

## Letter to General Edward Sabine, 17 January 1861

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[0001]

Kongone 17<sup>th</sup> January 1861.

My Dear General Sabine

We were gratified

by recieving two notes containing the reductions  
of the magnetical observations by D<sup>r</sup> Chambers  
on our return from a trip up the  
river of some 600 miles. We left Tette  
before I observed that the exact mean  
time was required for those taken at  
Expedition Island, and as I believe  
we have data whereby that may be  
ascertained, and the observations  
sent are not the only ones taken  
at these stations it may be well  
for you to keep what you have  
by you till we can give you  
the whole.

We are now down here waiting  
for the arrival of our new vessel

[0002]

I wish the instruments which were quite  
spoiled by M<sup>r</sup> Lairds wretched launch  
had been reserved for the new one - you  
may be disposed to blame us but  
I can assure you that our utmost  
endeavours could not keep our own  
beds dry. the partitions pumped in  
water perpetually. Our bedding was all  
rotten and we lost a great deal of  
both public & private property. It was  
only in our last trip when we  
suddenly filled that the instruments were  
injured. the wet in this hot climate  
had an almost instantaneous effect  
on the glue and on the steel.

I am very glad to hear of the  
formation of the Oxford & Cambridge  
mission of which I observe you are  
on the committee. I have been applied  
to for information and I have not

[0003]

failed to hint at the desirableness of

bearing in mind meteorological and  
magnetical observations for the time of  
comparative leisure which will follow  
the first hard work of the foundation.  
It might be well for you to follow  
up what I have suggested by a reference  
to what was done in Algeria by  
the missionaries under Bishop Dupuch  
It is mentioned in "Blakesley's Algeria"  
M<sup>r</sup> Dupuch established 47 churches & chapels  
40 almonries & hospitals orphan asylums  
and a house of Trappists! which distinguishes  
itself by an extensive series of meteorological  
observations. In a climate so little  
known as this, similar observations  
are surely as necessary, and for a  
mercantile country such as ours  
magnetical observations are of no less  
importance. The well educated young

[0004]

men who will follow the bishop would  
no doubt cheerfully undertake any work  
tending to advance the interests of either  
science or civilisation. This is merely  
a hint the value of which you are best  
qualified to judge. from the high position  
you occupy your personal influence  
would be sufficient.

With very kind greetings to M<sup>rs</sup> Sabine

I am Faithfully Yours

David Livingstone

The glass tube and riding spirit level  
came safely. they belong to a much  
larger instrument than ours. you  
will have seen our application  
for any set of instruments that  
may have been returned uninjured  
from other Expeditions