

Letter to Arthur Tidman, 2 March 1856

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Tette or Nyungwé on the
River Zambesi, Africa -
2^d March 1856

Rev^d D^r Tidman

My Dear Sir

Having by the
mercy of God reached the farthest inland
station of the Portuguese this morning
I gladly avail myself of an opportunity
to Quillimane to advise you (and M^{rs}
L. by the enclosed note) that I am thus
far on my way down the river. It
will be gratifying for you to hear that
I have been able to follow [^] up without
swerving from my original plan of
"opening a way to the sea on either
the East or West coast from a healthy
locality in the Interior of the continent"
Not until two months ago was I aware
of the existence of any salubrious point
though I now recollect a reference made

[0002]

thereto by Sebituane, (but I followed out the
other points with the persuasion I was
doing good if only be leading commerce
towards breaking up the old sullen isolation
of heathenism) - And now I can announce
not only a shorter path for our use
but if not egregiously mistaken a
decidedly healthy locality - By this
fine river flowing through a fine fertile
country we have water conveyance
to with 1° or 2° of the Makololo - The
only impediments I know of being
one or two ~~cataraets~~ rapids (not
cataracts) and the people in some
parts who are robbers - I have come
thus far with but little loss (and
as we are trying to civilize those

whom the worldly wise would call
by no better name and be content
to pay well for getting them shot
we may risk a little without fear

[0003]

of bankruptcy -) The Portuguese have been
amazingly kind - Here they are no less so
than in Angola, and much of it is owing
I believe to my public spirited friend ~~Alfredo~~
Mr Duprat Esquire at Cape Town - and to
the ~~Right Reverend~~ Bishop of Angola - [The
kind interest which many of my countrymen
have shewn in my work makes me
feel deeply grateful and somewhat ashamed
withal at having done so little to deserve it
(Many would have done much more than
I could effect and done it better - This is
true on the one hand, but one may
take the comfort of believing that there
is a pretty large sprinkling of clever
people who would not have done so much)
I am not so elated in having performed
what has not ^ to my knowledge been done before in traversing
the continent, because the end of the
geographical feat is but the beginning
of the missionary enterprise - May God
grant me life to do some more good
to this poor Africa

[0004]

I have a report written for you but it
requires copying - I rest a few days here
because I have been on foot through a very
rough stoney country - Oxen all dead by tsetse
1856/7
Tette, on River Zambesi, 2 March 56

Dr Livingston -
Rev^d D^rTidman
Mission House
Blomfield St
London

Received 28 July 1856
and too poor to buy a canoe. With one I could
have been here a month ago. In excellent
health, no fever all the way from Linyanti.

Affectionately yours
David Livingstone