

## Letter to Horace Waller, 12 February 1863

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org)), 2020

[0001]

Elephant Marsh  
12 Feby 1863  
My Dear Waller  
Johnstone passed us on  
28<sup>th</sup> Ult with the melancholy intelligence  
that our poor dear Scudamore had been  
taken from us - We have had one blow  
after another and did we not believe  
in the special Providence of Him who  
doeth all things well we might despair  
but so it was on the West Coast  
I trust here these sad experiences  
may be followed with similar  
successes - I fear that living in the  
lowlands as you have been forced  
to do by vile slavehunting com-  
plications may result in worse -  
We have a bad case on board in  
Wilson the stoker who is quite jaundiced  
and here we must stay victimized  
by the deep drought of Pioneer - four  
feet in front of us now is a poor  
look out - Even Lady Nyassa draws  
within 2 inches of four feet - We came  
up easily till we got to the sudden  
bends of the river beyond Ruo and  
then with two ships it was trying  
work - No mortal man can realize  
the bother and worry one has to put  
up with if he means to do good in his  
Thornton wishes to work at the Falls or cataracts. Hope you  
will advise him against any point that may be dangerous.  
Remember me  
kindly to  
D<sup>r</sup> Dickson

[0002]

day & generation - but I need not inflict  
any of it on you -

Between ourselves Earl Russell gave  
me a warm touch of approbation  
for our doings when last up and  
sent orders to our minister at  
Lisbon to make a strong representation  
to the Portuguese Government about  
the deeds of the Tettites - I have been  
following up my former statements  
by giving an account of the sad  
depopulation that has gone on by  
means of Marianno - Belshoe &c &c  
We have counted 31 bodies floating  
down - and I have taken good care  
to point out to Lord Palmerston  
the causes of the failure of his policy  
on the East coast which has been  
so triumphant on the West - 20  
missions established 20 dialects reduced  
&c &c lawful commerce from  
£20 000 to between £2 000 000 V £3  
000 000, while here it is still the old  
paltry peddling in ivory & gold dust and  
the only mission attempted struggling  
against strangulation by slave hunters  
backed by Portuguese Governors - It  
would have been so on the West had  
only a few convict Portuguese been  
admitted to the Interior - I trust that  
A single individual is more likely to be attacked than 20 or so together

[0003]

by the blessing of the Highest this may lead  
to an alteration of policy - but this of course  
is only among ourselves to be talked of  
for the present - A canoe load of  
ammunition wines &c for Marianno  
was caught up at the mouth of the Shire  
coming up in name of the Mission  
Oh the scamps! And His Excellency of  
Quilliamane has been writing to the  
other of Mosambique saying that  
so much merchandise as powder  
arms & calicoes are introduced for  
the scientific & exploring Expeditions  
under D<sup>e</sup> L and bishop M - that the  
commerce of the country is injured  
it is likely that the Governor of Q is  
contriving at the supplies of Marianno  
and trying to divert attention elsewhere

It will all come out right at last  
you have lots of provisions coming  
I towed them over Quillimane bar  
for you in Col Nunes launch which  
was leaky and I fear may have  
damaged some things - We took them  
out of the "Rapid" a new cruiser  
that thrust them into the launch &  
set sail - We had to remain out all  
night - As soon as we saw her  
to be leaky we took the goods aboard  
though crowded with cattle & full of provisions  
You need never look Miss MacGregor [...] my dear fellow

[0004]

Had it began to blow we must have thrown  
them & the oxen over - We put them in again  
next day in the River but the slaves  
probably did not bale as we hear of  
damage done more than was when  
we had them - the mail - a large one I  
sent up to Quillimane - thinking it  
would go quicker that way - [...] failed us miserably - promised to sail  
down for the goods and never knowing  
him to lie before I advised Proctor  
just to leave the affair in his hands  
He did not send - and time was lost  
thereby - Lots of medical comforts  
coming & one cask of brandy - As  
for ourselves we took as much  
provisions from Johanna as we  
could but we shall be out in June  
so must go back - Forty mouths  
eating and not an ounce coming  
in - We had eight months stores and  
must go back for eight more as  
so as we can get L. Nyassa up -

I thought you were wrong in attacking the  
Ajawa till I looked on it as defence  
of your poor orphans - I thought that  
you had shut yourselves up to one  
tribe and that the Manganja but  
I think differently now & only wish  
they would send out D<sup>E</sup> Pusey here  
He would learn a little sense of  
which I suppose I have need myself

Ever Affectionately David Livingstone  
Leave all other topics till we meet this way the admiralty will be with you all