

## Letter to John Washington, 20 October, 30 November [1859]

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Private Shire 20 Oct<sup>r</sup>  
Baines and Thornton were left at Tette because January February and March are unhealthy months and I wished to save them the exposure of the Shire valley but left orders for C. Livingstone to go S.W. with them as soon as the unhealthy period was over. War prevented him going. And no one suspected Baines of dishonesty till he associated with certain "ticket of leave men" and unknown to any made away with some provisions barrels of white sugar, butter

[0002]

cheese hams, wine and even his companions property - stowing away some of the latter in his boxes. They were astounded on discovering it as he had been recommended by the Geographical Society, Colonial Office &c. &c He confessed to some breaches of trust, but we dont know all he has made away with & I put it down to his head having been affected by fever till I found that he had not only stolen his fellow members' goods but took precious good one of all his own property & of whatever he had

[0003]

30 Nov<sup>r</sup> Lynx in sight - Thornton took to work after he was cut off & is gone up to Zumbo

with a Portuguese trader.

appropriated. Bedingfeld made  
a great deal of him & favoured  
on him in a way you would  
find it difficult to believe.  
I have sent D<sup>r</sup> Kirk & M<sup>r</sup>  
Rae across country from Chibisa -  
to Tette to bring Thornton &  
Baines away and dismiss  
them into Lynx, at Kongone  
I get on well when with a few  
but never contemplated what  
I am sure was considerate  
kindness for the sake of health  
would be turned into villainy  
Our party now weeded of  
Bedingfeld and the Kroomen  
with whom he tampered &  
whom he spoiled & Baines & with D<sup>r</sup> Kirk.  
Rae & C.L. is now effective

[0004]

and our prospects daily brighter  
We mean to put a wooden bottom  
outside the 1/16 of an inch one at  
Kongone by beaching her and digging  
out the sand below - have made  
a new funnel of copper sheets  
from Persian. The opening up  
Shire into Nyassa I never anticipated  
only to think no frosts to kill  
the crops [as in America] - One sowing of foreign  
cotton yields for three years, and  
the staple fine & long. Their changes of  
climate within a few miles of each  
other. the greatest boon the  
expedition has given is cure of  
fever quickly [& generally] without loss of  
strength in the patient. Quinine  
except in the cure (and then it is in  
valuable), is a farce. We are getting very  
thin in flesh - hope some one will send  
us a little bitter ale. David Livingstone