

DAVID
LIVINGSTONE

Family Letters 1841-1856

David Livingstone



VOLUME ONE

1841-1848

*Edited with
an Introduction by*
I. SCHAPERA

1959
CHATTO & WINDUS
LONDON

TO JANET LIVINGSTON

with their clothes at the bottom of the tub. I can understand why Rachel felt so much at being barren.¹² Nothing is so great a curse to a B[echuana] wife as want of children; they are really miserable if without, & children are so valuable.

The heat is beginning. North winds sweeping over the long tract of country in that direction become so heated, when they come here they are like the blast of a furnace; sometimes crumble the grass into powder.

4: TO JANET LIVINGSTON

8 December 1841

Address: (Care of Revd. Dr Phillip, Church Square, Cape Town) Miss Janet Livingston, Almada St., Hamilton, N.B. *Postmark:* Hamilton, MY 18, 1842. [Wilson Collection; extracts published in Blaikie, *Personal Life*, pp. 44 f.]

Karuman

8th Dec. 1841

My dear Sisters,

The day before yesterday I received my first communication (dated March & May) from home since sailing from England, & I was made both glad & sorry by the news it contained. Another letter has been sent, but it has not come to hand. As it was, I was thankful to hear a little of you all. It has made me think a little more of home or rather Hamilton, for it is not my home, than I had done for some time previously. Poor Duncan is gone, and Agnes was nearly off too. Let us work with all our might in the service of our Saviour now, for it will soon be said of us all, they have passed away. I suppose this is the beginning of what I must expect—a letter every now & then telling me some of my friends are dead. The voice is explicit. May we not neglect its warning voice. Long before this reaches you the vividness of the impressions may have worn away. Instead of saying much in my letter I shall pray that what you have both seen, & one of you experienced, may be sanctified to you,

¹² Genesis 30: 1-8, 22-4.

buttons which were put into my bag by mother, & a lump of *rhinoceros*^{*} flesh, which made them quite happy. Their mothers returned after some time, but were afraid to come near, but seeing the children playing about us they at last ventured. I gave one of them the remains of our dinner. She afterwards filled the pot with her wild fruit & presented it to me. Janet, I suppose, will feel anxious to know what the dinner was; I remember she once asked what my suppers were in London. Well, we boiled a peice of the flesh of a rhinosuross, which is toughness itself. The night previous, the meat was our supper, & porridge made of Indian corn meal & the gravy of the meat made a very good dinner next day.^{*}

When about 150 miles from home, we came to a large village. The chief had sore eyes. I doctored his eyes, & he fed us pretty well with milk & beans & sent a fine buck after me as a present. When we had got about 10 or 12 miles on the way, we unyoked for breakfast. Presently a little girl 11 or 12 years of age came up & sat down under my waggon, having run away for the purpose of coming with us to Kuruman. She had lived with a sister whom she had lately lost by death. Another family took possession of her, for the purpose of selling her as soon as she was old enough for a wife. But not liking this she determined to run away from them & come to some friends near K. With this intention she came, & thought of walking all the way behind my waggon. I was pleased with the determination of the little creature, & gave her some food. But before we had remained long there, I heard her sobbing violently as if her heart would break. On looking round, I observed the cause. A man with a gun had been sent after her to bring her back, & he had just arrived. I did not know well what to do now. But I was not in perplexity long, for Paumer,^{*} a Native convert who accompanied us, started up & defended her cause. He being the son of a chief, & possessed of some authority, managed the business nicely. She was loaded with beads

* "We boiled a piece of the flesh of a *rhinoceros*, which was toughness itself, the night before. The meat was our supper, and porridge made of Indian corn-meal and gravy of the meat made a very good dinner next day" (Blakie).

* Födmöre, "the son of a chief near Kuruman" (J.iv.1142 Mrs Sewell); I cannot identify him more precisely.

TO ROBERT MOFFAT

Edwards & I seem in the same predicament for money. Wish somebody would leave me a hundred or two. But nobody thinks enough of me for that. None of my forefathers were worth their breeches, else I might have had something. They wore kilts, poor fellows.

