

Letter to [Roderick I. Murchison?], [24 February 1864]

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Private

You cannot conceive the state I was in on the stoppage of three letters somewhere I imagined that you had thrown me overboard and being in poor health I racked my thoughts to discover wherein I had been senseless enough to have offend you. I thought all manner of things - but all came right when I found the missing letters on 31st Oct^r and one from Lady Murchison too I thank you and her very much, and pray that the Almighty may bless you. they lifted a heavy weight off my mind and heart

Very glad to hear of the success of my friends

[0002]

Speke and Grant. I had become very uneasy about them. I would have tried to have gone in by the Webbe had I been attempting the Nile but it has turned out well for our country

I dont know whether I am destined to be thrown on the shelf or not. the Earl of Clarendon said that I had been put on the list of Consuls by way of providing for me. If I am thrown into idleness I shall come out here again

rather

the mission of the Universities has not answered my expectations & then they blame me for their fighting which took place when I was away at the Lake - come what may

[0003]

I shall never blame another for what I do myself. the New bishop was two months ago on the top of Morambala mountain at the mouth of the Shire 4000 feet high - Fancy a mission on the top of Ben Nevis and no people near to teach. The clouds condensing drop through their roofs perpetually.

the river not yet up (4 Dec^r) though we have been back a month Wish we had gone on to Bemba but I should not have been happy knowing that I was neglecting my duty to the Pioneer. We take Lady Nyassa to India if we can to sell her. Earl Russell says that

[0004]

the expense of this expedition cannot be justified - I wonder if the expense of the cruizers on the coast one of which costs £25,000 per annum can be justified if we had got the steamer on the Lake we should have done more to stop the slave trade than half a dozen cruizers. Unless the slave trade of buba is stopped the Portuguese never will give it up

David Livingstone
the bishop is off before
me. I take the boys & children
whom he wished to abandon
& send them to the Cape - there
are about 40 altogether - having
liberated them once I felt in
honour bound to see them
free. the bishop is about as fit
to be a missionary as I am to
be the Director at Jermyn St
At Mozambique 24 Feb^y all right