

Letter to George C. Cato, 3 July 1863

David Livingstone

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[0001]

Enclosure sent via W.S Field
Cataracts of the Shire
3 July 1863
Rec^d 27 March 1864
Dear Sir

Though I have
not the pleasure
of knowing you
personally you
were an acquaintance
of my late good
wife and on this
light plea I take
the liberty of asking
your friendly office

[0002]

for our son Robert
Moffat Livingstone
who I hear has come
out to Natal in
order to join me
We are recalled by
to M. Government
a thing fully expected
when we found
that the Portuguese
slave hunters of Tette
aided by a drought
had completely
depopulated the
whole Shire Valley
They ended our work

[0003]

and the people together

though it may not
be politic to put this
as the real reason
of the recal. Pity
we ever believed
in Portuguese
professions of desire
for the civilization
of Africa as with
half the labour &
expense we could
have done more
at the Rovuma
though it has
water for navigation
for only about eight

[0004]

months of the year. It
has a fine mouth &
this Zambesi is the
terror of all naval
officers, but we
are going away in
January next &
should Robert not
have an opportunity
of coming up to
Quillimane, Mozambique,
or Johanna before
that will you direct
him to any situation
in which he can
earn an honest
livelihood - M^r Rae

[0005]

knows him better
than I do and thinks
him clever enough
for any ordinary
work but of this
you will perhaps be
a better judge. I
wished to give him
a university education
and then let him

shift for himself
but this seems to
be against the grain
and should he settle
to anything now
it may be best in
the long run -

[0006]

Any expenses that
you can sanction
I shall cheerfully
pay - and if you
kindly give him
a good word to
avoid evil company
drink &c. you
will confer a
great favour on
yours most sincerely
David Livingstone

[0007]

D. Livingstone
3rd July 1863