

Letter to Arthur Tidman, 2 March 1856

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[0001]

Tette or Nyungwé on the

River Zambesi, Africa -

2^d March 1856

Rev^d D^r Tidman

My Dear Sir

Having by the

mercy of God reached the farthest inland

station of the Portuguese this morning

I gladly avail myself of an opportunity

to Quillimane to advise you (and M^{rs}

L. by the enclosed note) that I am thus

far on my way down the river. It

will be gratifying for you to hear that

I have been able to follow [^] up without

swerving ~~from~~ my original plan of

"opening a way to the sea on either

the East or West coast from a healthy

locality in the Interior of the continent"

Not untill two months ago was I aware

of the existence of any salubrious point

though I now recollect a reference made

[0002]

thereto by Sebituane, (but I followed out the

other points with the persuasion I was

doing good if only be leading commerce

towards breaking up the old sullen isolation

of heathenism) - And now I can announce

not only a shorter path for our use

but if not eggregiously mistaken a

decidedly healthy locality - By this

fine river flowing through a fine fertile

country we have water conveyance

to with 1° or 2° of the Makololo - The

only impediments I know of being

one or two ~~cataracts~~ rapids (not

cataracts) and the people in some

parts who are robbers - I have come

thus far with but little loss (and

as we are trying to civilize those

whom the worldly wise would call
by no better name and be content
to pay well for getting them shot
we may risk a little without fear

[0003]

of bankruptcy -) The Portuguese have been
amazingly kind - Here they are no less so
than in Angola, and much of it is owing
I believe to my public spirited friend ~~Alfredo~~
Mr Duprat Esquire at Cape Town - and to
the ~~Right Reverend~~ Bishop of Angola - [The
kind interest which many of my countrymen
have shewn in my work makes me
feel deeply grateful and somewhat ashamed
withal at having done so little to deserve it
(Many would have done much more than
I could effect and done it better - This is
true on the one hand, but one may
take the comfort of believing that there
is a pretty large sprinkling of clever
people who would not have done so much)
I am not so elated in having performed
what has not ^ to my knowledge been done before in traversing
the continent, because the end of the
geographical feat is but the beginning
of the missionary enterprise - May God
grant me life to do some more good
to this poor Africa

[0004]

I have a report written for you but it
requires copying - I rest a few days here
because I have been on foot through a very
rough stoney country - Oxen all dead by tsetse
1856/7

Tette, on River Zambesi, 2 March 56

Dr Livingston -
Rev^d D^rTidman
Mission House
Blomfield St
London

Received 28 July 1856
and too poor to buy a canoe. With one I could
have been here a month ago. In excellent
health, no fever all the way from Linyanti.

Affectionately yours
David Livingstone