

## Letter to John Murray III, 1 November 1859

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[0001]

River Shire- 1<sup>st</sup> November  
1859

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Murray

Never a blessed word we got from any of our since we left England we hear that there is a mail us at Senna and a surfeit newspapers. I am therefore to yield myself utterly the feast by writing to my . and having forgotten address of M<sup>r</sup> Elwes of the I beg to entrust my to him to you.

We have just traced this river to its source in Lake Nyassa

[0002] we had a long tramp of 250 on foot through a very fine watered mountainous country it being the hot season of the when we travelled we had just much foot work as is good Europeans at a dose. We not explore Nyassa as we left M<sup>r</sup> Macgregor Laird's vessel in a sinking state. - Furnace - Deck and Bottom went honeycombed after only months wear - £1200 for 12 months fairish with the whine of "doing it for the good of the cause." Lake is large if one may judge the swell when there is no wind the Shire is given off constantly causing any alteration in height of the Lake. The Shire is from

[0003]

80 to 150 yards wide - ten or 12 feet deep a two & and a half knot current, yet varies more than 2 or 3 feet wet to dry season. there are 33 miles of cataracts in it and common road could without difficulty made past them. The country is elevated and lies in three terraces - of 1200 feet - 2000ft and

3000 feet high respectively. On the last the lofty mountain Zomba we ascended and found to be 7000 & 8000 feet high. Yet on the top. the country well adapted for cotton and is now grown pretty extensively terraces have great numbers running rills of deliciously cool and they present changes of within a few miles of each other

[0004] was delightfully cool on the third even in the hottest period of the and on Zomba it was cold. remarkably white lichen may have those who saw some white in the North. I think we have here in the lands watered by the Lakes a cotton of unlimited extent. We have frosts to cut off the crops and one of foreign seed serves for three - the natives have introduced it . The Lakes lie parallel with of the notorious slaving ports on the coast and traders must cross the between them in coming from Interior. Lawful commerce & missions do an immense good here in the of time. I send a photograph on bad which will shew you the similarity the Ancient Egyptian and modern pestles & mortars. Kind regards to

M<sup>rs</sup> Murray M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Cook. David Livingstone