

Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 13 February 1855

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[0001]

N^o 2[On the Province of Angola]

Cassange 13th February

1855

Sir Roderick I. Murchison

[Insert commencement from 4 Sheet 4 No 1]

Sir

As I have now had the of passing through the Province of Angola twice, and have honestly endeavoured obtain correct knowledge of the country. I to give you my impressions as not to mislead any except those whose views of the world are much more than mine.

As we proceed from the coast inland[,] country[,] except in the vicinity of rivers[,] a rather arid appearance. There are not many trees[,] but abundance of hard grass. But the low meadow lands several miles width[,] lying adjacent to the , are sufficiently fertile, and yield fine crops of sugar cane, different and manioc[,]-([] the staff of life all this part of Africa-[])[,] Also oranges[,] and mangoes of excellent quality. Eastwards we enter on a different of country about Longitude 14° East. is mountainous, well watered with streams, and mollified by fogs

[0002]

[2] deposited from the Western winds, which regularly to different places at different every day. Near the Muria we enter forests whose gigantic trees, covered with or other coloured blossoms, and giving to numerous enormous climbers the curious notes of strange tropical , present the idea of excessive luxuriance recall the feelings of wildness[,] produced standing in similar sylvan scenery the Interior of Brazil. the Palm yields the oil of commerce[,] grows . Pine Apples, bananas and different of South American fruit trees introduced by the missionaries[,] in the woods[,] though apparently and totally uncared for. And most excellent coffee from a few seeds the celebrated Mocha, propagates itself in the forests which line mountain sides. Cotton of rather quality finds itself so well suited climate and soil [^][that] it appears as if . Provisions are abundant cheap. Ten pounds of the produce of Manioc plant[,] which under the

[0003]

[3]classical appellation "Revalenta Arabica" sells England for twentytwo shillings[,] may in the referred to be purchased for a[one] penny. too is abundant and cheap-[:] Two pence day is considered good wages by carpenters[,] , potters &c &c[,] as well as by common . The greatest drawback the population in developing the resources of the country, the want of carriage roads for the conveyance produce to markets. the slave trade led the neglect of every permanent source wealth. All the merchandise of the Interior transported on the shoulders and heads the slaves[,] who equally with the goods intended for exportation. And even the traffic has been effectually repressed our cruizers[,] human labour for transport alone been available. this is a most and dilatory system[:][for][as] the merchants persons of smaller means[,] on whose access to a proper market would a most beneficial effect, possess no for exertion in cultivation. Some is made of the river zenza by means canoes[,] and considerable trade is carried between the districts on the Coanza and Loanda by the same means[:][but] the bars

[0004]

[4] at the mouths of both rivers present serious to speedy transit.

the country still farther inland becomes gradually open. Ambaca presents an undulating with ranges of mountains on each in the distance. It possesses a great of fine little rivers[streams][,] which might turned to much advantage for water and irrigation. Both it and Pungo abound in cattle. The latter seems elevated[,], for as we cross the Lotete[,], boundary between the two districts[,], we upon the same vegetation and trees characterise Luinda. Wheat, grapes European vegetables grow in nearly the same spots with bananas and other tropical . Indeed by selecting proper localities[,], sugar, coffee and other products of climates might be raised to any in this fine and beautiful . together with many of the grains fruits of colder countries. No have hitherto been made to the internal resources of the . It is but lately that coffee were turned to as a source wealth. Some were discovered during progress through the country, and

[0005]

[5] the actual extent of the tree is still unknown. I it at Tala Mungongo[,], nearly 300 miles from coast. *Insert * Different kinds of gum abound, as gum elemi, India rubber &c. And among , very superior iron all through the country. Rich copper-ore in the Interior of Ambriz & there are indications of coal.

Cassange is at present the farthest inland of the Portuguese. It may be called commercial capital of the Interior. Trade ivory and wax is carried on with great and success. And very large quantities English cotton goods are sent into the country [,] by means of native or half blood . the merchants treat their customers great liberality. At the time I write Captain Neves is preparing presents[,], consisting cloth, beads, carpets[,], furniture &c. of upwards £50 value for Matiamvo, the most powerful East of this. this chief lives Long. 24° and monopolizes the ~~thenotext~~ trade which[,], but for him[,], might pass tribes called Kanyika beyond him. [22][Transfer to No 1 22] My intention is to proceed to his[Matiamvo] town turning Southward. ~~And~~[T]aking it granted that I shall come into his graces[,], our progress through his country be comparatively easy[,], and the route[,], the whole[,], not much longer than zigzag ~~one~~[way] we were forced to adopt coming here. The only thing which may

[0006]

[22 No 1 continued] hinder the execution of this plan[,], will be the of my companions to return as speedily possible by the path we already know. It the first time they have gone into other lands for plunder-[:]; And they have followed wishes so implicitly hitherto[,], it would not be in me to thwart theirs.[6 No 2]~~After this long digression I may add that~~[T]he deep valley of Cassange is wonderfully fertile, but success trade prevents the merchants from paying attention to agriculture. The soil, so far present experience goes, would place M^r 's pipes for liquid manure at a , for it requires nothing but labour-[:]; more it is worked[,], the more fruitful becomes.

[Insert section &c]the Government of the country may be as a military one[,], and closely resembles which Sir Harry Smith endeavoured in to introduce among the Caffres. The are exceedingly light[,], consisting of tax of eight pence on each hearth, and on each head of cattle. something also levied on gardens near the coast and weavers and smiths. The population is , between five and six hundred thousand being under the sway of the Portuguese. of this large number[,], the majority are free-

[0007] [7]born. In those districts, to the statistics of which I access, the slaves did not form 5 percent of entire population, and a very large proportion dependant on agriculture

alone. There are few whites comparatively, and from the polite in which persons of colour are addressed and to the tables of the more affluent, it might be inferred that there is as little prejudice against as in any country in the world. Nothing more remarkable than the change on convicts by their residence in this. No sooner do they arrive[,] than they enlisted into the 1st Regiment of the Line perform similar duties to our Foot Guards London. the eleven thousand inhabitants Loanda go comfortably to bed every night[,] they know that the citadels and the arms of Loanda are in the hands of convicts, many of whom have been transported for life. the officers are not supposed to have been guilty of any offence against the laws of their country and probably they may have influence with the men; but testimony even is that the men perform duty well, and are excellent soldiers. ascribe the remarkable change to the hopelessness of escape[,] - the certainty of and punishment of any crime[,] - the fear of being sent to the deadly

[0008]

[8] district of St Jose de Encage (something like our -island, but not so bad)[,] but however for, the beneficial change in the is unquestionable.

Another pleasing feature in the population is the ability of many to read and write. is considered a disgrace in Ambaca for a free man of either colour to be unable to write. this general diffusion of education is the result of the teaching of the Jesuits, who were expelled from the country by the Marquis of Pombal. If the results of their teaching have been so permanent, anything like a supply of books, may be allowed to indulge the hope that the labours of Protestants of all [,] who endeavour to leave 's word behind them, will be not abiding.

[Insert from Sheet 4 and 5 of No 1] this is accompanied by a map intended to replace that lost in the "Forerunner". I have all my observations to Thomas Maclear Esq the Royal Observatory at the Cape, and beg my positions may be considered sub judice[,] he gives his opinion.

I am Sir. Your most obedient Servant

David Livingston