

Letter to William Thompson, 2 March 1856

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[0001]

94 Tette or Nyungwe on River

Zambesi. East Africa

2^d March 1856

Rev^dd W^m Thompson

My Dear Sir

Reached this the

farthest inland station at present occupied by the Portuguese early this morning, and though I feel pretty well tired out from marching through a rough, stoney, bushey country without path for the last week or so. It gives me much pleasure to be again able to address those whom I left some years ago in the world. When we came to the Zambesi below the falls or rather near its confluence with the Kafue or Bashukulompo river we found ourselves among tsetse, which soon settled all the oxen. The usual mode of travelling is by canoe and the thick jungle and hills all along on both banks of the river make travelling on foot very tedious. Had I been

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a little richer and had purchased a canoe I should have been here six weeks ago. But I am in perfect health (and when rested will probably be ready to forgive my ancestors for always acting on the principle of "Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long".) The Portuguese are as kind here as they were in Angola and that is saying a great deal. Somehow or other I had imbibed a sort of prejudice against them, probably from their obstinate persistence in the slave trade. But actual intercourse has fully convinced me that we are liable to form a very wrong opinion of the majority from

the contunaceous acts of the few.
I believe I am a good deal indebted to
M^r Duprat for his kind recommendations
I have not met with a single instance
of incivility among them, and many
of them are men of intelligence with
whom it is refreshing to pass an hour
(It is utterly unlike the everlasting

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”myn vaagen, myn mthaalder paarde &c &c
myn moi dick vrouw &c &c)

I cannot give you any precise
information in this note. I believe our
prospects are pretty fair though there will
always be enough of danger in the
enterprise in these parts to make none
but men of pluck engage in it. I think
we have water carriage all the way
by this fine river to within 1^o or 2^o of
the Makololo. Near the coast the
fever prevails more than it does inland
untill you get into the great valley. Then
here and below this there is danger of
being robbed. But on the whole I am
not disposed to think our prospects
dark. Having once been robbed by
a congregation of Christian ~~murderers~~ marauders
one is not timorous of the heathen
After resting a few days I intend going
down the river to Quillimane. Believe
me ever yours Affectionately
David Livingston

[0004]

I enclose the Director's letter
to you. It would be a mercy
to them to have it copied. It was
so hot the ink would not stick,
yet some of it is for them only.

Rev^d William Thompson
Cape Town
Cape of Good Hope

Tete, 2^d March /56
to be returned.