

Letter to Alfredo Duprat, 4 March 1856

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Alfredo Duprat Esqu.

My dear Sir,

Having reached this the farthest inland station at present occupied by the Portuguese on the morning of the 2nd current, I was received with the usual politeness and generosity of your nation. The governor kindly proposed to send an express forward to Senna with letters and I have been constantly employed in writing ever since. The enclosed you will see is intended to show the King of Portugal my gratitude by giving him the earliest intelligence of my discoveries. I cannot be sure whether it will be acceptable or not, but on reading it you will see I avoid the appearance of intrusion by saying that no answer is expected; and indeed if it only reaches his eye, I hope for no more. Even though he may not have

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have leizure to look into it, the attention of an influential minister may be attached to some of the points mentioned, and even this will be so far good.

I hope you have received my note about the "berry wax". It would prove a real boon to Angola. But the enclosed will give you some information so I need not enlarge. This is a magnificent

river. I hope to ascend it with my family to within one or two degrees off Sekeletu by means of flat bottomed boats. And it is a magnificent country too; but trade is ruined by "Caffre wars". The natives rob, so there are no goods here for trade. A man named Nyaode living on an island below this, takes what and as much as he likes - out of every boat that ascends. There is

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There is a fine bed of coal close to this on the surface almost, and superior iron too. What fools! not to have a small flat bottomed steamer flying between this and Senna. Two swivels would keep off all robbers and in six months her price would be paid. The only impediments I have seen besides Mosioatunya are insignificant rapids which would not delay the Makololo a day.

Wait a little, we shall see, if we live. I have had excellent health all the way down here, but am very thin and tired from marching on foot; but will soon recover.

I often remember my obligations to your kind recommendations. May God bless and reward you, is the sincere wish of your obedt Servant
Sigt David Livingston