

Letter to [? Livingstone], 21 October 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

64 Johanna 21st Oct^r 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^r 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^r 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^r 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 20th Oct^r
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