

Letter to William Sunley, 19 November 1862

David Livingstone

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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 erew 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 &