quillimane, Mozambique,  
or Johanna before  
that will you direct  
him, to any situation  
in which he can  
earn an honest  
livelihood - M<sup>r</sup> Rae  
[0005]  
knows him better  
than I do and thinks  
him clever enough  
for any ordinary  
work but of this  
you will perhaps be  
a better judge. I  
wished to give him  
a university education  
and then let him  
shift for himself  
but this seems to  
be against the grain  
and should he settle  
to anything now  
it may be best in  
the long run.  
[0006]

Any expenses that  
you can sanction  
I shall cheerfully  
pay - and if you

kindly give him  
a good word to  
avoid evil company  
drink &c. you  
will confer a  
great favour on

yours most sincerely

David Livingstone

[0007]

D. Livingstone  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 1863