

## Letter to Stockport Ragged School, 23 January 1857

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[0001]

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My Dear Sir

I beg you will assure  
the boys who so generously expressed  
their approbation of my labours  
in Africa that nothing has  
delighted me more since my  
return to England than their  
honest spontaneous deed.  
I give them all my warmest  
thanks from a heart over-  
flowing with emotion and  
wishing that God may

[0002]

abundantly bless them with  
his favour and love.

I have very little time to write to  
any one as I am engaged in  
the preparation of a narrative  
of my late explorations and  
must keep my word with  
one hundred and ten poor  
naked Africans who  
accompanied me from the  
centre of the country to the  
East coast and now await  
the fulfillment of my promise  
at Tete. I ought to be back  
to them in April but fear

[0003]

after all I can do I must be  
about 2 months later than my  
appointed time in April. Were  
it not for this I should try  
and visit the boys and speak  
with them but as this can  
scarcely be I would just  
commend them all to the care

of our Blessed Lord Jesus &  
ask them to try him as their  
friend and guide through life  
they may make him their con-  
fidant for he listens to every  
prayer wafted up to him from the  
lowliest bosom. In Him we live  
and move and have our being  
and he is as tender and compassionate

[0004]

to everyone of them and knows all  
their cases and needs [cares] as if they  
were the only persons in the world  
And then if they are like him they will  
all shew love to everyone about them  
and to everything beautiful and good  
and true. "He pray the best who  
loveth best all things both great &  
small for the dear Lord to whom  
we pray he made and loveth  
all"

thanking you and them  
again for your most friendly  
feelings and hoping that they  
may not again deprive themselves  
of any comfort. I am Dear Sir

yours Most truly  
David Livingstone