

Letter to William Sunley, 19 November 1862

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[0001]

MS 8/8
5-6-9 Quillimane 19th Nov^r
1862
My Dear Sunley

We left you
on Wednesday and were down
within 30 miles of the Zambesi
on Monday, but our coals were
expended and the wind being
contrary we bore away to the
Quillimane River to cut wood
We saw Prince Mahomets
boat close in shore about half
past one - we were scarcely a
mile from the beach and a
heavy sea was beating towards
the land. I ran up the ensign
to the masthead and doubled
back on our course as a hint
to him to come out to us but he
paid no attention & held on
towards the town. I was afraid

then if he does not do well it is his own look out
Rae has just come to say that the negotiation

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of running on the reef if we
approached him. We then went
on to the town and saw a boat
attempt to put off and give up
the case as hopeless - the heavy
sea was breaking on the reef
I felt sorry I could not deliver
your message to Prince Mahomet
but the obstinate way in which
he held on his course when he
could have come out to us in
half an hour or even a quarter

of an hour convinced me that
he was led by his less worthy
companion. The glass was
lower than we had seen it at
Johanna and as it would have
been a useless risk of life to
land we hurried on, and by
evening had got into a much
calmer sea. I had ordered a

for the engine and sugar mill seems to

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man called Abdullah to get
fresh meat - fowls - vegetables &c
and bring them off without
waiting to come off to be told
what to bring - If you will
kindly pay him for what
he expended I shall feel much
obliged - I am anxious that he
does not lose by trusting to my
word - The amount would be
about 30 lbs of meat 2 dozen
fowls with a few bushels of
potatoes - cassava &c. Abdullah
is a sort of factotum of the
Queen & general interpreter

I am in Colonel Nunes house
and have given your invitation
with which he seems much
pleased - We see D^r ~~ere~~ Crux's
field of Bourbon sugar cane
totally neglected. and the size
of rat's tails - It is moreover
planted in a sandy salt place -
The oxen look well & the Johanna
men are doing well.

be going on favourably

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4 of our English crew had to [be] brought
down to the ship by soldiers
victims of grog. We have met
the Rapid here with Captain
Jago whom you may remember
as first Lieutenant of the
Hermes - We could not send the

cattle overland from this
and will go in a day or two to
the Zambesi - The river has
not yet begun to rise. Rae
has had a little touch of fever
otherwise we are all well -
With kind recollections of
your kindness I am most
sincerely yours David Livingstone

P.S. Robert my eldest boy is going
to Edinburgh College. I suppose Prof
Playfair has obtained influence over
him. This agrees with my desire to
give him a good education &