

Letter to William Brock, 12 November 1859

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Kongone Harbour

12 Nov^r 1859

My Dear Friend

Having this day finished my first perusal of your admirable memoir of an admirable man, which by the way you forgot to send after me. I feel that I must write to you. No wonder you were affected in preaching the funeral sermon of the good and great General Havelock such a lovely character - so exalted a christian and yet so human - so sympathizing, and yet so brave. I can enter better into your feelings now and I trust this labour of love of yours will become a blessing unto many.

Here we are away from the exciting themes which agitate the public mind at home and we are working towards a great object in the hope that the Lord may in mercy accept our services and grant us our desires. At first matters appeared untoward but these very hindrances

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now promise to turn out signally in our favour. We have been longer in the lower portion of the river than we anticipated but our opportunities for observing the fever - and trying the plan which I followed when alone have been more numerous in consequence, and I believe we can now cure the disease quickly and without (in general) loss of strength to the patient. This is one of the greatest boons our Expedition will have to shew. We cannot however cure the brandy fever but country fever and it are two diseases

Then we have been led to go up the Shire and we found that this river comes out of a large Lake called Nyassa. The region bathed by Lake & river is one of the finest cotton countries in the world - there are no frosts to cut off the crops as in America and instead of the unmerciful toil required in the slave states one sowing of foreign seed serves for three years crops. In the cotton country we have highlands which present changes of climate within a few miles of each other for we can ascend from the Shire valley where the thermometer stands about 96° in the shade and the river water is

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81° - 84° or like a warm bath at home to a heights of from 3000 to 7000 feet, well cultivated and peopled too, in the course of a short days journey. The people even now cultivate large quantities of cotton and the problem of supply of the raw material of our manufactures without dependance on slave labour seems verging towards a [...] solution. The region referred to is a large section of the slave market. We saw abundant evidence of this everywhere and here English settlements would in the course of time be an incalculable benefit. Lawful commerce as a means of counteracting that in slaves but above everything the gospel which is the only remedy for the woes of Africa and the only means which can effectually raise the degraded portions of humanity would here find a most eligible field. I believe that something is in contemplation & if only carried out with vigour our efforts will be rewarded - & I shall not grieve at being detained so long from the Makololo.

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It gives me much pleasure to see from some of the Papers that our Friend Binney is recovered and has been doing some good in Australia If he is home and you happen

to meet him please tell him that
I am greatly rejoiced to hear of his
welfare & usefulness - should you
see M^r Spurgeon the same thing
will do for him - I love them
both with very great affection
The Lord make them & you my
brother - abundant blessings. I am
in apparently another line but I know
what I am about. I had a naval officer
who didn't. He came out I found not
to elevate the African and prepare the
way for the gospel but "to discover the
Ten lost Tribes" as if of all things in
the world we hadn't plenty of Jews
already. I had to send him home soon
We came down here to meet a man of
war with provisions and tinker our
craft with which we were cheated by
a philanthropist (so called) Please present
my kind regards to your lady and
to Sir Morton Peto & family & believe me
Yours ever
David Livingstone

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