

## Letter to Unknown, 7 December 1861

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[0001]

~~River Shire 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>~~

1861

~~Private~~

~~My Dear Friend~~

~~I believe I wrote to you  
on the arrival of the Pioneer about the  
beginning of this year thanking you  
for your very kind remembrance  
of me in sending all the Society's publica-  
tions - Some of the French journals  
and a kind note besides. I had begun  
to despair, and thought you had forgotten  
me but the appearance of these things  
made me both ashamed & thankful.  
That old heathen Arrowsmith never  
once wrote to me - though I twice wrote  
to him. May he live till long after  
I come home that I may punish  
him for his negligence~~

We have been up to Lake Nyassa  
and carried a boat passed the cataracts  
[0002]

to explore by. Went along the Western  
shore but a paper I have written for  
the Society and send through Lord John  
Russell will give you all particulars  
It is very deep - from 20 to 50 or 60  
miles broad and over 200 miles long  
(225) - It was excessively stormy and  
you must not despise us for failing  
to find out all about the Rovuma.  
We were on the West side and could not  
cross in a little open boat at the period  
of the Equinoctial gales - then we could  
get no food in a depopulated part of  
the country near the North end. Pirates  
live on detached rocks - and human  
skeletons & putrid bodies (~~exactly like~~

the old dissecting room odour) were  
lying everywhere. It was like a fair dead  
lock for us and we came back  
intending to bend all our energies to-  
wards placing a steamer on the  
Lake - this will take a year at least  
[0003]

Another Lake called Moelo was reported  
by two Arabs we met on the Lake  
they came from a place called  
Katanga which seems to be S.S.W of  
Cazembe - they had come down to  
buy cloth at Nyassa. When we  
have the steamer up we shall be  
able to examine to country adjacent  
with Ease.

I shall enclose a sketch of the Lake  
that if you think proper Mr George  
may make an enlarged one for  
exhibition supposing you again  
favour my paper with a reading.  
The Latitudes are all correct and  
the longitudes pretty nearly so  
if we take as a basis Mr Maclear's  
determination of my former  
observations at the Lake - the first  
observation is 2 up the Lake and  
about 1 west of our former observ-  
ations [0004]  
at Mosanha's vil.

What do you think of your Yankee  
friends now? I am very sorry  
to hear of the break up. they were  
such a glorious standing protest  
against old world tyranny,  
but by their horrid slave system  
sent all to the dogs - One hopes,  
though we can't see how it may  
yet all be settled amicably.

I should have been glad to be  
with you when Du Chaillu has his  
night, but I must get a pathway  
out of this region away from the  
Portuguese before I can leave.  
In the meantime I wish you  
all prosperity public & private

Yours Aff<sup>ly</sup>  
David Livingstone