

I haven't time to reread. Please excuse mistakes - 45  
But so sorry to hear that Mr. Rawlin is out of the Missionary  
Tell us why?

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Fla.

Luebo, W. C. Africa  
Congo-Free State -  
Nov. 8, <sup>th</sup> 1894 -

My dear Brother :-

It was with much pleasure that we received your letter of June 5<sup>th</sup> 1894 reached us on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. The failure of the "rainy season" to put in its appearance on time, caused the lowest water I have ever seen in the Culua River, (I have been here two rainy seasons.) I went across the river about the 10<sup>th</sup> of October and I told my wife "we need not look for any steamer for days to come, there is hardly any water in the river" Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> broke clear & bright. (I don't know what broke but I think that is the orthodox way of stating it.) and every thing went along as usual until about four o'clock when M'Koli came running up to our door, in a highly excited manner, and a dripping balamba, and fairly shouted "Shepiti Kula, Shepiti Kula, Jundi Sidemia dixi di mai" "Impossible" I ejaculated; but M'Koli stuck to it; said he had come up in a canoe from some where down the river; that the steamer was away down; Well, I quickly got ready and started down the path; and between here and the Portuguese settlement I met the sheppard. The same old fellow of the Caravan route. Well, I think he must have been surprised - for I just talked

him out of his Reuses; you see I had not seen any one to talk English to but my wife and poor Addison for so long that the cords of my tongue were just loosed - We soon learned that the Str. was at Beni Bindi, at the Confluence of the Kassai & Luebo rivers, and that Mrs. S. and two lady friends were with the Steamer bound for this port. Mr Hawkins remaining at Lukunga. Sheppard remained with us over night; I chose your old house in preference to Addison's; and early the following morning left for Beni Bindi; I hastened to put your house in order; for I remembered how we were housed when first we came to Luebo. I worked the men & women for all they were worth and Saturday night lay down tired out but feeling that we were ready against their coming on Monday. Sunday I preached as usual and had a Catechetical Service in the Afternoon; and so the day passed evening set in, (it does every day at half past six) and my wife and I tired with our day's work sat down to read the home papers. At ten we began to prepare for bed; when out on the lawn (?) there arose such a clatter &c - this time the whole crowd came to our door with the information that all the Sheppards were on their way up the hill.

We didn't go to bed just yet. Down in that dark, thickly wooded part of the path, just below the Portuguese Settlement I met Mrs. Sheppard and the two ladies, Mr. S. was on behind like Jacob, with the rear guard, having sent his women on ahead - Well, we were soon sitting around our "base burner" talking of the events of the day, They had started from Beni Bindi in that large dug out of Mr Bodour, but finding that too slow the energetic Sheppard hired a canoe and two or three men and they came up in that way, the women, soaking wet - caused by the overflow into the canoe - We helped them out - as best we could, and dried, and dressed in Mrs's clothes + mine they went to their own home, happy that the journey was ended, and we happy that there was some one else besides our poor selves on the Station - (You know Mr. A. left us last July.) Suddenly it occurred to us that they may not have had any thing to eat, so it proved to be, but in another hour we were all resting quietly. Two weeks later, the river rose to its usual rainy season height and the steamer on its return from Lusambo - came up to its - clay bank and unloaded its heavy cargo

the largest consignment ever brought here for the mission - your transport is coming finely; so I suppose Mr. A. has gone on home. I wonder if he will go to America? -

We got all our boxes up O.K.: but what a lot of badly bought goods are here for the mission. I think if Mr. H. had remained treasurer for a while longer he would have swamped the mission - He had on the way four Circular Saws at £5 each - and added to that £3 each transport. Dr. Sims sold two of them to the State for us but the other two are on hand. Mr. H. lays the blame on Mr. Wylie. Says he only ordered two. Two boxes - (40 each) Polished Copper Crosses. + \* - at 2/ each in London and 4/ each transport; and one can buy Native Copper Crosses same weight for half price domestic, for 3/ this 3/ includes transport.

