

## Letter to Thomas Milne, 28 October 1859

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[0001]

River Shire, Eastern Africa

28 October 1859

Private

My Dear r Milne we have not yet any letters from home since departure in 1858 I take advantage this and skip over apologies to those my friends whom I have neglected I may say to you and M<sup>rs</sup> M. that have not been idle, nor have I felt ease when I remembered my duty to . I have been employed in which I did contemplate on you. The naval officer whom I was furnished was with the idea that instead coming to seek the elevation of the and developement of the . he was about to discover ten lost tribes, as if of all things the world we had not plenty Jews already. I was soon forced send this visionary away and do work myself. though I assure you would as soon drive a cab as a

[0002] . We have but lately begun proper work. and I am happy to you that our prospects brighten I never contemplated exploring. ~~went~~[steamed] up this river over one hundred though only three were previously to the Portuguese. We have traced it on foot another hundred found that it emerges from hitherto undiscovered Lake Nyassa Nyinyesi. This lake must be for it gives off a large river

(Shire) without diminution of more two feet during the whole year. there too only 33 miles of cataracts in and a common road could easily made past them. Here you find finest cotton field in the world it is of unknown extent watered the Lakes - Nyassa & Tamàndua there are no frosts to endanger cut off the crops as in America too of the unmerciful toil to raise the crops in that - one sowing of foreign of American seed already by the natives themselves

[0003] for crops for three years though plants be annually burned down. have besides changes of climate by the land lying in terraces different heights. The third terrace 3000 feet high - and on it the Mount Zomba between

7000 & 8000 feet in altitude one march took us from the sultry valley of the Shire into a climate, and all the terraces abundantly supplied with rills of deliciously water. Fancy our tramping the sun when the thermometer the ground reached 126° and up two thousand feet air delightfully refreshing. Then to Zomba into the cold. I am that the Church Missionary long anxious to enter Eastern will take advantage of this . they can be away from unfriendly coast tribes at once - check the slave trade in the of the slave market. We met large party of East coast slave

[0004] with an immense number of and elephants tusks. A more black- gaurd looking lot I never saw. When found out that we were English slipped off by night, probably thinking same of us as we did of them. policy of Lord Palmerston in the slave trade has given the a prestige of great value. the

Lake Tamàndua is about ninety miles . but no one could tell us how Nyassa was. We could not explore for we had left our sham vessel a steamer in a sinking state. , Furnace, Deck & Bottom down simulaneously after only

12 months wear. £1200 for 12 months

(extras all paid for besides), was pretty without any whine from the of "doing it all for the good of cause." It has been a great hindrance us from first to last involving toil, and as in the

Great

Niger expedition, always wet. Indeed have lain for many months on rotten cushions - but thanks to we have not lost a man yet. have had a first rate opportunity of the remedies for fever I had opted when & have been sucessful David Livingstone

Please present my kindest salutations to M<sup>rs</sup> M. I remember her kindness gratitude. Remember me also to other friends. My wife is at Kuruman

[0005]

My Address if you favour me with a letter, I don't say  
"line" only is D<sup>r</sup> L care of Admiral Sir F. Grey K.C.B. Cape of Good Hope