

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 7 January 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

River Shire 7 January

1862

My Dear Tom

I send you through
M^r Conynham a small canoe
which I picked up on Lake
Nyassa. some little boy had
made it of a light wood of a
species of *Arschinomena* , and it
gives a good idea of the shape canoes
are made on the Lake - It ought to
be more hollowed out inside -
then a tin box contains some bits
of the rocks on the west of the
Lake, can you tell me what
they are? [I think I saw rocks of the family at Kendal] One piece was a weight
to a floating net which boys were
using to catch fish, you will
see the line with which it was tied

[0002]

then the house which an insect - a species
of cricket makes, and trails about while
its body is still soft. It is formed of
little sticks. then a number of shells
from Lake Nyassa, some are rare -
you may share them with your
brothers - Lastly a piece of a cake
made of an insect called Kungo
no bigger than midges or gnats.
I don't expect you to eat it but
to see food made of the smallest
insect used as food by man -
send it to James Aspinall Turner
Esq. Manchester - you remember
he gave you some apples &c -
when a little box like this was
sent through him. Tell him in
your letter that I sent the Kungo

to shew the use that these little
insects are put to. He does not
utilize his insects as people here do.

[0003]

I have not recieved recieved any letter from
you for a very long time. I expect
Mama soon, and am sorry to
think that baby will not be
with her for I should like to see
her - but I am afraid that she
could not live in the malaria
of the rivers here. We came through
the Elephant marsh today and
it smells so strongly of decayed
vegetable matter and has so
many mosquitoes it cannot
be healthy. If the land were
cultivated it would be more
wholesome. the soil is so rich
it could support millions of
people where now there are
but thousands or hundreds.
[...] [God has provided] ded ample room

[0004]

for all his creatures in our beautiful
world but a great many people
are crowded together in cities in
Europe and much misery is
endured in close ill ventilated
narrow lanes and dwellings &
to those who dont know the
world it might seem that the
discomfort, ill health & misery
that exist there are necessary
evils. The Lord is good to all
and has provided every thing
we need for time & eternity if
people will only avail themselves
of his goodness & grace. the rich
ought to help the poor to go to other
lands and all ought to embrace
Jesus Christ and with him every
good thing necessary will be added

I have written you another letter
besides this [...]