

## Letter to Agnes Livingstone 3

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Chitapangwas vil.

Bemba 2 Feb<sup>y</sup>

1867

My Darling Nannie

We have been a  
long time in working  
North to this which is  
probably the watershed  
the Geographers seek.  
We are some 4,500 feet  
above the sea and the  
river Luapula lies  
in front of us. This is  
said to be very large &  
flows into Lake Tanganyika  
where we hope to be  
by May next. I have  
the anticipation of letters

[0002]

there and a fresh stock of  
goods. The Arabs all fled  
from me as if I had the  
plague & I could send nothing  
to the coast. We had to go a  
long way round about  
besides partly to prevent  
my Johanna men running  
away at sight of danger  
and partly because the  
Arabs were afraid that I  
would burn their vessels  
on Lake Nyassa as slavers  
the Johanna men did at  
last bolt at the mere  
repeat of danger in front  
and I went on & faced it  
with but nine Africans  
six of whom are boys

from a school at  
Bombay for the recaptured

[0003]

the Johanna men were such  
a lot of that it was  
a relief to get rid of them  
We have since worked our  
way North till we are  
in a part blank on the  
maps. We got enough  
of meat in the lower  
lands by the rifle. but  
when we got up to the  
highland of the Babisa  
not an animal could  
be seen. the people all  
scattered by their own  
slaving could sell us  
nothing. They lived  
chiefly on Mushrooms  
and by trudging through  
dripping forests and  
sloppy marshes. the  
feet almost constantly wet

[0004]

and gnawing hunger  
within most of the Newstead  
flesh came off my bones.  
Here the people have something  
to sell so we get on better  
& mean to rest a while &  
recruit. This village has  
three stockades round it  
the inner one being defended  
too by a deep ditch &  
thorny hedge. When we  
came I went to be publicly  
by the chief-  
Chitapangwa - no one  
could go near him the  
first time without a  
present. He sat by a  
huge hut and a dozen  
men beat drums and  
shook rattles so as to  
make a terrific din  
I would not sit on the

[0005]

ground so he ordered  
a big elephants tusk to  
be placed for me. His  
legs were like milestones  
from the number of rings  
and little bells on them  
after talking a while he  
came along with me to  
a group of cows & gave  
me one sending the tusk  
to me because I had sat  
upon it, but I did not  
accept of it

The country is covered  
mostly with forest of  
two kinds of trees mainly  
and these yield to bark  
cloth with which nearly  
all are clothed. The forests  
are very leafy - burns  
run in every direction  
and all are now full

[0006]

I have no news since  
we left the coast. I lost  
all my medicines at one  
blow. This is the sorest  
loss of property that ever  
befell me. I have had no  
fever as yet but should  
it come I must try native  
remedies and trust in  
that watchful care which  
every moment guards  
and keeps us with a  
care more minute &  
constant than our self  
love could attain. I  
suppose you have been  
at Newstead. Get all  
the accomplishments  
you can while you  
have the chance

[0007]

I wish you would let  
M<sup>r</sup> Oswell know that  
you have heard from  
me. Some black slave

traders take this to the  
coast and will not wait  
till I have written to all  
to whom I ought. they  
have just got their complement  
of slaves and off they  
will go. Tom had better  
not tell his fellow lodger  
M<sup>r</sup> Stewart all he asks  
for he is not very delicate  
as to his questions but  
Tom had better not read  
this to him as you did  
my remark about Miss  
— a good way of answer-  
ing a question which  
ought not to have been

[0008]

put is to ask "can you keep  
a secret" to the affirmative  
reply "well so can I." This  
was archbishop's Whatelys  
advice - I have written  
till my head is blank  
all or nearly all last  
night & all day today  
Remember me kindly  
to M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Murray -  
to Madame Hocede if  
you are near her and  
accept of my blessing

Affectionately yours

David Livingstone