

Letter to Horace Waller, 5 February 1871, PB_001_001r

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Bambarre = Manyema 5 Feb 1871

My Dear Waller - I yesterday recieved gladly your 3 letters of Oct^rNov^rDec^r 1869 You repeat the dose which is like to break my heart - You "gave Kirk all the news and he would impart them to me" but he had other matters to attend to and as usual I have to whistle for news - I am the man with too many friends - Oh says Muff N^o 1 such a nice book has come out - I would send it but you have so many friends I am sure that someone must have sent it already - N2 says I would have given you the news but you have so many friends &c &c - N^o 3 says our large national educational establishment in which I have the honour to free a chair ought to help if not take on them the education of your children - I would do it myself but you have so many friends &c - The upshot is I recieve nothing

Two great friends removed my three boys at my expense and against my wish from a healthy school in England to an abominable "Do the boys Hall" in Scotland & they were all home sick three months afterwards - ! I am glad of all you told me when you forgot the idea of others telling me and wrote naturally as a married man ought to do I did not know of Youngs trip up after me nor of Musas lies till now - The successful laying of the Atlantic cable I Enferred from my Canadian brother saying "last cable news told us you were alive & we put off our mourning" I infer that a new Government or ministry is in power because you speak of John Bright & Duke Argyll as ministers - Well I am off in a few days to finish with the help of the Almighty new explorations - Ten men here come from Kirk who like the good fellow that he is worked unweariedly to get them & goods off in the midst of disease and death - one gang of porters died quite off and five of my men perished by cholera - We get that from Mecca - letters preceded it thence saying it was coming - We do nothing to stop its hatching in Mecca Medina & Judda which annually become vast cesspools of abomination because the new political economy says let everything alone Formerly it went along shore now it comes inland - In our small camp here we lost 30 & how many Manyema no one knows - All the able bodied all off ivory collecting - if it had

continued three instead of two months the camp would have been desolate - Fowls & goats fell first then cattled shivered and died & then men. I quite expect to hear that it went to the Cape - I got the copy of the Standard you sent - I have not seen the "Times" for an age - I differ from you for I am proud of our great Paper and only sorry when it admits the babble of the clubs - Jupiter must be nodding when he admits Cooleys ill natured twaddle as "geography". I would not answer him why he boldly challenged me to argue the point whether the great Zambesi above the falls were a river - He maintained that it was "an undeveloped river" that went under the ground of the Kalahari and was lost, and in what he called a map put it down as ending in a pothook - doubtless meaning if the "learned" the "erudite" Cooley could be so low as use a hieroglyphic to say "here it hooks it" - that shut me up from answering for ever - My work leads me down Lualaba in canoes till it touches the head of the Nile probably near the Eastern arm followed down by Speke Grant & Baker then double back up the Western line of drainage to the fountains on the Watershead - on return I shall not go down the Western arm of the loop formed by the end of Bakers water and it - the Northern part of which again [...] rBakari[...] a liar o[...] I am - This is