

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 28 November 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Tette 28th Nov^r 1860

My Dear Tom

Having visited the Makololo Country lately I saw Secpone and Marike two women formerly the wives of Sebituane who used to feed you with honey & milk They brought back to my recollection the time when you were with us at Linyanti and many other things by what is called the association of ideas. You will notice sometimes ideas spring up in the mind which you do not want there - one has no power to prevent that but we have power to change the current of our thoughts to something else, and we are commanded to think of whatsoever is pure & good & lovely &c. Watch your heart and remember that the Lord sees it.

In the last six months we have travelled about 1400 miles partly on foot & partly in canoes. We found Sekeletu labouring under a skin disease which is believed to be leprosy and as it was believed also to be the effect of witchcraft

[0002]

several very influential men were put to death for the crime. We tried to cure it and were succeeding when obliged to leave. Of course we told him we didnt believe a word of the witchcraft but unfortunately the persons put to death were the sons of certain chiefs who tried to kill Sebituane and it was believed that the children wished to secure the chieftainship by the same means their fathers failed in. The Makololo are perishing - the fever affects them as well as Europeans and all are very anxious that we should come and live with them - for then they could remove to the Highlands. We went up to a part of them near Tabacheu &

saw hoar frost and a little ice in a
valley. Down in the valley of the Zambesi
it was roasting - the ground 137° Fah^t
and the thermometer in the hand & shaded
102°. We used to sleep at the brink of the
river because there it was cooler - the
water was 84° or 86° We are now on
our way down to the sea to meet a ship
the Lord bless you[...]