

## Letter to John Washington, 10 October 1859

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

We found the southern edge of Zomba 6600 - a peak 8 or 10 miles off must be eight thousand. Air delightfully cool, water delicious & plenty of it  
D<sup>r</sup> Kirk botanized up a peach a mile from our camp 500 ft. more (or 7000 say)

(I)

Murchison's Cataract

10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1859

My Dear Captain Washington

we have traced this  
river up to its point of departure from  
Lake Nyinyesi or as we heard it  
called there Nyassa and found  
that there are only thirty miles [(say 33)] of  
cataract and the river is placid  
up to 14° 25' S. where Nyassa  
begins. We abandoned our intention  
of going up the Ruo when we  
found that M<sup>r</sup> Laird's precious  
Punt was in a sinking state:  
Funnel, Furnace, Deck &  
Bottom went shaky simultaneously  
so it would have been unadvisable  
to be encamped near the border  
tribes about Ruo. We came on to  
Chibisa's taking nearly a month  
to do what an ordinary steamer  
would have done & what we can  
do (with the current) in three  
days. We proceeded over land  
to Zomba & then descended  
[0002]

We must have a steamer capable of being unscrewed here & carried 30 miles. No more Macgregor Laird shams please.

into the Shire valley & followed the river  
up to the Nyassa. It was the hottest  
season of the year - the "smokes" from  
the burning of thousands of acres

of tall grass = a broiling hot London  
fog if you can imagine such a  
thing. We were 37 in all D<sup>r</sup> Kirk M<sup>r</sup>  
C. Livingstone, M<sup>r</sup> Rae & 33 Makololo  
all were delighted with the country & no  
wonder for it is mountainous &  
every few miles we had streams of  
delicious cool water. It was Londa  
again. A great deal of cotton is cultivated  
and indeed the Lake region opens up  
the finest cotton & sugar country in the  
world. Remember please when I  
say so that I invariably discouraged  
the formation of any company or  
other speculation, but the time  
has come when with calm deliberation  
I can say there is a glorious prospect  
for both Africa and England. No  
matter what you have done there is  
now an opportunity for you doing  
more than ever, for, the two Lakes  
Shirwa (which means simply - {Great  
water) or Tamandua and  
Nyinyesi or Nyassa lie parallel to  
the East coast and all the slave  
trade of Anghozia & Mosambique  
[0003]

We hope to send off Thornton - disease, laziness, Baines - theft  
He has stolen a great deal & given away to Portuguese ticket of leave men  
public property & provisions  
I stopped Baines pay on 30 July, but think anything on hand of his  
ought to be stopped till he accounts for stolen goods

from the Interior crosses these Lakes  
or rather crosses Shire and then goes  
along the partition between them - Tamandua  
extreme length is about 90 miles  
Nyinyesi no one could tell more than  
after months to the North it turned  
round into the sea. We met a  
large slaving party from Cazembes  
country & bought fine specimens of  
Malachite from them. When they  
knew we were English they evaporated  
by night They had a great many  
slaves and elephants tusks. Now  
lawful commerce would eat out  
that traffic ere long, but it must  
be untrammelled by Portuguese  
restrictions and I now give you

the points about which you will probably be consulted.

The Kongone or as it is sometimes called Nyangalüe was quite unknown to the Portuguese and lately when we went down to meet the "Persian" slaves were sent to follow & report on where we had found a navigable bar. This though we had given plans of it they knew Melambe six miles west of it but not Kongone [0004]

Not a line from you yet I am &c Ever Yours David Livingstone

Then, the Governor General of Mosambique sent for a half cast called Paul Mariano a few months ago to ask him if the Zambesi really entered the sea at the Luabo! & shewed him my map. And again a slave from Senna our interpreter in last journey was sent for to Mosambique to be pumped by His Excellency as to where we had been. The Shire being wholly unknown to them except 3 miles at its mouth. All is English discovery exactly as in the Niger and all the right or Southern bank which at Shupanga they farm is paid tribute for by the Portuguese to the Natives. From Kongone up to this is all English discovery & ought to be free for the Portuguese line of discovery ran from Sofala to Senna and then across the country to Quilimane

M<sup>r</sup> Candido denied to D<sup>r</sup> Kirk that he had told me of his having been to Nyanja. then reasserted to me that he had been there & pointed to it, N. N. W. of Tette. That he punted 36 hours under cabbage palms - quite soft. If he had seen a Lake at all it was Not Nyassa for it is deep & has no cabbages & it is N. E. instead of N. N. W. of Tette