

## Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 7 January 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

River Shire 7 January

1862

My Dear Tom

I send you through

M<sup>r</sup> Conynham a small canoe

which I picked up on Lake

Nyassa. some little boy had

made it of a light wood of a

species of *Arschinomena* , and it

gives a good idea of the shape canoes

are made on the Lake - It ought to

be more hollowed out inside -

then a tin box contains some bits

of the rocks on the west of the

Lake, can you tell me what

they are? [I think I saw rocks of the family at Kendal] One piece was a weight

to a floating net which boys were

using to catch fish, you will

see the line with which it was tied

[0002]

then the house which an insect - a species

of cricket makes, and trails about while

its body is still soft. It is formed of

little sticks. then a number of shells

from Lake Nyassa, some are rare -

you may share them with your

brothers - Lastly a piece of a cake

made of an insect called Kungo

no bigger than midges or gnats.

I don't expect you to eat it but

to see food made of the smallest

insect used as food by man -

send it to James Aspinall Turner

Esq. Manchester - you remember

he gave you some apples &c -

when a little box like this was

sent through him. Tell him in

your letter that I sent the Kungo

to shew the use that these little

insects are put to. He does not

utilize his insects as people here do.

[0003]

I have not recieved recieved any letter from  
you for a very long time. I expect  
Mama soon, and am sorry to  
think that baby will not be  
with her for I should like to see  
her - but I am afraid that she  
could not live in the malaria  
of the rivers here. We came through  
the Elephant marsh today and  
it smells so strongly of decayed  
vegetable matter and has so  
many mosquitoes it cannot  
be healthy. If the land were  
cultivated it would be more  
wholesome. the soil is so rich  
it could support millions of  
people where now there are  
but thousands or hundreds.  
[...] ded ample room

[0004]

for all his creatures in our beautiful  
world but a great many people  
are crowded together in cities in  
Europe and much misery is  
endured in close ill ventilated  
narrow lanes and dwellings &  
to those who dont know the  
world it might seem that the  
discomfort, ill health & misery  
that exist there are necessary  
evils. The Lord is good to all  
and has provided every thing  
we need for time & eternity if  
people will only avail themselves  
of his goodness & grace. the rich  
ought to help the poor to go to other  
lands and all ought to embrace  
Jesus Christ and with him every  
good thing necessary will be added

I have written you another letter  
besides this [...]