

Letter to Arthur Tidman, 2 March 1856

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Tette or Nyungwé,
on the River Zambesi,
Africa, 2nd March 1856.

Rev^d D^r Tidman,
My dear Sir,
Having by the
mercy of God reached the farthest
inland station of the Portuguese this
morning, I gladly avail myself of an
opportunity to Quillimane to advise you
(and M^{rs} L. by the enclosed note) that I
am thus far on my way down the river.
It will be gratifying for you to hear
that I have been able to follow up,
without swerving, my original plan of
opening a way to the sea on either the
East or West Coast, from a healthy
locality in the interior of the Continent.
Not until two months ago was I aware
of the existence of any salubrious point
though I now recollect a reference made
thereto by Sebituane. x x x And
now I can announce not only a
shorter path for our use, but, if
not egregiously mistaken, a decidedly
healthy locality. By this fine river
flowing through a fine fertile Country
we have water Conveyance to within

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1° or 2° of the Makololo. The only
impediments I know of being one or
two rapids, and the people in some
parts being robbers. I have come
thus far with but little loss. x x x

The Portuguese have been amazingly
kind. Here they are no less so than
in Angola, and much of it is owing
I believe to my public spirited friend
M^r Duprat, and to the Bishop of
Angola.

The kind interest which many
of my Countrymen have shewn in my
work makes me feel deeply grateful,
and somewhat ashamed withal at
having done so little to deserve it.
x x x I am not so elated in
having performed what has not to
my knowledge been done before in
traversing the Continent, because the
end of the geographical feat is but
the beginning of the Missionary Enterprise.
May God grant me life to do some
more good to this poor Africa.

I have a report written
for you, but it requires copying. I
rest a few days here because I have
been on foot through a very rough,
stony Country:- oxen all dead by

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tsetse, and too poor to buy a canoe;
with one I could have been here a
month ago. In excellent health, -
no fever all the way from Linyanti.

Affectionately your's,
(s^d) David Livingston