

Letter to Unknown, 7 December 1857

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

50 Albemarle St.

7 Dec^r 1857

Sir

The company which
was attempted to be
formed at Lisbon
on the plan of the
East India Company
did not recieve the
sanction of the
Portuguese Government

[0002]

It was concocted by
a gentleman who
is reported to have
been a little "cracked"
but the main idea
commended itself
to many as feasible
The numbers that
supported him
in bringing it
before the govern
ment shewed anxiety
to get the country
off their hands

[0003]

but a pretty evident
desire also to
secure the ultimate
benefits of English
capital & commercial
enterprise to Portugal
alone. In returning
my great desire
is to get the Zambesi
proclaimed a free
pathway to the country
beyond their possession

They will derive
benefit thereby but
[0004]
it remains to be seen
whether the Portuguese
Government is
enlightened enough to
see their own
interest. If free passage
is granted frankly
then there is little doubt
but that the Interior
will be opened to
trade & civilization

The work of S^r
Botelho with which you
are no doubt acquainted
gives a very glowing account
of the resources of East Africa

I am &c David Livingstone