The gentlemen are on the point of inspanning, and as they are waiting here my thoughts have been confused. I shall send macaca³ by Mr Cumming for enclosure in Mr Whish's box. His address, to be written on the lid (perhaps twined): Charles Whish Esqre, 144 New City Road, Glasgow. If sent Cape ways, care of Jamieson & Co., Cape Town.⁴

We hope to have time to write before Mr C. arrives. Excuse all the blunders in this. All are well. Robert IV^s improving. Hope Mamary got out safely. Should like much to have a visit from yourself. You might scold me as you like. We could both speak plainly enough if together, & let the righteous smite me &c I should not grumble at any amount of faithful smiting.

Affectionately yours,
[No signature]

36: To ROBERT MOFFAT

27 October 1846

[Bruce Collection.]

27 Octr 1846

My dear Father,

As Mr Cumming leaves tomorrow morning I must write you a note. But I have but little inclination to writing at present. Robert has been very ill for three days past of bronchitis, or inflammation of the lining membrane of the air tubes of the lungs. How induced we don't know. A great many Bakuena suffer from colds & dysentery. Perhaps it arises from the intense heat & occasional disposition to

³ *Macacha*, the Tswana name for *Adenia glauca*, "a woody climber, with tendrils" (Miller, *The Woody Plants of the Bechuanaland Protectorate*, 1952, p. 60). On 9.x.1846 D. L. wrote to Whish that he was sending him a box containing curios, bulbs, and seeds, which had been taken to Kuruman "last month" by Mrs Moffat.

⁴ A firm of merchants in Adderley Street, Cape Town.

⁵ D. L.'s infant son.

showers. The damp air comes from the parts where rain has fallen, & that too often in the evenings. Very pleasant, but pernicious after the hot sunshine. He could scarcely breathe for one day. The mucus collected so abundantly in the air tubes, the sound was like the cooing of wood pigeons in his breast. That has been removed, but no medicine has any effect on the complaint. He has constant heat of skin, loses flesh, & is much troubled with his cough. Remedies which usually produce a speedy change do nothing in his case. The cough gradually sounds worse & worse. I am sorry I cannot speak of the favourable symptoms. I can only hope they will soon appear. His cheerfulness is quite gone.

Mr Cumming has kindly favoured us with an adze, so there is no need for that which went to Kuruman. We hope Mamary & party arrived safe. Mr C. will give all our news.

Have been shortening the bands of the waggon. Succeeded well with those of the naves, except making one rather too little. Three of the large bands fitted well, but one did not touch the wood at the weld, & when trying to send it in (when cold) I broke it although the weld was one of the best made. I take it slowly, welding one side, then the other. What is the proper distance to place the band from the hole of the bellows? Ought the centre of the band or the lower edge to be opposite the hole? I placed the band sometimes two, sometimes three, inches from the hole, but could not get a heat over the whole part to be welded. It either went over the upper or lower edge. My friends here say you put pieces of stone under the band to bring it into a proper position. What that is I can't ascertain. This sort of work has suffered a few days' interruption. School is finished. Only one small shower of rain yet. Olive grows briskly. Waggon tent suffered a severe fracture all along backbone, ribs all shivered. We shall patch it up & go Eastward as soon as Robert recovers. Corn crop lost this year.

Long ago you have heard of the departure of Baba to the land of the blessed.¹ He worked hard for us, ploughing &c. I could not reckon with him, being engaged with Vardon &

¹ "The *Chinoceros* is our frequent fare. Baba, a Kuruman convert, was killed by one last week. Unprovoked, it rushed on him and ripped him up" (9.x.1846 Whist). Cf. also *Travels*, p. 352; Methuen, *Life in the Wilderness*, p. 194.

Oswel, but said in parting, "I shall add ten dollars to the amount for carriage & reckon again with you." He said although I gave nothing for the work it did not matter, he wished to assist us. In their confusion after the accident they sent a man on horseback to Mabotsa & a man on foot here. The latter arrived late in the afternoon, & Mebaloe & I immediately set off, keeping up a gallop till it was dark. The moon rose about one o'clock, and a rhinoceros at the same time disputed our path, standing snorting at us. We went off at right angles with the path, & our minds being impressed with the accident conceived every big dark bush after that a real burile² moving & making towards us. Directing our course to a fire in the distance, we found it at a cattle post of Bakhatla, who gave the melancholy intelligence that the spirit of Baba had departed just about the time we left home. Had the man on horseback come here we might have witnessed his dying moments, & it would have been satisfactory to our feelings to have shewn respect to him though we could do little else. We returned in the morning with sorrowful hearts.