Thread enough to last for years - etc. etc. Brads of so high a price that the Missionary cannot use them, Scissors at from 800 to 1000 cowries each; wages 100 cowries a week; I think we will have to sacrifice half the price, rather than let them lay here idle, but this money might have sent another missionary out here -

The station is much the same; some changes such as the armures cut out; lots fenced in, etc, would attract your attention. Since Mr. A. left I have cleared of woods two large lots, and fenced them and one have planted to corn. We had quite a scare the other day; Mr. Cluteus, of the S.H.B.; director I think, came up to see us and he informed us that the State would tax us  $\frac{1}{2}$  franc for every square metre enclosed by a fence!! Think of it!! Well we told him, if that were the case, every fence would go down in a trice. After he was gone I brought me of the latest "tax paper" sent us by the State, and I took that over the fire and asked him to show me where it said we must pay taxes for fence-enclosed lots. He looked it carefully over, and could not find any thing of the kind, and as this was the declaration paper for 1895, it was evident that we were not called on to pay that imposition, although, he (Mr. C.) says they have to do it at Kirchassa - word reaches us from Lower Congo to the effect that France and the State are preparing for war over some disputed territory up the N'Wangui. I think, and the fact that Puluaborg and Malouel are out of food, and the Stanley, which has been due for over a month, has failed to come, lends color to the rumor. Should it prove true it may state it awtward for us for awhile -

The children are all well. Dick is with us in our house: it would make your heart glad to hear Dick repeat the Sermon or talk, in his slow, clearly enunciated, way - He can tell the Stories of Daniel, David, and others to perfection -

I am sending you a Photo. of some of the Children I am so exceedingly busy that I have barely time to do what I want to in the way of personal things; but now that Mr. S. is here I hope to do more in the way of Photographing. I was thinking that if the Board would send me a good Camera, and outfit. Say to cost \$100.00 - I could take a lot of views for a magic lantern and when I return, if God please, I could trade the Camera for a Magic lantern, and go around all the same Dr. Guinness - and make enough to more than pay for all expenses connected with it. I am confident that with a good lantern and a nice lot of Pictures I could make a snug sum for the Mission - What do you think of it? It would have to be acted on quickly, I would not want a Kodak - but a good Camera that would carry a plate at least 5x7 - If it could be sent <sup>to reach me</sup> by Oct. 1st 1895. I could accomplish much. I think all new missionaries should go home at the end of three years - the second term could be made longer. The climate

is telling on us. And my wife and I have contracted a most annoying skin disease, a regular itch that is the bane of our life both day and night, a most persistent itching of every part of the body, at first we thought it the prickly heat, but my wife has suffered from it for seven months and I for 5 months continually. It keeps me from sleeping and nothing seems to relieve it. Life is in one sense a burden.

My wife has her hands full with five children in the house to care for.

Do you remember the needles your wife sent Mrs Snyder for her Sewing Machine? they did not fit, but Mrs Sheppard brought out a hand Sewing Machine and was in sore need of needles and lo! Yours just filled the want. We were very sorry to hear of your trouble with your eyes. We hope and pray that you are all well and prosperous. How much I would like to rest in your house for a week or two and talk over with you. Our life out here is full of trials and yet so full of sweetness. After Mr. A. left us we seemed to be drawn nearer than ever to our Heavenly Father, and the fact that none of our people were being brought to Christ

became a sore burden and led to heart-searchings such as never before had come to us. It revealed sins in my heart that staggered me and led to confession of past sins that had been neglected; and the rectifying of mistakes that had by ~~my~~ silence really become sins: but God gave me the victory and the devil has been put to shame. One can not live in Africa amidst so many dangers and live carelessly -  
 What a lot of Self this heart searching revealed! -

I have a hæmaturic patient down at the Portuguese place, a Mr Daturumi. He has a severe attack, I go to see him once a day and some days twice a day. And when you recall the steep hill you will know that this with my other work is no slight task. I think he will die; he is an old man and the bleeding is severe -

I sent a letter to the Presbytery through our Tampa Church, and another directly to Mr Nilson in answer to a letter from him ~~which~~ went right to our hearts. I wish Mr. N. was more kindly disposed towards me.

His letter warmed our hearts so much. The spoons you write of I am confident are the same that now are in the store. The "Speaker" is ruined but the side is all right. My wife wishes me to tell you