

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 12 October 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Lake Nyassa 12 Oct^r 1861

Private

My Dear Tom

I often think that one the greatest blessings God bestowed me was birth in a Christian land Christian parents and among those loved the Lord Jesus. I feel how was the benefit bestowed when see human bones bleaching on the of this Lake or have the sense of offended by coming near human rotting on the beach. The children except in colour, just like children home - the same merry shouts at - the same tones of voice in , but here no church going bell is heard - no school has ever been to teach either young or old. goes on whenever a slave comes - the people offer children us - We seem in the kingdom of where men are without affection. but this state is indebted to war tormented by slave traders or by native . the majority of the people before invaders and as we saw the Shire place a river between

[0002] and their enemies. Then comes for the food is all left behind parents have often to part with children for food or the parents die the children are left desolate - headmen sell them - We came into a surrounded by beautiful shady & stopped under them to breakfast sadly emaciated child was sitting picking grains of corn & eating them. but that we were the slavehunters whom it had escaped across the it made off crying though so weak it only crawl on hands & knees. took some of our breakfast to give but it had secreted itself among the grass & could not be found - Many will perish in consequence the Ajawa invasion. which Ajawa only a small body of 60 or so robbers murderers urged on by Portuguese kill all the able bodied men of a and sell the women & children about three yards of calico worth pence. If you knew how this fair portion of the world is by wickedness of those who dwell in it you would pray heartily "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be in earth as it is in heaven.

[0003] hope to place a steamer on this and this would do little without Mission. The Free Church of proposes to send one, and I to hear of it - We have been looking many places for a suitable locality At Makuza with a chief called

Marenga we think they might be . We have always to of the healthiness of the place and curiously enough the or absence of Mosquitoes us in forming our judgement great many of these troublesome shews where much fever be expected - The missionaries require a steamer and it is well they have many good friends Glasgow who would gladly them to one. We expect to have capable of being unscrewed at the of the cataracts and carried past pieces. Were it on the Lake now could save hundreds of lives buying food at one part of the where it is cheap and giving to the perishing. they would not our motives but in time they

[0004] would discover that the love of christ us. We have had the honour lead the mission of the English up to the Mang-anja high- lands. they settled on a nice spot by a about the size of the Calder at the 's bridge. It forms a bend thus

and on the promontory at they . the water was quite too cold to in when I was there. they

[symbol of a stream]

are 3000 ft above the sea. and lofty rise East of them with the of Lake Shirwa at their base.

[cross symbol]

We to speak with the Ajawa robbers whom all the people were fleeing nearly lost our lives by some with us calling out "Here is our " this Chibisa is believed to have powerful war medicine & on the rushed at us and would have made an end of us all were by this foolish cry deprived of shield of our good name and all could say in explanation was on as an evidence of fear, but protected us and the Ajawa have that part of the country. I fear that will find my writing difficult as I to write with the paper on my knee bless you and save you

David Livingstone