If an opportunity should occur, we shall feel obliged by your sending some Alphabets & first spelling books. We recieved by some Wanketze a parcel of (we supposed) letters addressed to Mrs M. After letting them lie some time, we concluded we might open it in order to take our share, & trusted you would take our word that we had not read any but our own. But after opening the envelope we felt what appeared only one letter, so we return it in nearly the same state it left you.

We send, if Mr C. will take it, a macaca root, hoping you will enclose it for Dr Buchanan in the box.³ If you think it will do mischief it can be left out. Intend as soon as the present brush of work is over to collect some of the rarer bulbs for your botanic garden. I know one mocaca as big as a small water vatchy.⁴ The upper portion (stems, leaves, &c) is used as a vegetable by Natives.

[No signature]

² Tswana *bofile*, the black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*).

³ The box consigned to Mr Whish contained a parcel of "roots &c" for Dr Andrew Buchanan, Professor of Medicine at Glasgow University, who had been one of D. L.'s teachers (9.x.1846 Whish).

⁴ Afrikaans *watjfe*, a little barrel.

45: To ROBERT MOFFAT

March (?) 1848

[Bruce Collection.]

[*Top third of leaf torn away*]

... be some mistake in the newspapers, some bottomless slough of dispond between this and Kuruman. My reason for thinking so is, some months after our return¹ we recieved a packet of letters by two Griquas. You mentioned then that newspapers had been forwarded, I supposed to Motito. Several months elapsed and then, although our expectations had been raised, we recieved only two Advertizers, & one Grahm's Town Journal.² The present parcel contains six or seven Advertizers, making 8 or 9 since we left Kuruman. I think it right to mention this, because more may have been sent, & if lost by having come by way of Mabotsa the risk may be avoided in future. A portion of the Patriots³ sent this time we read in Kuruman in March or April last year. It is probable those intended to be sent may still be with you. You need not however put yourself to much trouble about them.

Very glad to hear of Mamary's safe arrival at the Cape.⁴ The other communications awaken very many thoughts, forebodings, regrets. We feel especially sorry that Robert's prospects have taken the turn they have done.⁵ But poor

¹ From Kuruman, where the Livingstones had been in the early part of 1847.

² *The South African Commercial Advertiser*, published in Cape Town three times weekly since 1824; the *Grahamstown Journal*, published weekly since 1831.

³ *The Patriot*, a journal "of Nonconformist sentiment and intelligence", published bi-weekly in London since 1831.

⁴ Mrs Moffat and her children had reached Cape Town in October 1847 (R. U. Moffat, *John Smith Moffat*, 1921, p. 21).

⁵ Robert Moffat, junior, on his return from England became a surveyor in Government employ. "He always remained a firm and true friend of the natives,

short-sighted mortals as we ought not to presume to prognosticate. He seems determined to try what can be done by means of scientific knowledge. Theology is not to be named in the same day with science. The very decided preference he mentions for the latter has made me conclude that a visit to this country is necessary to teach him that it is only the mere handmaid of the former. The ^{the} part of a century will convince him that the gospel is the only power competent to effect much among heathen. Most sincerely do I sympathize with him in his aspirations for the benefit of Africa. It is cheering to read his effusions. Love for poor humanity has not left this world, although when in a state of dispondency we are tempted to think it has & growl out, "All seek their own, not the things of Jesus Christ". If he tries the experiment in some part where Natives are well inclined to or have believed the gospel, he will not be disgusted by their apathy. They will shew him due respect. His health will be improved. . . .*

. . . What a mercy to be guided by the overruling hand of Him who is omniscient. We are often delivered from dangers & know nothing of them. How much gratitude we owe for the deliverances of which we are aware. When returning from the Eastward⁷ it was necessary to cross a dry river, the banks of which were very steep. Paul & I jumped down to look for a ford, the waggon continuing its course along the bank abreast of us. We came into a part with grass longer than ourselves & full of game paths. I was thinking, "this is a very lionlike place", when Paul proposed mounting the waggon, his thoughts being in

and was subsequently of great service to the Bechwana Mission in a commercial capacity; but anything short of his entire consecration to direct missionary work failed to satisfy his parents, with their intense devotedness to a cause to which it was their desire to feel that they had given not only themselves, but their children as well" J. S. Moffat, *Life*, p. 262).

