

Letter to [Robert Gray], 21 March 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Had the projected Institution been in existence before Sechele fell away from his profession of christianity his children might have recieved great benefit
He sent them of his own accord to Kuruman for instruction and
I believe they were supported there for a time by M^r Moffats private bounty.
I am unaquainted with the missionaries now at Sechele's

River Zambesi

21st March 1860.

My Lord Bishop

In a speech delivered
at Manchester about a year ago,
I found, for the first time a
few days since, the very cheering
intimation that Miss Coutts had
subscribed £2500 towards an
institution for the sons of
native chiefs. As you have no
doubt been generously supported
in the noble undertaking by
other members of the English
church, and cannot fail to be,
by the Divine blessing, extensively
useful, I take the liberty to
congratulate you on the enterprise.
Feeling a deep interest in any
plan for the elevation of the
population of this country,

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but imagine that they would gladly induce Sechele to avail
himself of any advantages you may have to bestow on his
children. and to me it would be a great satisfaction
to hear that any of the Bakwains had been so favoured. I do
very heartily bid you God Speed

whether white or black, I may
be allowed to shew my sympathy
with yours by alluding to the
extensive field which in the
course of time your benevolence
will affect.

The Kaffre or Zulu family
extends right up to the Zambesi.

Under the name "Landims"
(Landeens) they have conquered
all the gold region called
Manica, and all the south
bank of this river (except the
lands in the immediate
vicinity of the forts Senna
and Tette) is under their
sway or depopulated.

The estate of Shupanga
which, yielding the immense
trees used in forming the
large canoes common on
the Zambesi, cannot be
dispensed with by the
Portuguese, is retained only
by paying a large [annual] tribute.

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Some 600 dollars are paid to the
Landeens, and only 400 of rent
to the Portuguese Government.
The language is nearly identical
with that of the Zulus of
Natal and Moenekhosi or
Manikhosi. (the "Manicus" of the Boers) [the paramount
chief of the
whole region
north of
Inhambane,] is of the same family
as Panda. They all have
a certain amount of respect
for the English or as they
call us Maingeretse. When
D^r Kirk visited a village
subject to their sway, his
wants were abundantly
supplied, and payment
refused: Your efforts and
those of other bodies of Christians
among these fine people
will without doubt be one day
crowned with glorious results.

If we turn to the influences
at work hitherto in this region
we see abundant reason for joy
at the prospect of the introduction
of better agencies. We have recieved
much kindness from individual
Portuguese, and can therefore

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speaking confidentially only about their system. Their establishments are not colonies, but small penal settlements. No women are sent out to them, and frightful immorality is the result. The prevailing drunkenness makes it wonderful that the people live at all. Our expedition is hated as a sort of standing protest against vice. and we should be "good fellows" only by joining in their vices. With a soil and climate superior to Natal nothing is done but paltry peddling in ivory and gold dust. When we go down to the coast we have abundance of fresh meat without trouble from the game, but inland the grass, intermingled with Indigo and cotton, is too tall for hunting, and we can get neither vegetables nor fresh meat for either love or money. I am trying to obtain free navigation of the Zambesi for all nations, and if you can lend any influence to effect it you will aid in breaking up the exclusive system which is the ruin of the country.

I am &c David Livingstone