

Letter to Edmund Gabriel, 4 April 1856

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6 Tete 4th April 1856

My Dear M^r Gabriel

Herewith I send a letter to the Governor of Angola - a mere repetition of that sent from the town of Sekeletu, and another for the merchants though addressed to M^r Schut, and I hope I have now done my duty in the way of acknowledgement. There are also letters to M^{rs} Canto, & Pires I would have shewn the same kind remembrance of M^r Neves had I not been led to believe he left Angola in the beginning of this year - I would fain hope I do not appear less grateful than I really feel. There are salutations for good Laurence Marques & others and I beg to salute most kindly M^r Demony through you.

accompanying this also, you will see a rough copy of a letter to the Earl of Clarendon, you will perhaps get some information in it not included in your letter written above this, which was sent down the river after my arrival. This is intended to be nothing but gossip, so you need not read farther unless you make up your mind to be a sort of accomplice in it. I intended on reaching Tete to move down the river in 3 or 4 days. but though I soon began to recover flesh I felt something wrong with the kidneys - Urine thick & full of sediment, yet in small quantity - pain in the back. I suspect it is what you had when at home. As Quilimane is reported very deadly and the Governor Mayor T.AA Secard kindly advised me to remain with him till this month which is more salubrious. I thought my duty to accede

I don't know whether I ought to have mentioned the Bishop more pointedly Perhaps a verbal salutation will do, when you meet him. Please not to forget kind salutations to our naval friends who may now be on the station

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I have no anxiety about the men for food is extremely abundant. The Mayor is very liberal and they work as briskly at wood bringing here as the others did at Loanda - I expect some too will be employed as boatmen, and I intend to leave as soon as the new moon appears for the sake of observations, which will happen in four or five days. I have heard that an English brig of war came in and made inquiries after me three times this was much in my favour, and I feel abundantly thankful to you and all concerned in the matter - I expect a rich treat in letters when I get there - But Quilimane has such a bad name I hope to get quickly past it. They can give no information except that there is an instrument and some luggage - I suppose Newspapers from you. but we shall see.

In thinking of England I am sometimes in high spirits and often otherwise. The society with which I am connected receives upwards of sixty thousand Pounds annually and proceeds upon the principle of employing a very great number of agents and avowedly gives each not a salary but a bare subsistence. The motive is good but I think they are penny wise and pounds foolish in it. They spend seven or eight thousand Pounds annually on the Hottentots who have had their services for forty years and in the villages are nearly all christianized, and only one hundred Pounds - my salary, on the thousands of actual heathen in the Interior. I want no more if that will do. But when I go home I know I shall be importuned to go through the country among the constituents lecturing and imparting information to them as a means of exciting more liberality, Now, I cannot now speak English in public nor I am I willing to be a public beggar. I wish to rest myself a month or two then come back to do some good in Africa before I die. Sometimes I imagine a more extended mode of operation would

I shall never forget them and our friend Laurence Marques

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be preferable to that of a mission station, the Jesuits did a great deal in their way but were always rich.

Can we learn nothing good from them? The European monasteries were, previous to becoming corrupt, good models of what missions should be. But about home. The most disagreeable thing I anticipate is haggling about money. The Directors are upright generous hearted men but are somewhat hampered by what are called "financiers" among them. My wife thinking to leave in 1854 for the Cape asked something to furnish an outfit for the voyage. She had been visiting some rich Quakers friends and the paltry £30 was refused because some of these financiers believed she must have got presents during her visits. Expect me to go begging money for them after that; I can speak to no one else about it but you for when one mentions money some covert motive is always suspected, but you give me credit for more goodness than I possess and will believe me when I say I am not conscious in my soul of the love of money and only wish to do good in my day and generation. I feel quite relieved now that I have unburdened my mind to you. Dont refer to the subject again please.

Your iron boxes did famous service in the rains - If I had possessed another I could have brought three new antelopes skins with me. The Daguerreotype got the glass broken and misfortunately is spoiling by contact of the air - Hope they can restore them in London. Hallo, did I tell you about the Kognak. We are not Frenchmen in our orthography. I recovered very slowly from a very severe fever which began near the Quango, and after a month or two thought of the brandy. Taking a spoonful in hot water and sugar at night had a wonderful effect and I was becoming quite Bachanalian when a ruffian boy whirled the medicine box upside down and broke the

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bottle before it was half finished. ¶ You may guess I was sufficiently irate, but in revenge took curry powder when I got a fowl and that did as well- Query. Would going up the centre of the continent East of Matiamwo and besides preaching good will to man inducing the tribes to trade to the coast be feasible in your estimation. I intend first of all to establish a mission with the Makololo & get a good character among the heathen first. It is wonderful what influence a good name has . . Mayor Secard has put

a stop to war four times by the good name
he bears. And though it looks like self laudation
I know nothing (under God's blessing) which
has assisted me more than the praises of
my heathen friends. I have sometimes felt as
if I ought to shut my eyes in hearing what
some have said about me for I knew that
I am not much better than I out to be. The
avoidance of the grosser forms of sin, seems
to them wonderful goodness.

I have written Colonel Steel with a trembling
heart - Lord Raglan and the other secretary & Escourt
gone. This sad news I saw in a French paper
here - Yet those that perish thus are serving
the same Master we do. It is not missionaries
^ & ministers alone who promote His cause. Every one who
resists oppression and wrong & promotes the
designs of our common Father, and everyone
who loves Him and aids his operations for
the elevation & renovation of our fallen race
does acceptable service and will not be forgotten
when the Almighty Lord has brought to a glorious
consummation all His dealing with man.
Believe me Ever Yours Very Affectionate
David Livingstone