

Letter to H. Norton Shaw, 1 March 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Pioneer - off Rovuma

1st March 1861

Private

My Dear Shaw

Very many
and hearty thanks
for your letter, and the
packet of journals &c
which accompanied
it. this is the first
scrape of your pen
I have recieved since
we came out and
I confess that I was
beginning to be im-
patient with my
semper idem Friend
[0002]

This however sets all
to rights and I am
quite thankful.

I cannot tell you much
about Rovuma yet
as we are waiting for
H.M.S Lyra which
brings us some coals
We have no bar.
And no bottom was
found with seventeen
fathoms across the
mouth. An immense
body of water rolls
out a mile broad.
We went up some
8 miles yesterday
in a boat & saw
[0003]

that it is evidently
in flood. people
speak same language
as on Zambesi so
we shall get on. We
are trying to get an
entrance exterior to
the Portuguese claims
and are not permitted
to say anything
publicly, so this is
all between ourselves.
but by the way in
three months we
shall be able to give
you a good deal of
information about
[0004]
the Rovuma. At present
we cannot get a syllable
of information from
any one but no sooner
do we publish than
Macqueen will start
up and say he knew
all about it. Why
not tell you all
about it during the
next three months
or before we do?

I am sure that the
journal of Silva Porto
is a literary fraud,
for I met him at
the time specified
[0005]
either 1853 or 4. I
think the former but
quote from memory
alone. He then said
that he had tried to
go East but failed
after going to about
the Kafue. He tried
to send a party of his
people too but, [^][they] failed
and he got to the
West before I did
and his journal
was published while

I was at Loanda.
His meeting with
me mentioned
[0006]
and not a word
about having gone
to the East Coast!!

If M^r Gabriel is
now [^][as he was lately] in England
he will corroborate
the publication. His
agent is Woodhead
& co. James S^t. should
you think it worth
while enquiring

Thanking you for
your kind message
by M^{rs} L.

I am yours ever

David Livingstone

[I do not believe Macqueen guilty but
he is duped by some one.]