

Letter to Robert M. Livingstone, 20 February 1863

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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River Shire 20 February
1863

My Dear Robert

In ascending this river the Lady Nyassa in tow alongside, had no difficulty till we got to the Elephant marsh, and there in sudden we found it an awkward matter get along, for two vessels cannot be so quickly as one, and Lady being pretty deep would go, and was very difficult to off. Further up the river had risen one foot eleven inches instead of three feet, so we have lost time than we anticipated. But important work is ever accom- without considerable trouble.

We found that slave hunting and had produced fearful effects our absence. We counted about two dead bodies floating down we came up. The smiling villages we could last year have bought amount of provisions are now burned and we saw only a few people trying to save themselves starving by fishing and collecting seeds of grasses. Indeed our work be greatly increased for now must get all our provisions for & workmen from great distances

[0002] me this retention of the slave trade is great affliction. It destroys my hopes benefitting the natives of the lower, and I only trust that we may do good service on Lake Nyassa. Tette people began the work of depopulation our footsteps, then a half caste called

Mariano devastated the country around

Mount Clarendon. The loss of life has fearful. Others have made slave in other directions, and no interferes until the culprit rich enough to be squeezed. He is and allowed to begin again at old trade of slave hunting. The why no resistance can be by the people themselves is and arrows are nothing to guns anyone with a few muskets & may begin slavehunting. the west coast Lord Palmerston a squadron of men of war to stop slave trade, and allow civilisation begin its operations. Twenty missions established, and twenty dialects to writing. some twelve thousand have been received different churches, and thousands educated. Good influences are inland so that the lawful is increased from £20,000 per to between £2,000,000 & £3,000,000 ships are employed in carrying it

[0003] than ever were engaged in the slave trade. think Lord Palmerston has done more Africa than any man who has, and he did it in spite of much. I have heard men say the squadron rather increased than the horrors of the slave trade, officers said they were doing more than good. He persevered in of it all, and is an example should copy. Take a right course go through with it whatever may say or think. Well while that was doing on the West coast, has been doing here, because a few convicts have been intro-, and we can see reason to fear even our efforts will be frustrated. Universities Mission is driven an unhealthy corner by slave. the parsons who joined it it much more difficult than they imagined would to be well out of it. but never, others will take up the work. sway of Satan can't be for ever, He will come whose right is to reign. they had a number black men from the cape who out badly, and altogether they found it far from being sailing

[...] [stream]. It has been uphill.

[0004] it always in at the commencement missions in uncivilized parts. It was with Grandfather Moffats mission as may have read in his book

We expect a M^r Jehan a missionary five Scotch mechanics to join us reading my book they resolved work at their trades in the Cape their wages going to a common . they bought a waggon and to proceed over land to us the Governor of the Cape wrote ask me about sending them by man of war to the Zambesi and agreed to recieve them. They are by a smith 2 masons & 2 carpenters should they give an example of industry and christian life to the on the Lake they may do much

Let your brothers and sister read this I don't wish it to be shewn to . I shall write to Oswell a good letter like this next. I am expecting from you all soon. Think dear Mama as seeing you all above all of Jesus our Lord knows our hearts and all our . Kiss Anna Mary for me may the Lord bless you all
& put you for his service