* Top third of page torn away.

⁷ Early in February D. L. had gone on a journey among the Eastern tribes, "one object of which is to recruit & remove the languor of body & mind which affected me before I begin the erection of a permanent dwelling" (13.ii.1848 Watt). In D. L.'s *Journal*, the encounter with the *Chinoceros* described below is entered under the date 17 December 1848 (cf. Blaikie, p. 92). That portion of the journal, however, was compiled in 1853, from notes recovered after the destruction of Kolobeng, and D. L. apparently confused the present journey with one he made at the end of the year.

the same train as mine. I turned my face waggonwards, and when within 20 paces of it found a female black **rhinoceros** having just calved, between us & the waggon. The beast, enclosed by us & the waggon, had its attention providentially directed towards the latter, & Paul & I ran into a rut. The animal made a furious attack on the waggon. Its horn glanced on a spoke & split it up as if it had been a boiled carrot. The fellow^s split too with the shock. It knocked the other parts of the waggon, but broke nothing. Isaac was in the waggon & thinks he shot the beast, but it went away with its little red calf. We heard its snorting as we stood in the rut, & our guns being in the waggon expected every moment to be visited, but we were down the wind.

When at Mokhatla's we were within one half day of Pretorius^s & went to see him. He had gone to cut wood, but his wife was very kind. Pressed us to remain, & we should have complied, but we saw 4 Bamapela children in the house, stolen slaves. My heart grew sick & I left. My people by my advice tried to steal them by telling them where we should spend Sunday. They said they had often ran away, but Mokhatla caught them & returned them to their owners. Mokhatla told me that he invariably assisted them to escape, untill a lad having come to him requesting to be shewn his way to Sechele's, he sent men to take him forward but his feet became . . .¹⁰

. . . We expected Morukanelo tonight, but suppose you may have been absent when he arrived. I may as well tell you some more of our wants: A trowel; large & small beads; a ladle, & bullet mould; hiefers if you can get them, at any price (Boers charge 20 dollars for those two years old); she goats; a musket if you have one to spare; trees; vine cuttings; fruit stones for seed; pictures;¹¹ the large vice mentioned.

We should have been at the house now had the waggon been here. We do not like to spoil the new one. We have all

¹⁰ MS. has "felon".

¹¹ Johannes Lodewicus Pretorius, who had settled near the present town of Rustenburg in 1839; he is referred to again below (Letter 50) as "our friend Pretorius".

¹² Leaf of MS. missing.

¹³ The words "Fruit . . . Pictures" deleted in MS.

the window & door frames ready, beams too, & will bring the roof home next week. Some are making bricks for the partitions. Had an excellent crop of potatoes. Maize not quite so bad as we expected, but will manure for crop of English corn. Some worthy sent us a large assortment of plates for shoe heels, and a lot of nails which I imagine are meant for nailing lead on the roofs, thick cast-metal things of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length. I think I must sow them in the garden, & if they do not grow longer my vexation will go with them into oblivion. The pictures I selected were left with you, I do not know where.

23 March. I had written the above in expectation of the return of the Griquas, but Sekhomi seems to have delayed the fulfilment of their desires longer than they expected. Right glad we were to see the old waggon again. We each thank you most sincerely for the apples & other fruits. They are a great treat to us, both young & old enjoy them (the apples) much. It was well you did not send potatoes. We have a large supply, and nearly all are of good size & quality. Whether the size is owing to my having selected good seed, by making the cook cut off the small end of all the large potatoes for seed, I do not know, but it is comfortable to think & believe that one has had some agency in effecting a good result. I thank you for the seeds, & will certainly try what can be done in the way of raising trees &c. The ginger is about a foot high, but no appearance of flower. The olive does well.

