

Letter to H. Bartle E. Frere, 1 February 1867

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Bemba. 1st February 1867.

Copy

~~My dear Sir Bartle,~~

~~By the first opportunity I have met with since we left the coast I send a Despatch for Lord Clarendon, & a request to Dr Seward to copy it for your private information. It does not coincide with the views of Col: Pelly, and I assure you it was not without long and anxious thought that I ventured to differ with him from him. I do not refer to him by name but feeling convinced that his reasoning as to the continuance of the Zanzibar Slave trade is untenable I beg that you will do me the favour to read a portion at least of what I have written. My sorrowful convictions have been deepened by all I have seen of the working of the system, & the dire ruin which for the sake of this paltry island annually overtakes much larger & more beautiful portions of Country. I have been quite unable to copy it myself. I had no prospect of sending coast wise, but I met a party of black Arab slave traders from Bagamois, near Zanzibar, and while they agree to take a they will not wait more than half a day for me write; they have come here for the first time - About 10° 10' south Lat. & 31° 50' East Long.~~

We have been a long time in making our way here, but of the delay was pleasant for I had intercourse with who had not engaged in the slave trade. We came

[0002] the south end of the Lake. I was apprehensive if I took Johanna men round the Northern Extremity they would at the first sight of danger. They actually did run away mere report of the doings of the terrible Mazitu or Zulus & was left with a following of nine Africans, six of whom Nassick boys. The Johanna men had proved themselves thieves it was a relief to get rid of them. The most chief on the watershed between coast & Lake, Mataka wished very much that some of the boys remain with him & shew the use that could be of his cattle in Agriculture. Abraham met two there, but no entreaty would induce him to though Mataka was extremely liberal & seemed to d them all. "How can I stop where I have no mother & "no sister?" was the invariable reply. I promised to try & get some boys acquainted with Indian Agriculture the same school; but the system for teaching for India & not for Africa had better be recalled altered.

Abraham has done good service to me since so I have no to be dissatisfied with him.//I was obliged to go very carefully cautiously, and seven or eight miles was all could accomplish in a day. We went Westwards the heel of the Lake - ascended Kirk's range which only the edge of a plateau densely populated peopled various tribes of Manganja who have not yet in slaving. After going Westwards till we were the Longitude of the Mazitu, we turned to the North, & taking up the point we left off at in 1863 we continued Northerly course, at times making a little westing. crossed the wide valley in which the Loangua flows - bed of an ancient Lake - the ascended the heights of Lobisa in the Southern borders of Lat. 11° South. Here we came

[0003] a depopulated country - an immense forest. The Babisa eager slavetraders & the

ruin that has followed that is now apparent in only a few hamlets occurring wide intervals - & small patches of a species of at various parts in the jungle. The people had or no grain to sell. They were living on Mushrooms, good only for producing dreams of roast of bygone days. While in the valley of the Loangua had plenty of game & easily kept the pots boiling, here not a beast was to be seen, & daily trudging dripping sloppy forests with the feet almost wet, and gnawing hunger in the inner man the flesh off our bones. We crossed the Chambeze, Zambeze is here called, in Lat. 10° 34' S. only 40 wide. but it had plenty of animals on its banks & soon got a supply of meat. This, the chief town of side of Bemba has a treble stockade round it - the line having a deep ditch besides. If not mistaken are on the water shed between Chambeza and Luapula is said to flow into Lake Tanganyika. It is said be very large but I hope to let you know better from the itself where I hope to find letters & our second of goods. We are 4,500 feet above the sea, the cool & the rains more abundant than I ever them in Africa - very few days pass without a . The Interior is chiefly forest & excessively - one can see but a little way of on an elevation. Gum copal tree, another, a Cres Alpinca, abound, Rhododendrons & various evergreen tress - the first furnish the bark cloth with is the principal of the people. We have had no difficulties with natives. Hunger & wet have been our greatest hindrances could not for some time find out where the Portuguese

[0004] Cazembalay but it has been placed by the map makers far East. Hence they had no mountain chains such we have met with. The watershed between Loangua & Chambeze is 6,600 feet above the sea - They went in of ivory and slaves.

In case the sepoys destroyed my letter which I sent with them I may say that their scheme was to me to return as soon as they had killed all the of burden. The Havildar actually payed in of the rest eight Rupees to our Arab guide to & lead them back to the coast. When found out was a good deal of blubbering & they eagerly a sentence to carry light loads. They obeyed of the Havildar's orders he evidently conniving them. They were an intolerable drag & frustrated best means I could devise for securing provisions by my going forward and sending in all directions for food. They would not march if I were present & even then when I was out of sight lay down & slept. On finding that one Bunado to shoot a Nassick boy when he got him out English power I sent them back with ample cloth the hands of a merchant to pay all expenses. The came on but could be made of no use in any - & when we heard at the Lake that the seven of the party had remained at Matakas food was abundant in order probably to let pay accumulate while they played the mendicant Havildar became sulky and shammed unaccountable in his feet & returned to join the others.

Mataka's town & country are the most likely for a settlement to be made. It is elevated & . English peas were in full bearing & bloom in

[0005] . the altitude is over 3000 feet & his country is & abounds in running streams the of the Rovuma. D^r Norman Macleod promised to try & get some German missionaries from

Harmsburg in Hanover & salaries for them if I could a locality. these same men go without salaries

& are artificers of different kinds but this is a mistake ought to have a little for some of them have in sheer taken to selling brandy even - but at Makata's could easily raise wheat by sowing it at the time, & native produce by planting when rains come - but it would require a leader of energy - & not a fellow who would wring his if he had no sugar & his tea. I have forgotten the taste of sugar, & tea is made roasting a little Joare & calling the decoction tea or coffee. I have written to the D^r & given account of the difficulties to be overcome. 300 is a long way to go but I feel more & more that Africa must be christianized from .

Believe me affectionately yours

(signed) David Livingstone

His Highness the Sultan did all he could for us & extremely kind but his people to whom I bore epistle all skedaddled as soon as they heard the "English were coming. " The Dhowes (2) on Lake were kept out of my way lest I should them as slavers! & I could not get across the of the Lake.