

## Letter to George H. Richards, 8 February 1872

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[0001]

Ngombe Nullah near  
Speke's Kazeh 8<sup>th</sup> Feby  
1872

My Dear Captain Richards

My letters to you  
have been destroyed  
because I have been  
looked upon as a spy  
on the Zanzibar slave  
trade so you must  
kindly make allowances  
for my long silence -  
M<sup>r</sup> Stanley an American  
gentleman takes this  
to the coast so I repeat  
my thoughtfulness to  
you for all you did  
in Young's Expedition  
and otherwise -

[0002]

My work would have  
been finished long ago  
but from grievance of  
the situation D<sup>r</sup> Kirk  
handed over the matter  
of supplies & men to  
Ludha a Bannian slave  
trader and he entrusted  
his slaves who curiously  
enough all had the idea  
that they were not to  
follow but force me  
back - £500 were thus  
squandered and again  
another £500 was placed  
in Ludha's hands. &  
I am now going East  
to catch the relics of  
the second £500 worth  
of goods from the slaves

who like jolly fellows  
have been feasting on

[0003]

on them for 14 months  
the loss inflicted on  
me is over 2 years  
in time. 1800 miles  
of tramp and nearly  
£1000 in money -  
but I hope to get over  
it all - You will  
have learned before  
this that the Nile  
rises in 10°-12° South  
When this became  
known it is said to  
have been awarded  
to BekeFinlay and  
Arrowsmith because  
they dreamed about  
it - this is interesting  
for as my Despatches  
will shew you the  
watershed from which  
the Nile arises is

[0004]

is some 700 miles long  
and to be fair the dreamers  
must have awarded to  
them also the discovery  
of division of labour  
in dreaming - Each to  
get 233 miles = Discovery  
to me means very hard  
work and the work is  
not yet finished - I  
go West again to the  
Western or seventh  
hundred miles of the  
watershed where the  
four fountains are  
separated to the West  
possibly are the sources  
mentioned long ago  
to Herodotus - I wish  
I could settle them in  
a good long snooze -

[0005]

The fountains are almost  
innumerable and all  
converge into large  
rivers and Lakes in  
the great Nile really  
a perpetual slope so  
far as I have seen it  
and no "Upper Nile  
basin" at all and I  
reached the level  
ascribed to Gondokoro  
It goes through the  
country of the cannibals  
called Manyema  
The slave trade lately  
began there as not  
trading in any sense  
it is simply cold  
blooded murder and  
it is all carried on

[0006]

by the money of Ludha  
and other Banian English  
subjects who though  
they dare not kill a  
gnat or flea are really  
and truly the very  
worst cannibals in  
all Africa - The money  
all comes from them  
and they manage adroitly  
to let the odium rest  
on their Arab agents -

I transmit by M<sup>E</sup>  
Stanley two pocket  
chronometers and two  
common watches -  
all are dead though no  
accident befel any of  
my instruments except  
some by shipwreck

[0007]

which were going to be  
put in depot in case  
of those I took with me  
being lost. I retain  
one [^] [dead] chronometer to  
try if I can get a longi[-]  
-tude by putting a

weight on the key and  
observing successive  
sun's alts - and moon's  
distances. The watches  
I trouble you with  
because you have  
superior workmen  
one was dipped in  
water and I filled  
it with oil to preserve  
it - The other had  
second stop hands  
but too small -

[0008]

If you can favour  
me by allowing your  
workmen to put a  
new dial & larger  
second face on it. I  
shall feel greatly  
obliged - It is a very  
good watch but too  
small - I am hoping  
to get the Aneroids  
back to the sea to  
test them there again  
one has altered  
considerably.

very sincerely yours  
David Livingstone  
H.M. consul.