

Letter to H. Bartle E. Frere, 27 November 1870

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

P.S. Nov^r 27. 1870 I have not a morsel of left so I take a leaf out of my cheque book to give the latest information and materials to correct some mentioned in the letter

West of the Sualaba the central line of drainage the Great Nile Valley. These are two large each the same native name Sualaba - These two unite form a large Lake which I am fain to call Lake . Looking back from this Lake to the sewers the Watershed a remarkable mound gives out four not more than ten miles apart. Two of these on northern side form large rivers which again form Lake , and then the united stream coming out thence I suppose into the Western arm of the Nile have presumed to give your name to one of the fountains a river by anticipation, for if I have any good at all I shall reach them ere this reaches you the two fountains on the south side of the Mound is so large a man cannot be seen on the other . I call it after good Lord Palmerston. It is

[0002] course of the Seambai or Leeambye = the upper

Zambesi - the last fountain gives rise to the [...] down before it falls into the Zambesi is named Kafue - These fountains are probably the "unfathomable

"fountains of the Nile" mentioned to Herodotus by the of Minerva in the City of Sais from which

"half the water flowed northward to Egypt, the other

"half Southward into inner Ethiopia". I heard of this spot, which if in Armenia would be the nearly of the Garden of Eden from the natives

200 miles on the South West - again on the South East & 150 miles off - then on the North East 180 miles and here on the N.N.E. many intelligent who have visited it, and had their wonder excited as as that of the natives give substantially the same . The Watershed from which the fountains of the

Nile do unquestionably arise and on which stand Ptolemy of the Moon, is in length 700 & 800 from West to East the Water collects into three of drainage. The Tanganyika whose majestic flow

[0003] marked by miles & miles of and other aquatic for three months during my illness at

with Lower Tanganyika discovered by Baker a River from 20 to 30 miles broad. This Sualaba is another river from two to six miles or more broad Western Line & drainage is equally large. Ptolemy but two of these head waters but he probably got from his predecessors who enquired of men had visited this very region and mistakes were in oral information Spekes great mistake the pursuit of a foregone conclusion. When he discovered Victoria Nyanza he at once leaped to the conclusion therein lay the sources, but subsequently as soon he and Grant looked to the Nyanza they turned backs on the Nile fountains Had they doubled the of their conclusion they would have come West the trough of the great Valley and found these mighty not 80 or 90 yards as their White Nile but from

4000 to 800 yards and always deep I felt a little thank to Old Nile for so hiding his big head as to leave all

[0004] discoverers out in the cold

Captain Singleton may have come to the Southern of Tanganyika - never by the north end of Msau & crossed the Lualaba & then gone West by & abreast of the Conge Salis yet

undiscovered. The tusks are eagerly collected from the interminable on Manyema where they have lain till one half I saw the same thing at Lake Ngami. Defoe have got his story from the supercargo - he began understand the Gunners Charts very well & this could have been the Captain trying to magnify the he speaks of deserts where exist. could scarcely have come through this region without plagued by the grass, and water is so abundant is ever carried by travellers - No tradition exists any white man coming through the are as "they the donkey" as they had one with them

I have now a sore longing to retire - no letters the date 1866 have reached me An impertinent from the Supernumery Under Secretary Murray in the

[0005] Office forbids me having any claim no matter services I may render He got Lord Russells signature but it contained internal evidence that Lordship knew nothing about it He might future Governments to give but never not to give worried me, and it is not without care that I to make a complete work of the sources I in a strait - duty draws me towards my family duty draws me to finish the work undertaken

David Livingstone