

Letter to William Thompson, November 1872

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South Central Africa Nov^r 1872
My dear M^r Thompson
Your note
and pamphlets kindly sent in July
1866 came to hand in Unyanyembe
in August 1872. Postal arrangements
are scarcely perfect all over the
world yet - but I was thankful to
get anything at all - I was plundered
of large amounts of goods I own
several times through my money
being handed over without any
precautions that I know of to an
oily tongued Banian, and by the
connivance of the governor
of Unyanyembe the stores were
nearly all plundered by members
of a slave trading ring or coterie
and every effort made by the
destruction of my letters to prevent
information of the losses going to the

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coast. They were pretty successful for
the Banian ^ Ludha Danji who really was at the
bottom of all the villainy alone had
the ear of my friend, and on the
strength of a note from his agent
Shereef who sold off all my goods
at Ujiji for slaves and ivory
which stated that he was about to
send off slaves with all I needed,
the half truth was uttered "that
all D^r L's wants had been supplied"
and it was repeated in the house of
Lords. the little sent was so little and so
inferior, it was intended to force
me back - the slaves solem ^ nly swore

that they were instructed by the highest authority to force me back, and they persisted in this all over the country. In fact quite overacted their part - All expected me to die & deprived of nearly all European comforts for two years it is a wonder that their expectations did not come true

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The Arabs outside the ring were all extremely kind but Banian money carried on all the slaving in Manyuema, and I gave great umbrage by going into their midst. they work it quietly & well for the Manyuema women are very pretty & are usually sold off for very large prices as soon as captured or at least long before they reach the coast - no gang in chains is ever sent down, but these wretched British Indian subjects who would not hurt a flea are really by their money arms ammunition & goods in the hands of their Arab agents really the worst cannibals in all Africa. If my disclosures lead to the suppression of the wickedness I shall not grudge the pain & toil I have endured. Captain Holmes countrymen H.M. Stanley & James Gordon Bennett of the New York Herald acted nobly, and both deserve & have my lasting gratitude for the relief sent to me - and for Stanley's truly noble

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braving of death & danger to serve me as a son might have done - thanks for the notices of your family - I can recollect them only as children & would pass them on the street unwittingly - Ralph was a lithe blithe boy - Jessie had smiles and tears in perfect command. the banker I cannot recal. My blessing on them - Ralph's ordination was well calculated to elicit all the pith & unction in you, and you were very happy in your

charge - your friends paid a graceful
tribute to you in franking you home
and back again, and conferred honour
on themselves. May they long flourish
in doing similar deeds. Glad to hear
that the Africanders have got diamonds
they first set the example of plundering
me at Kolobeng - if they heard of the
Arab & Banian deeds in the same line
they would make amends by sending me
lots of diamonds ^ in expiation - half a mind will do
^ to ease my ghost from haunting them as I am not greedy. Remember me fondly
to Saul Solomon & Rutherford

David Livingstone