

Letter to John Kirk, 14 May 1871

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[0001]

14th May 1871 [66] [23] Chakanja Ludha's slave and Juma slave [31 [2]] of Mamea ringleaders of mutiny and the loudest in asserting that the Consul told him not to go forward but [...] back - and not to follow me if I went to a "bad country" demanded leave for 15 days to go & buy gaudy lambas where cheap on our West and on my refusing went & told Abed what ample rations they got at the coast and now would leave me - I refused because Abed has got a canoe for me - price not settled as owner is sick - and I sent a party about six miles off to examine another - see the owner - measure it and come back with him if willing for the price next day - They remained away six days - I could not trust these ringleaders out of sight so sent other two of the slaves with guides to order the first party back - These went on with them to kill Manyema & they did kill three men - I told them I would never let them go anywhere unless I could go myself - a party is going to buy copper as it is smelted near us They killed a great number who stood in mute amazement at the guns and their effects - These ringleading worthies in everything that is bad hope to repeat this bloodshed because they incur no danger & would get slaves - I never imagined that human or Muhamadan nature rather could be so atrociously vile - By the back of this I give them a dismissal - Twice I refused to go North at Bambarre - then in the way threw back their rations of beads demanded double though what I gave was three times more than the Arabs give their slaves - I am glad to get rid of them by their own desire = They got two to follow them by loud talking of what they get at the coast - and they know that my beads [Quinine] are nearly all at Ujiji - As to wages you will know best they compelled me to an advance to six dollars at Bambarre - a distinct breach of their engagement with you

I am far [JK] West - Loeki or Lomame is at least 60' further - very broad a true Lake Lincoln above - When on its West bank we shall be some six weeks only from the mouth of the Congo - The people swarming and friendly till abused by blood hounds - They drink a cup of coffee after each meal - the trees are abundant - I am to get some - It is well dried in the fruit rind - If Waller likes to set a trap for Cooley he might publish about my great Westing and draw the author of "Inner Africa laid open" out among stupidity in thinking Lualaba aught else but the Congo - Then publish this addendum - you will naturally [like the great apostle of hearsay geography] if very pigheaded [^] swear I have been following the Congo instead of the Nile but here the mighty river takes a sweep towards the East - takes in the Lomame and becomes more grand than ever 6 or 8 miles broad with many very great inhabited islands in it before it joins or receives the Kiziwa which might be Lake Albert - Ivory is like grass - This

is great news for Suaheli & at 2 rings of copper a tusk - I wish that
license were refused to all the Sultans subjects for Interior trade
who are guilty of bloodshed causelessly

David Livingstone