The chest was sold immediately to Sechele for an ox. The guns went off & both seem well pleased, but that is all. Mebaloe told me he has about 40 dollars of the price. Sechele will give his in ivory. Hope this will be convenient. I must not omit to thank you for the powder horn. It will now be of use. I do not like to keep two things when one is enough for my wants, so I gave it [to] Sechele to be put in the place of that he gave me. He was disappointed in not receiving a supply of soap as well as we. We can only sell two of the bars sent, and as these will soon be consumed it may be well if you remember to procure a good supply for us. We can always dispose of it for sheep &c. We are very

TO ROBERT MOFFAT

clot of blood is found on the brain if the death has been sudden, but sometimes the clot is absorbed, the patient having lived long enough for the purpose, and people finding nothing in the brain have said it had simply lost vitality. But it is now well known that apoplexy results from the very opposite state to plethora, & two modes of treatment are required. I do not apprehend apoplexy in Mrs M.'s case.* She might do better than read medical books & think on her sensations. A certain influence is always sent to an organ affected by the mind, & generally an injurious influence. Think as little as possible on her head. The means which rouse her into activity in the morning repeated at midday. A shower bath perhaps with the feet in warm water. Never to think about dying, but about living to purpose, believing that He who has our times in His hand will manage our exit for us & make it just what it ought to be. This is the sort of advice I should give if I had time to write it out, and I might add if she intends to leave us anything to send it by Paul,[†] for we shall assuredly be more grateful for it now than we shall ever be at any future time. The only thing we shall care about receiving will be her blessing after she is gone.

The valves of the heart are affected in Mr Evans's case in all probability, but what the peculiar affection is can only be ascertained by the stethoscope. He is liable to sudden death, yet may live long.

With kind regards to Mr Hamilton, Mrs M., & Ann,
Believe us, yours affectionately,
D. Livingston

Salutations to Paul.

48: To ROBERT MOFFAT

2 September 1848

Address: Revd. R. Moffat, Kuruman. [Bruce Collection; brief extract in Gelfand, *Livingstone the Doctor*, p. 43 (where the date is wrongly given as 1846).]

* She had been "much reduced" by her journey (cf. Letter 45).

† As indicated in Letter 46, Paul had gone to Kuruman "in order to arrange the affairs of a son recently deceased".

account, being sixpence per lb ought to be £1 instead of £2. Sechele was glad of his, but having given the last box for an ox we could only ask a better one this time, as it was dearer soap. The animal is not worth 30/-, but we prefer to bear the loss of the difference to appearing to take a profit from him. I need the glue both for joining & the house. The latter is unfinished inside. I am tired of it, & leave the finishing to some other time. It is simply white-washed. I have not good locks. Did you ever get the brace & bits from Birmingham which I requested you to order for me? Mine went this way & is now held by a reim.¹⁴

All this country news will be communicated by Motseabona. The Griquas are standing to the West of this high & dry on their way to the Lake. They can, it is reported, neither go backwards nor forwards, & wait for rains.¹⁵

With love to Mrs M. & Ann,

Believe me, affectionately yours,
D. Livingstone

Tuesday morning. As Motseabona cannot take either of the boxes we let them remain. He takes some horns for you. Three chinoceros or four.¹⁶ One is 3 ft 1½ in length, the longest mohohu¹⁷ I ever saw. The khoodo is [from] Sechele for you. The pallahs¹⁸ need the bony part to be steeped in water & scraped in order to be pretty. You must tell me if I send too many of these things. I think they will be interesting to friends at home. The chief's brother brought a waterbuck's skin &c carefully prepared, but it was an old animal & only one horn, so I declined it.

¹⁴ Afrikaans *reim*, thong.

¹⁵ "A large party of Griquas in about thirty waggons made many & persevering efforts at two different points last year, but though incited to the climate & stimulated by the prospect of much gain from the ivory they expected to procure, want of water compelled them to retreat" (5 ix. 1849 Tidman). Blaikie, who quotes (p. 103) the version of this passage that appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society* (vol. 20, 1850, p. 138), has "engineers" for "Griquas".

¹⁶ "or four" deleted in MS.

¹⁷ Tswana *ngohu*, the white chinoceros (*Diceros sinar*).

