

Letter to Unknown, 7 December 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

~~River Shire 7th Decr~~

~~1861~~

~~Private~~

~~My Dear Friend~~

~~I believe I wrote to you on the arrival of the Pioneer about the beginning of this year thanking you for your very kind remembrance of me in sending all the Society's publications - Some of the French journals and a kind note besides. I had begun to despair, and thought you had forgotten me but the appearance of these things made me both ashamed & thankful. That old heathen Arrowsmith never once wrote to me - though I twice wrote to him. May he live till long after I come home that I may punish him for his negligence.~~

We have been up to Lake Nyassa
and carried a boat passed the cataracts

[0002]

to explore by. Went along the Western
shore but a paper I have written for
the Society and send through Lord John
Russell will give you all particulars
It is very deep - from 20 to 50 or 60
miles broad and over 200 miles long
(225) - It was excessively stormy and
you must not despise us for failing
to find out all about the Rovuma.

We were on the West side and could not
cross in a little open boat at the period
of the Equinoctial gales - then we could
get no food in a depopulated part of
the country near the North end. Pirates
live on detached rocks - and human
skeletons & putrid bodies (~~exactly like the old dissecting room odour~~) were
lying everywhere. It was like a fair dead
lock for us and we came back

~~intending to bend all our energies to wards placing a steamer on the Lake - this will take a
year at least.~~

[0003]

Another Lake called Moelo was reported
by two Arabs we met on the Lake
they came from a place called

Katanga which seems to be S.S.W of
Cazembe - they had come down to
buy cloth at Nyassa. ~~When we have the steamer up we shall be able to examine the country~~
~~adjacent with Ease.~~

~~I shall enclose a sketch of the Lake that if you think proper Mr George may make~~
~~an enlarged one for exhibition supposing you again favour my paper with a reading. The~~
~~Latitudes are all correct and the longitudes pretty nearly so if we take as a basis Mr Maclear's~~
~~determination of my former observations at the Lake - the first observation is 2 up the Lake~~
~~and about 1 west of our former observations at Mosanha's vil.~~

~~What do you think of your Yankee friends now? I am very sorry to hear of the break up.~~
~~Tthey were such a glorious standing protest against old world tyranny, but by their horrid~~
~~slave system sent all to the dogs - One hopes, though we can't see how it may yet all be settled~~
~~amicably.~~

~~I should have been glad to be with you when Du Chaillu has his night, but I must get a~~
~~pathway out of this region away from the Portuguese before I can leave. In the meantime I~~
~~wish you all prosperity public & private.~~

~~Yours Affy David Livingstone~~