



JAN. 10, 1878.] ARRIVAL AT THE
mostly a magnificent and healthy country of unspeakable richness.
I have a small specimen of good coal; other minerals, such as gold,
copper, iron, and silver are abundant; and I am confident that with
a wise and liberal (not lavish) expenditure of capital, one of the
greatest systems of inland navigation in the world might be utilised,
and in from thirty to thirty-six months begin to repay any enter-
prising capitalists that might take the matter in hand. I am not
able to write much now, but whilst I am here intend to work, and
therefore keep my journals, sketches, &c., so that when I return to
England the work will be in a forward state.
I have two private letters here which say that the Society had
declared its willingness to be answerable for the expenses incurred
and to be incurred by the Expedition, and that a fund had been
raised by subscription on my behalf, or rather, on behalf of the
Expedition. I risked everything, put all down on the turn of the
die. I said the British public and the Society will never desert
any one who tries to do his best, and I am proud and happy to
think that my confidence has not been misplaced, and that, be-
ginning with Her Most Gracious Majesty, all England has taken
an interest in the work to which I hope to devote my life. On
another Expedition I should be able to carry out with twice the
comfort and half the expenditure of this one. *Nutmegs, *coffee,
*sesame, *groundnuts, *oil-palms, the *mpasu (an oil-producing
tree), *rice, wheat, cotton, all the productions of Southern Europe.
*India-rubber, *copal, and *sugar-cane are the vegetable productions
which may be made profitable; those marked with an (*) exist
there now, and wheat is cultivated successfully by the Arabs as
well as onions, and fruit trees brought from the coast. A canal of
from 20 to 30 miles across a flat level country would connect the
two great systems of the Congo and the Zambesi, water in the
rains even now forming a connecting link between them. With a
capital of from 1,000,000l. to 2,000,000l. to begin with, a great com-
pany would have Africa open as I say in about three years, if
properly worked. What the diplomatic difficulties might be I of
course cannot say, but I expect they would be far greater than the
physical ones.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
V. LIVINGSTONE.