¹⁸ Tswana *phala*, the impala or reedbuck (*Antelope melanopt*).

DAVID
LIVINGSTONE

Family Letters 1841-1856

•

VOLUME TWO
1849-1856

*Edited with
an Introduction by*
I. SCHAPERA

1959
CHATTO & WINDUS
LONDON

1850

62: To ROBERT MOFFAT

January 1850

Address: Revd. R. Moffat, Kuruman. [Bruce Collection.]

[First sheet missing]

... As you are sending an order to Birmingham, I shall feel obliged if you order a sofa with air pillows like that in your study. (Awful extravagance; what next?) Also, if convenient, a pit saw. That you kindly sent proved itself a ne'er do weel. Is there a kind which is thickest at the tooth edge and thins off towards the back, requiring no setting? If so, I should prefer one of it. And a spirit level.

Also a few books from Mr Snow, with thanks for the presents he sent us:

Borrow's Bible in Spain;

Locock's *Analeptics*;

White's *Natural History of Selborne* (with notes);

cheap edition of *Vestiges of Natural History of Creation*, with the appendix;

one year of Kitto's periodical of Biblical literature, bound in cloth;

last year of *Christian Witness* bound in cloth;

Dr Golding Bird's *Natural Philosophy* (Churchill's manual).¹

¹ George Borrow, *The Bible in Spain*, 1843; Gilbert White, *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, 1789 (annotated editions 1835, 1837, 1843, etc.); [Robert Chambers], *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, 1844, 6th ed. 1847; John Kitto, ed., *A Cyclopedia of Biblical Literature*, 2 vols., 1845 (abridged ed. issued in parts 1849); *The Christian Witness and Church Member's Magazine* (official organ of the Congregational Union of England and Wales), ed. John Campbell, published monthly in London since 1844; Golding Bird, *Elements of Natural Philosophy*, 1839.

"Locock's *Analeptics*" on 12.i.1851 D. L. wrote to Snow, ordering *inter alia*

If not convenient for you to send to Snow at present, please let me know. I could send an order for the amount next year.

4th Feby. 1850. Have just returned from visiting the Wanketse, and therefore not in a mood to write much. I left on Saturday morning, reached at sunset, and returned today (Monday), the journey being performed on pack ox. A burile² gave us a chase. We jumped off the pack oxen like monkeys and were away among the bushes in no time. He came right up to us and was close by before we saw him, & passed within two yards of the bush in which I was hiding, the gun unloaded. I wished he had played his antics while Ann was there, so we might have got a picture of her cutting away like wind before a burilinyane.³ Sebube & family seemed very glad to see us, and I am sure I felt the same towards them. All were well except Tlomelani's wife.⁴ They seemed sorry that you had made so short a stay, but I explained the reasons.

Hope you have seen Robert. Is his verdict favourable or otherwise to the extension of the Griqua empire? ⁵ Sorry to hear of Mrs M.'s illness. A warm bath prolonged as long & as warm as she could bear it might have relieved her at the commencement. A little nitro-muriatic acid in the water makes it more efficient. Pity we have no vessels in which to

"Laycock's *Analeptics*, was reviewed a few years ago in *Forbes Review*; if not published by Highbly or Churchill, it may have been at York, as Dr Laycock lives there." The British Museum Catalogue does not list any work of that title by Thomas Laycock (author of *Treatise on the Nervous Diseases of Women*, 1840, etc.).

² *Tswana* *bofile*, black *Simoneum*.

³ *Budilinyane*, dimin. of *bofile*. Moffat's daughter Ann had accompanied him and Freeman on their visit to Kolobeng at the end of December 1849.

⁴ Tlomelang was a Native teacher who had been sent from Kuruman in 1849 to help Sebube among the BaNgwaketse; Moffat described him as "a plain simple straightforward zealous & persevering character" (letter to Freeman 15.2.1852).

⁵ Moffat jr. had agreed with Freeman to survey some land on the banks of the Vaal River at Barkhose. "The necessity of attempting a location here originated in the fact, that the supply of water at Griqua Town is not sufficient to meet the wants of any increase of population. Provided a plan could be devised by which a stream could be led out from the Vaal River, for the purposes of irrigation, a very considerable number of the people might settle here under advantageous circumstances. . . . But on examination, Mr Moffat found that the level of the river was too low for the plan of irrigation, and that the work was 'utterly impracticable'" (Freeman, *A Tour in South Africa*, pp. 231-5).

