

Letter to [Joseph B. Braithwaite], 24 October 1859

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[0001]

River Shire 24th Oct^r

1859

Private

My Dear Friend[[J. B. Braithwaite]]

We have traced this up to its point of emergence from hitherto ~~undiscovered~~[unexplored] Lake Nyassa have thus made an opening into cotton producing country superior the American. for here there are frosts to endanger or cut off the and instead of the never toil necessary to raise a plant on that soil one here serves for three crops even though the plants burned off. I have alway said the fine country for the pro-of raw material for our and which I thought still ~~do~~ think destined to free from the stain of dependence slave labour, is situated North 14° or 15° of south Latitude and we have entered it in a quarter which we never dreamed. ~~And in consequences of hindrances but little creditable to ship builders & others. We havethis~~[The] river Shire[is] better adapted for navigation than even the Zambesi. One hundred miles without obstacle. then 33 miles of cataracts which a common road easily be made. Above this Shire is placed again right into the Lake Nyassa in 14° 25 S. Lat. the above the cataracts ~~has~~ is arranged three terraces. the lowest, ~~or valley~~[or valley] the Shire is 1200 feet high and exactly ~~the~~[that of the] Nile at Cairo. a second terrace of it is over 2000 ft and a 3000 ft. All are well supplied running rills of deliciously water You will percieve that have here changes of climate within few miles of each other. On the terrace rises the Mount Zomba a base some 20 miles in diameter from 7000 to 8000 feet in . On the other terraces it was cool in the hottest period of yearon Zomba we found it . One of the greatest benefits our will confer is the cure of even in the lowlands without

[0003] [(in general)] loss of strength in the . We use quinine in the cure as a preventative it is a farce ~~to use quinine wine, only good to fill the pockets of the selfinterested.~~ On all the cotton is now grown very . the people are great and have no cattle. the say that they are of quick even in a state of slavery found that their suspicions we might after all turn out to be marauding party were most allayed by frankly telling that we came to mark the paths our countrymen to come and their cotton.

Lake Shirwa or as its proper is, Tamandua is miles long. but no one tell us where the head of

Nyassa or Nyinyesi lay It had heavy swell on it though there no wind and it never varies far as we could see in height

[though it gives off constantly the Shire which may be called 80 to 150 yards wide with a two fathom channel.]

[0004] a two & a half knot current. Even

[^][the] Shire never varies more than from

2 to 3 feet from the wet to the dry season two Lakes lie parallel with the coast and all the trade from Interior must cross the Shire where comes out of Nyassa then go the partition between the Lakes embarking on either. We met East coast slaving party there more blackguard looking lot I never . they had an immense number slaves and Elephants tusks with . We bought some fine

pieces malachite from them. On learning we were English they made off with the same opinion of us we had of them

Confidential We have submitted a plan an English station to H M. Government It would cut off the slave & other trade from

Mosambique and several other ports. I have M^r Venn recommending the church society to occupy this most field. but we must be still the Portuguese smell out our intentions[...] [I want a small steamer on the Nyassa. Lawful commerce would cut out that in slaves & develop the Cotton Trade.

D. Livingstone.]

I enclose a letter for the Times again. It may be sent if the other noticed. My love to all the friends at Kendal

[we] could not explore Nyasa. It seemed about 8 or ten miles broad
[at this] end. Lairds vessel was in a sinking state. Funnel Furnace

[0005] & Bottom went done simultaneously - £1200 for 12 months wear fairish without any whine of "doing it for the good of the cause"