

## Letter to William Thompson, 4 October 1858

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[0001]

I hear the new missionaries have come - I hope they  
will all reach their destinations in safety

River Kongone

4<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1858

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Thompson

I could not possibly  
write you by last opportunity  
from the Zambesi but there was  
so little to communicate you  
were no loser - We have now  
had more time to look about us  
and I think we have ascertained  
the point that entering these  
rivers at the time we did is  
nearly quite safe if no delay  
takes place among the Mangrove  
swamps - We have been  
favoured with fair health  
and had ailments more  
like common colds than  
fever - Two of the party are  
now at Tete and the others

[0002]

hope to join them shortly - We got  
a ton and a half of coals there  
the first ever taken out of the  
earth in that country and as  
the Portuguese have shewn  
a great deal of public spirit  
we are almost certain of a  
larger supply when we return  
My poor fellows recieved  
me with great joy - They  
had often been taunted by  
the Tette people that their  
Englishman would never  
return but they hoped on  
and have amassed quantities

of beads to take back to their  
own country - Thirty of them  
died of small pox and  
six were killed by a  
rebel chief at the confluence  
of the Luenya - The confidential  
servant of Sekwebu is with  
me now on board the Launch.  
This thing is so small we

[0003]

could not bring more of them  
down though they were anxious  
to come on service:  
We found the country in a  
state of war and the Portuguese  
were too busy with that to help  
us with canoes - It is finished  
now, and my old friend  
Major Secard at once helped  
us with the luggage - but it  
has quite depopulated the  
lands adjacent to the river  
We see the river in this  
month at its very lowest  
and as it spreads out  
into from one to three  
miles in width the  
broad parts are very  
difficult - When we  
get to Lupata our  
difficulties vanish for  
above that point it  
is in one or two channels  
of about 1000 or 1200 yards  
broad

[0004]

I admire its size more than ever -  
When I came down in a canoe  
it was full and I saw but one  
channel where now we see two  
or three - If the Portuguese would  
beat the expense of a few piles  
driven in to effect what snags  
sometimes do now - deep channels  
might be secured for the whole  
year - They are going to build a

fort & custom house at this  
or the Luabo -  
Your things left at Kilimane  
did not go off by sale, so I  
have directed my friend there  
to send them back to the Cape  
at my expense - and possibly  
they may realize the sum  
which the Directors I think  
most unjustly saddled upon you  
I promised to pay it all  
but wished to think over it,  
and now I consider that the  
publication of the same document  
in England ought to have been  
defrayed by the secretaries if  
they thought you were liable too.  
With kind regards to M<sup>rs</sup> T. I am &c  
David Livingstone

If the articles do not bring the  
whole sum I shall make it up