

Letter to William Thompson, 2 March 1856

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[0001]

Tette or Nyungwe on

River
Zambesi. East Africa

2^d. March 1856

Rev^dd W^m Thompson

My Dear Sir

Reached this the
farthest inland station at present occupied
by the Portuguese early this morning, and
though I feel pretty well tired out from
marching through a rough, stoney, bushey
country without path for the last week
or so. It gives me much pleasure to be
again able to address those whom I left
some years ago in the world. When we
came to the Zambesi below the falls or
rather near its confluence with the Kafue
or Bashukulompo river we found
ourselves among tsetse, which soon
settled all the oxen. the usual mode
of travelling is by canoe and the
thick jungle and hills all along on
both banks of the river make travelling
on foot very tedious. Had I been
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a little richer and had purchased a canoe
I should have been here six weeks ago. But
I am in perfect health and when rested
will probably be ready to forgive my
ancestors for always acting on the principle
of "Man wants but little here below, nor
wants that little long". the Portuguese
are as kind here as they were in Angola
and that is saying a great deal. Somehow
or other I had imbibed a sort of prejudice
against them, probably from their obstinate
persistence in the slave trade. But
actual intercourse has fully convinced

me that we are liable to form a very
wrong opinion of the majority from
the contunaceous acts of the few.
I believe I am a good deal indebted to
M^r Duprat for his kind recommendations
I have not met with a single instance
of incivility among them, and many
of them are men of intelligence with
whom it is refreshing to pass an hour
It is utterly unlike the everlasting
[0003]

”myn naagen, myn authaalder paarde &c &
myn moi dick vrouw &c &c

I cannot give you any precise
information in this note. I believe our
prospects are pretty fair though there will
always be enough of danger in the
enterprise in these parts to make none
but men of pluck engage in it. I think
we have water carriage all the way
by this fine river to within 1^o or 2^o of
the Makololo. Near the coast the
fever prevails more than it does inland
until you get into the great valley, then
here and below this there is danger of
being robbed. But on the whole I am
not disposed to think our prospects
dark. Having once been robbed by
a congregation of Christian murderers
one is not timorous of the heathen
After resting a few days I intend going
down the river to Quillimane. Believe
me ever yours Affectionately

David Livingston
[0004]

I enclose the Director's letter
to you. It would be a mercy
to them to have it copied. It was
so hot the ink would not stick,
yet some of it is for them only.

Rev^d William Thompson

Cape Town

Cape of Good Hope