

Letter to John Kirk, 5 July 1863

David Livingstone

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org), 2017

[0001]

Cataracts of Shire
5th July 1863

My Dear Dr. Kirk

The new bishop
came up to us yesterday
and recieved the
Despatch containing
our recal the day
before - The time
appointed for us
to be down at the
mouth of the river
is the end of this
month and no
salary is to be due

I recieved 2 Mazaro notes from
you thanks - sorry you missed Orestes

[0002]

after 31st December
This has not been
unlooked for by
me - It rather relieves
my mind about
the Lady Nyassa as
we can screw her
together & sell her in
India - As you know
the Portuguese by
clearing off the
population finished
our work but this
is not adverted to
in the recal - perhaps
it would have been
impolitic - The difficulties

[0003]

we encountered
adverted to - zeal &
perserverance &c &c
praised but this
"information we
have given is rather
scant' say his
Lordship" Now
you may go in
on that to give
a magnificent
botanical work
economical &
everything else at
Government
expense - at least
I mean to put that
to him -

As we cant come

[0004]

down with Pioneer
though we could with
Lady Nyassa I am
going up to the North
end of Lake Nyassa
directly to improve
the intermediate time
The Makololo go with
me - The boat was
burned I think by
accidental firing of
the grass hut by
the Ajawa say the
Manganja - I dont
believe them as all
the copper & iron lay
untouched below

[0005]

J Reid is better - a
smart dose of calomel
when Meller was down

at the Mission cleared
away spleen & every-
[-]thing else - I persuaded
Meller to give the same
to King and his
Haemorrhoids went
apace - He was quite
bloodless & delirious
each night - but
we took him up to
Mokurumadzi & he
walked all the way
home - - this is all
by way of increasing

[0006]

your medical knowledge
Procter is ill & retires
Rowley on his last
legs they say, too -
Waller ill yesterday
the new bishop a
good cautious man
thinks of trying the
top of Merambala -
I am sure I welcome
the new squad heartily
though Rowley &
others would place
all the blame of their
fighting on me

[0007]

Teaching is to be
the order of the day
He thinks it scandalous
no effort has been
made to convey
christian knowledge
He comes from the
fens of Lincolnshire
and ought to be
inured to malaria
I take the black
whaler & wish you
were with me
again - nearly

all the Makololo
go but stop at
some point to hunt
elephants while I go

[0008]

on with five in the boat
When Procters hut was
burned several guns going
off made the Makololo
think the mission was
attacked by an armed
force - They at once
rushed with spears &c
to the rescue - this is
per Blairr - if correct
no fear need be enter-
[-]tained of them - attacking
the Mission - My son
Robert is at Natal
give him a kind word
if you see him and
may God Bless you
Yours with Affection
David Livingstone