

## Letter to [? Livingstone], 21 October 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org)), 2017

[0001]

64 Johanna 21<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 136

P.S. We went up a few miles after coming back to the ship to get ebony which grows abundantly on the Rovuma, and when returning I saw a hippopotamus put his head up right in our way in a narrow channel - several others were a few yards to the left, and I said to D<sup>r</sup> Kirk that fellow seems waiting for us

[0002]

the boat went right over him and he put up his head a few yards behind us. Then in under us and lifted a big boat with ten men and about a ton of ebony in it - giving it two tremendous bumps - as the water began to flow in we ran over to a sand bank with her to see what damage had been done

[0003]

the beast followed and D<sup>r</sup> Kirk put a

bullet into his ear  
which probably gave  
him the earache  
We found that he  
had tried to bite  
the boat but it was  
too broad & slipped  
out of his mouth  
the tusks cut some  
planks like a chisel  
& made some holes  
besides - We went  
next day thinking  
to get his head for

[0004]

M<sup>r</sup> Fitch but he had  
left that part and  
all his worthy family  
had followed him.  
We made some repairs  
in the ship then  
steamed over to  
Mohilla in two days  
& yesterday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>  
came to Johanna  
whence this will be sent  
by a dhow owned by  
a Malagasse man to  
Mayotta & I hope it will  
reach you safely  
David Livingstone