

Letter, Horace Waller to David Livingstone, October 25, 1869

Transcribed by Kate Simpson and Adrian S. Wisnicki
for the Livingstone Spectral Imaging Project, 2011

Clover Nr. Chatham

Oct. 25. 1869.

Dear Doctor

Do not think that because you do not find a budget of letters from me that it has xx been from negligence. Truly it had not been so but this terrible uncertainty about you has always made me so unable to write as I would to you that I have left it till one cd be tolerably sure of a chance to get a letter to you

If the telegram which came in from Bombay 10 days ago is true viz: that Kirk had received letters from you positively – and it quotes them— then all suspense is over and no one save your children will thank God more than I for the probability of seeing you once more.

I shall let Kirk tell you all the news because I have written to him with that intent for I find it so likely you will come out viâ the Nile that one catalogue of items will do better for the purpose than two

I will in the mean time speak of things that
[page break]
will interest you more. First then let me tell you that the interest in this country about you is as intense as ever

I could wish it to be and no one has a better chance of
gauging it than myself. The Geographical Society might
in short be called the Livingstone Society for the last 2 years

The report of your murder, Sir Roderick's vehement denial,
Young's most successful clear-up of Moosa's lie have
all united to surround you with a halo of romance
such as you can't imagine and when you come back

I simply pity you for you will be such a lion that
if you don't roar and claw you won't get a breath
of fresh air for a year you will be so mobbed.

Sir Roderick, poor dear old man, really has been staunch
to you beyond all you can conceive. Moosa has mur=
dered you, Cooly has crowed over your grave and
called you an ass, Burton, through his wife has called
you a fool for liking ~~Arabs~~ "niggers" and disliking
Musselmen, and has tried to get you delivered of

[page break]

course to suit his own book! [)] from the hands
of Casembé at whose town doubtless you were

held in chains; I have protested in the
papers and out of the papers that they had

better let you alone for that. Minor hap =

pennings to you will make you crack

your sides with laughing. You were ex=

hibited in the R. academy this year ^ \a statue/ clad

in knickerbockers, gaiters, a huge re=

volver strapped across your abdomen
 and a sword by your side – O' you
 did look so beautiful! and I need not
 say, so natural!

Your work in Africa may yet leave a
 great mark, but it will be in one direction
 if my poor intellect suffices for judgement.
 I can speak truly to you and where all is
 so ready to answer to the helm you will not
 neglect the opportunity. Slowly but surely, and
 mind you mainly owing to Kirk and others when
 you first aroused to think and work, this

[page break]

horrid slave trade may be put down. I am sure
 you will identify yourself with the efforts that are
 being made I am sure when you return to the
 fullest. Words from you will carry all before them.
 The eclat arising from your discovering the source
 of the Nile will be conceded to you I am sure, but it
 will be in a measure an old tale before the public
 owing to Speke and Baker and each will have his par=
 tizans be sure. At the time I write we are utterly in the dark
 as to what you have done. By the slowest degrees people
 are beginning to learn there is a slave trade on the East
 Coast of Africa. We have just the right men in office to take
 it up and tho I do not like John Bright a bit, he and

above all the Duke of Argyll will never let it drop if urged by you and mark my words you will carry more weight than you dream of, please God your return to us. I have not missed many opportunities of keeping the matter open & your name before the Public but I cannot always get the room of the "Times"; it hates everything African and is as

[page break]

infamous a publication as ever. It put in Cooly's letter making you out all that was idiotic and bombastic but shut me out when I answered the letter. I believe that you may yet crown your life's work by getting the slave trade from the East Coast virtually abolished. The Sultan of Zanzibar is willing to give it up for a consideration and I believe that nothing but a petty jealousy between the India Government and our F[oreign] Office delays it. Kirk has worked at the whole thing like a brick and I think I have not overstated the case when I say it is pretty well understood in France and in this country.

I was delighted to get good news of all your family from Miss Livingstone a week ago: lest she should not have sent a letter to you this mail I epitomise it by saying Tom has got a capital berth in an accountants and is to go into Burns's house of the Cunard Line. Oswell is at College. She herself has just left M^r. Young who sailed on the 18th [?] \[i]n his yacht the "Nyanza"? with his three daughters/ for Alexandria to be at the opening of the Canal

and to catch you at Cairo and bring you home
if he could. The Webbs were all ~~at~~ well. Webb has
 to winter abroad tho' his knee is very queer. They have
 taken Arrochar House on Loch Long for 7 years
 for the shooting. Faulkner who went out with
 a Young and who is I believe as great a scoundrel
 as one could lament ever having tainted Zambesi
 water, is by last accounts somewhere about [?]

Tette shooting with a Cap: Norman. Three of
 the party are dead, two have left disgusted

[page break]

and poor Chiusoro had his brains blown out by Faulkner's orders
 because he became troublesome.

Sir Samuel Baker is at the head of a host of Egyptians
 pushing on into the upper Nile districts. Ostensibly he goes to
 put down the slave trade there; has £10,000 a year for
 doing it &c! O' why don't you go to the Pasha of Egypt
 and [?] on him too! Baker I fear is a little [?]
 [?] of notoriety and so awfully jealous: he will be
 tremendously up in the stirrups if he finds you have
 traced the Nile waters from 12-South to Tanganyika
 and then to his Lake. It is very hard to have been so long without
 news from you and to be tantalised by so many reports of you
 which come dished up in all sorts of ways from all parts of
 the world. O' how you will laugh when I tell you some of them. It
 was reported at one time that someone had received a letter from you

in which you had told him you had married a dusky damsel somewhere
 in Casembe's Country and settled down there! Half the world believed
 there was something in it, Do bring home a black woman, xxxx
 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, or they will be so disappointed. If you come
 home this way send me a telegram from Paris and I will go near
 [page break]

to Dover to meet you on the same ~~part~~ \spot/
 we parted, and I shall soon forget all the
 time you have been away. You will hear I have
 married; you shall [judge(?)] for yourself all about
 it. God grant we meet soon and God and bless
 and guard you and those with you till we meet

Stamp: London/HO/OC28/69 Stamp:Chatam/E/OC 27/69/High St. [x2]

Per Messageries Imperialles

Via Marseilles

J.Swinburn Ward Esq

H. B. M. Consul

Seychelles

-----“-----

For D^r. Livingstone. care of D^r. J. Kirk

H.B.M. Consul Zanzibar

Ever yours dear Doctor

Horace Waller