

## Letter to Arthur Tidman, 2 March 1856

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Tette or Nyungwé,  
on the River Zambesi,  
Africa, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1856.

Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>rs</sup> 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, 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  
thereto by Sebituane. x x x 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 within

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1° or 2° of the Makololo. The only  
impediments I know of being one or  
two rapids, and the people in some  
parts being robbers. I have come  
thus far with but little loss. x x x

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

M<sup>r</sup> Duprat, and to the 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.  
x x x 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.

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,  
stony Country:- oxen all dead by

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tsetse, 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 your's,  
(s<sup>d</sup>) David Livingston