I have no money to leave you. Each of you must work for himself in the world. You will have need of brave purposes and preparation for the battle of life. There is none better than learning, learning of all sorts, and the sooner you learn the better, for you will get into the habit and then it will no longer be irksome. Above all things learn of Jesus. Love him. Devote yourselves to him for time & Eternity.

Be very kind to Mamma and to Zouga and to each other. Don't vex each other. There are people in the world who will do that enough. Let there be peace among yourselves. You will find few in the world who will love as you may do each other.

I shall have no means of sending any letters for many months. But I shall pray for you, and that will bring down a blessing by a shorter road than that by which letters pass.

Sekhomi asked if Robert had sent him nothing.² I gave him a powder horn in Robert's name. The little calf died. Kisses to you all.

David Livingston

96: To CHARLES LIVINGSTON

6 February 1853

Address: (Care of Revd. W. Thompson, Cape Town) Revd. Charles Livingston, Plympton, Massachusetts, United States. *Prepaid. Postmark:* Boston, May 16. [Livingstone Memorial, Blantyre; published in part by Chamberlin, *Some Letters from Livingstone*, pp. 192-8.]

*February 6th, 1853*¹

My dear Charles,

As I am not far from the country in which I expect to have but few opportunities for sending letters, and it is just possible I may meet one of Sekhome's people among these

² D. L. was at Shoshong, Sekgoma's town, on 25-6 January (*Journal*).

¹ On this date, according to *Journal*, D. L. was at Motlatia (not marked on modern maps, but slightly north-north-west of Lekokane Pan, 65.1, and about 100 miles from Shoshong).

convenient to write on these points soon, address to Revd. R. Moffat, Kuruman. It will be sure to find him.

I am standing under a moana or boabob tree at present, composed of six branches rising from one root and joined together till about five feet from the ground.¹⁶ At 3 feet from the ground it is 85 feet in circumference. It is at least 60 feet high. Its redish colour makes it look more like a mass of red granite than a tree. The branches high above look like what I have hitherto called large trees. The wood is quite soft & spongy, and though such a giant in size I suspect he is a mere baby compared to some of the historical yews & oaks of England.

We had to fight for the water we digged for at Koobe.¹⁸ The *rhinoceros* and buffaloes would have it in spite of us. We killed two of the former & one of the latter in self preservation. Yet I felt ashamed to take advantage of their necessities. It is such a sneaking cowardly looking thing to lie at the waters, as Cumming did.¹⁷ I felt ashamed to see the moon looking at me. Necessity alone compelled me, and it is only that necessity that will ever force me to take my place by a water again.

It is a poor country this after all. The frequent droughts, the cattle stealing & children stealing and murders, make the heart sick. But its future is in the hands of God, and he will cover it with his glory. The dwellers in the wilderness shall bow down before Him, & all nations shall serve him. When at Sechele's town I took down the names of 124 children who had been stolen from that tribe alone. Many of them I could identify as having been in the Mission school. The Boers now want peace from Sechele because the Barolong commenced stealing their cattle immediately

¹⁶ D. L. was then (21 February) "about two miles beyond the northern bank" of Ntswetswe Pan, the western arm of the Makarikari Depression (*Journal, Travels*, p. 162). The boabob tree mentioned was the first to be reached on the road from the south, and John Mackenzie writes that in 1860 he saw, among the many names carved on its trunk, "the initials 'L. and O.' with a date which I have forgotten; but no doubt commemorative of one of Livingstone and Oswell's visits to the interior". The initials, he adds, were "nearly closed by the growth of the bark" (*Ten Years North of the Orange River*, 1871, p. 145).

¹⁷ Located by D. L. (*Travels*, p. 684) at 20° 53' S., 24° 32' E., which suggests that it was at or near the place called Odanakumadons on modern maps.

¹⁸ Cf. Cumming, *A Hunter's Life*, vol. ii, pp. 94 ff.