

**Letter to Jean Fredoux and Ann Fredoux, 26 March,
12 July, 12 August 1856**

David Livingstone

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[0001]

ms 16Tete, or Nyungue,
River Zambesi, Africa
26th March 1856

My Dear Brother and Sister

Having reached this the
furthest inland station of the Portuguese
in Eastern Africa on the 2^d Curr - I have
much pleasure in remembering the
friends I left behind me some years ago -
I could give you no more than a
wretched scrawl from Sekeletu's for
my Arab friend who was taking some
notes to Angola was in a desperate hurry
to be off - I got the letter you sent the year
before that but you would see that had
you come yourselves we should not
have had the pleasure of meeting. Africa
is a very wide country, one can go
no where quickly and while at Loanda
I was long delayed by a severe attack
of disease. In coming Eastward we
followed in a general way the course
of the Zambesi. It flows Eastwards
from Sesheke to the falls then having
passed that wonderful spot, it winds
away N.N.E. till it reaches the Lat.
15° 37' South. The falls are in 17° 57' S.
there passing Eastward it turns down
again to the South East to Quilimane

[0002]

The falls are not like other waterfalls - This
is simply an enourmous rent made in
the hard basaltic rock of the bottom or bed
from bank to bank - and prolonged from

the left bank away through thirty or forty miles of hills - The rent is about 100 feet deep and from 60 to 80 feet apart at the lips. Into this the river of a thousand yards precipitates itself and being compressed at the bottom into fifteen or twenty, the pressure is so great as to cause large columns of vapour to rush up 300 or 400 feet high - these at that height lose their steam colours become dark and descend in a constant shower of the condensed water. When the river has got through its place of confinement it flows broad and placid again but there are one or two little rocky rapids below - Here it is 500 fathoms or 1000 yards and it is often much broader - It however becomes spread out among numerous branches among the deltas of Quilimane and sailors passing along dont percieve its size except by finding fresh water out 20 miles from the land. It is never fordable but becomes lower in summer than it is now - the land is very fertile and the inhabitants raise immense quantities of grain. They had been fighting with the Portuguese before we came and burned all their fine villas

[0003]

Tete is in ruins - Senna D^o Quilimane not much better - there being real Caffres there who are called Landeens. Senna and Quilimane are very deadly but Tete is better and a part higher up the river is still more salubrious - We [...] through the sickly districts [...]ne of the year if we can without the children. Get m[ore][...] when we are there if we can - ! That's what M^r Ashton would call moral courage Aun. is it not - ? I am waiting here till the beginning of April partly to rest myself and partly to allow the healthy seaso[n][...] to set in at Quilimane before breath[i][...]ng its febrile vapours I was pretty well knocked up, for the oxen all died of Tsetse and then I had to march on foot - this is very well for those

who are fond of pedestrianism or
need their obesity reduced like Mamary -
but for me who had become as lean
as a lath the only good I saw in the
constant trudging was it gave an honest
fellow a pretty good idea of the treadmill
I am very well now but drank enormous
quantities of water after my arrival
as if I had exchanged my own teetotal
inner man for the derms of some
drunkard. The Portuguese have been
remarkably kind both here and in Angola

[0004]

and I am very thankful to God for
having enabled me to perform all I
proposed and preserved my life
where so many have fallen. Hope
your children are better - May God bless
you abundantly Ever yours Affectionately
[David Livingstone]
Left Quilimane 12 July E
at Mauritius 12 August
DL.

Rev^d J. Fredoux
Motito
Kuruman
Cape of Good Hope

MS 16

Now that your mission has fraternized
with the Boer Kirk, are you permitted
to go where you like? And preach where
you like? Or what benefit have you
derived from the alliance? I suppose
you remember that you and the T. Vaal
congregation were recieved together at the
very time when the latter were making
slaves of Sechele's children & murdering the parents