

Letter, Horace Waller to David Livingstone, November 24, 1869

Transcribed by Kate Simpson and Adrian S. Wisnicki
for the Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project, 2011

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My wife sends her love to you and says she is sure you will allow it.

Clover Nr. Chatham Nov. 24. 1869

My dear D^r.

You cannot imagine the joy with which we read this morning that a letter has been received at Bombay from you dated May 13. 1869. Ujiji: "Thank God for it," ones heart says, and it must be a rare experience in a mans soul to feel many an echo of this goes up in our land; you can make the experience your own One thing distresses one so, it is to think I have not written oftener to you: don't think it has been from lack of interest or friendship: One has been so at a non-plus to think whether you would come out N. W or E. that I have never considered it giving a letter much of a chance. I know that ~~way~~ some of y^r daughter's letters were sent back to her from Aden (which she had written you) marked "dead". Well now what can I tell you? First then we had a tremendous night at the Geo when yr letters arrived. dated "Bangwelo" July 1868: they came the day of the meeting. Ld Clarendon sent his for public reading. Everyone was there – and by the bye what on earth we are to do with you when you come yourself. actually, I don't know: I think a ballon with about

20 fathoms of cable will be the only thing from
 which to address the multitude, say on Salisbury
 plain—O' ain't you in for a speech!! Get
 ready. The Duke of Wellington, Comte de Paris, Sir
 Bartle Frere &c&c were there and I don't know who
 all. Sir B. Frere and I had a chat and I am sure, tho'
 it is not new to you to be told so, it will please you

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When you come home send me a telegram from Paris here and I will come and meet
 you where we parted at Dover. Chatham is half way.

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to think no one could be more enthusiastic about you
 or even so anxious to serve you as he. He asked me
 about y^r family, especially about Tom, and tho' I am
 glad to hear he is in such a good groove as he is I
 am sure you may always rely on him for anything
 you may want done at any time. The latter part of
 your letter to L^d Clarendon about keeping y^r observa=
 tions to yourself rather flabbergasted people and led to
 some observations from several of us. It gave me
 an opportunity of having a slap at that villain
 Cooley who, now that you are making him out
 all wrong loses no opportunity of pitching into you
 in the most abominable style. Entre nous, for

him for Baker and for Burton y^r discoveries must
 always be an eyesore. Findlay and others at once
 set to work to connect y^r new lakes with Tangan=
 yika and Bakers lake, making them all one
 by protesting Speke's observations of Tanganyika
 was 1000 feet out, which brings them all pretty
 well up to one level. No one seems to have any
 doubts about y^r intentions viz. to go up the W side of
 Tanganyika and explore to the N. W. and so clear
 up the question of the lake's connexion although no=
 thing that has appeared at all confirms it. That is
 you do not say so in L^d Clarendon's letter – the
 only one which has appeared in print –

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I have had a long letter from Sir T. Maclear about you: he is a good old
 fellow. Nothing new has come about Faulkner &c. on the Zambesi
 and Shiré. I understand the Portuguese are really going in "big
 licks" as the Yankees say for punishing Bonza and the fel=
 lows about Tette, I suspect it will be a mess. Genl Rigby
 is working hard at the slave trade: he is put on a [?]
 (Gouvernement) and should you be able to come to the front at the
 right time I have little doubt but that a great blow may now
 be struck. People are alive to the East Coast Slave Trade: it
 has taken a long time to awaken them in a measure, but
 whatsoever you say on y^r return will not easily be forgotten
 and as I said before I believe, my dear Doctor, by God's good

grace and help, you will be able to do a work in this way
 which ^ \will/ stand when all new Lakes have become old and it will
 throw a halo round round y^r Discoveries which will never dim=
 here, or above. I never cease to protest against yr ^ \life being one/ of explorationxx,
 being merely such, per se. With the multitude you will have
 entirely your own way: whatsoever you turn this attention to it
 will be listened to and respected and it is a grave thought at
 such a time. A forcible appeal to the people of England about it,
 after thoroughly making yourself aware of the feeling at the
 F.O. concerning the E. Coast slave trade will carry the day. I say
 this because I have every reason to believe that this Government
 is far more likely to take steps for the suppression than the
 last, (tho mind you I am no great Liberal) The India office
 and Bombay are the impediments, but if popular opinion
 is very strong it will strengthen the hands of the F.O. who
 I suspect don't want to be at open loggerheads with the India
 office on the question and when they propose to accept the
 proposition's and terms of the Sultan of Zanzibar, ~~they~~ \Bombayyees/ will
 not be able to oppose themselves. Kirk has worked like a
 brick at the matter the whole time. Whatever plans you
 may have for the bettering of the interior by commerce &c. don't
 think all will fall flat. I know the money would be
 forthcoming to a large extent here in England
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You see how boldly I write to you. Why I hardly know
 except that you once let me do so at Ma Tette's, I seem

jealous of your fame and could never tell you so other than
 in a letter to you, and besides that I know the feeling
 here in England about you so very well and watch
 it for you if by any chance I can turn it to use for
 you. It is the only recompense I can make to you because
 every one seems kind to me and glad to see me because
 I have in some little way had my name associated
 with your doings at times. The [?] will behot for you
 to strike a blow at the E. Coast slave trade and if you
 do not do it it will get colder than it ever was before I
 fear and that was cold enough. I know it is Miss Living
 stone's intention to write to you by this mail and I have
 posted her up about the way &c. I intend to write each
 mail till you come home and tell you all the news
 I can. When you come you must give me lots of work
 at "proof" &c and I shall enjoy it beyond measure. I
 have been expecting a letter from Miss Livingstone for a few
 posts because I asked her whether she knew any just cause or
 impediment why I should not send this to Zanzibar. I
 dare say she is very busy. I heard from her that you had written
 me a letter and I am anxiously on the look out for it you may
 be sure. No news this morning. The Archbishop of Canterbury
 is about the same, paralysis, he is hardly likely to get
 over it. There have been some wonderful discoveries made
 in the North seas by dredging: \They/ As upset all the in=
 fidel geologists and show virtually that strata are being

formed simultaneously which they said must have had
millions of years between them! From the tone of people
whom I have heard I have to doubt but that the source of the
Nile will be fully conceded to you if you have traced these

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Waters down into Baker's lake Goodbye God bless you D^r, may He grant
that we soon meet