

## Letter to Editor of The Times, [11 April 1861]

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

~~The Editor of the Times~~

D<sup>r</sup> Livingstones expedition arrived Pomony Bay, the residence of M<sup>r</sup> consul Sunley on the island of Johanna, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April last the river Rovuma on the of Africa, and came to the chief town to coal "Pioneer" from H.M.S. Wasp the 11<sup>th</sup> They had ascended river only thirty miles, when to wood their ship, a was made on a tree shewed that water was falling at the rate of or seven inches a day. they found some parts carrying more than five or six feet

[0002] water, and as they drew nearly feet, they had to look out and be left, by spending more in going up, fixtures till the of next year. the cause of unsuccessful termination attributed to various delays by the Pioneer[in the voyage out] making at least quite two months the time for a successful up the river. After coaling left for the Zambesi intending go up the Shire, and then a road past Murchison's on that river to Lake . The distance is only five miles, and it is hoped they will carry a boat above the cataracts and

[0003] that means explore the Lake.

It is also in contemplation settle the point whether Rovuma out of Nyassa as asserted all the people they met before in the Pioneer again to river. The Oxford and mission accompany expedition up the Shire, and is proposed to place these on the plateau of 2000 feet [above the sea] on which stands Mount Zomba - there they are to enjoy good health, pursuing their enterprise have had a good deal of fever, but no . The healthy season begins in May.

The Rovuma will probably out to be the entrance into Eastern Africa - it must

[0004] be navigated with a of light draught, and with same skill as is required the above bridge London boats. On the question it actually derives its from Nyassa the D<sup>r</sup> thinks it cannot come out of Nyassa he discovered - but

[from] some other lake. The reasons adduces are - Nyassa is already to give off one large , the Shire - this river rises nor falls more three feet nor is its water discoloured. The Rovuma and falls six or more , becomes very muddy and instance is known of one giving off two large rivers

[0005] probability is therefore that if Rovuma does not come out of Nyassa or Nyanza (lake piece of water) is some than that discovered by Expedition. It is well known lakes having no outlets brackish in the course ages. This is the case with

Shirwa - but Nyassa and

Tanganyika are sweet. the owes its sweetness the Shire flowing out of it. Tanganyika owe its to the Rovuma?

While the Pioneer was at Johanna a French vessel having slaves on board lay anchored

[0006] to H.M.S. Wasp. She came Quiloa on the coast of where the cost of the was twenty two dollars. slave trader then went Comoro Island, and paid

250 dollars to one of the chiefs for a certificate that slaves had been engaged . This last transaction not be hid from the other chiefs, but the cannot be captured. had even the assurance ask a supply of provisions rum from the Man- War. The Emperor of France

[0007] said to have declared that the so called "free emigration" the slave trade he would have it at any price - unfortunately his people it at the prices above .

Private the object of attempting Rovuma is to get an into Eastern Africa to the Portuguese claims hope to carry a boat up Nyassa and ascertain the of the connection any exists, between the and the River.

David Livingstone

[0008]

1861

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Rec: July 16