

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 7 January 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

River Shire 7 January

1862

My Dear Tom

I send you through

M^r Conynham a small canoe

which I picked up on Lake

Nyassa. some little boy had

made it of a light wood of a

species of *Arschinomena* , and it

gives a good idea of the shape canoes

are made on the Lake - It ought to

be more hollowed out inside -

then a tin box contains some bits

of the rocks on the west of the

Lake, can you tell me what

they are? [I think I saw rocks of the family at Kendal] One piece was a weight

to a floating net which boys were

using to catch fish, you will

see the line with which it was tied

[0002]

then the house which an insect - a species

of cricket makes, and trails about while

its body is still soft. It is formed of

little sticks. then a number of shells

from Lake Nyassa, some are rare -

you may share them with your

brothers - Lastly a piece of a cake

made of an insect called Kungo

no bigger than midges or gnats.

I don't expect you to eat it but

to see food made of the smallest

insect used as food by man -

send it to James Aspinal Turner

Esq. Manchester - you remember

he gave you some apples &c -

when a little box like this was

sent through him. Tell him in

your letter that I sent the Kungo

to shew the use that these little

insects are put to. He does not

utilize his insects as people here do.

[0003]

I have not recieved recieved any letter from you for a very long time. I expect Mama soon, and am sorry to think that baby will not be with her for I should like to see her - but I am afraid that she could not live in the malaria of the rivers here. We came through the Elephant marsh today and it smells so strongly of decayed vegetable matter and has so many mosquitoes it cannot be healthy. If the land were cultivated it would be more wholesome. the soil is so rich it could support millions of people where now there are but thousands or hundreds. [...]

[0004]

for all his creatures in our beautiful world but a great many people are crowded together in cities in Europe and much misery is endured in close ill ventilated narrow lanes and dwellings & to those who dont know the world it might seem that the discomfort, ill health & misery that exist there are necessary evils. The Lord is good to all and has provided every thing we need for time & eternity if people will only avail themselves of his goodness & grace. the rich ought to help the poor to go to other lands and all ought to embrace Jesus Christ and with him every good thing necessary will be added

I have written you another letter besides this [...]