

## Letter to Vincent W. Ryan, 26 September 1856

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[0001]

Claremont 26<sup>th</sup> September

1856

My Lord

I herewith return the Church Missionary Intelligencer with many thanks. I was not previously aware of its existence, having been disappointed in the expectation of seeing a similar publication given to the public in 1850. It was projected by M<sup>r</sup> Taylor the author of the "Natural history of Enthusiasm" near whom I lived while he was in Essex. I tried to do my best for it by giving the only detailed account of the discovery of Lake Ngami I ever wrote but it never saw daylight. I hope this work will continue to be carried on with spirit as it seems well adapted to be extensively useful

[0002]

the accounts given by Rev S. Crowther are deeply interesting and his experience on the banks of the Niger strike me as closely resembling my own, among tribes of the true Negro family in the centre of the country. Their friendly disposition to the white man (and where we are known to the Englishman as the best specimen of the white man) - their love of barter, and strong religious tendencies, constitute very interesting features in their character and I hope that God will lead His people to send them that gospel by which the poor dwellers in the wilderness will be made to bow down before Him. In ascending the Leambye (Zambesi) to the country of the true negroes called Londa I rescued eighteen captives made by the Makololo in a foray a short

[0003]

time before and returned them to their families which I guess was not a bad

passport for the first Englishman  
they had ever seen. In returning,  
two chiefs Masiko and Mboela, brothers  
by the same father but different mothers  
were on the point of fighting and I  
believe actually had a skirmish but  
both sent embassies to me the one  
blaming the other [for] the breach of the peace  
which I had enjoined. One party followed  
us down the river about 100 miles to  
tell me that Masiko had been attacked  
by Mboela but had beaten him off with  
loss though Masiko had offered to refer  
the dispute to me as arbitrator. the  
private persons of the embassy mentioned  
to my men that when Masikorecieved  
my message with the captives they

[0004]  
(the commonality) were so delighted they all  
ran down the river and gambolled about  
like porpoises for joy at the prospect  
of living in peace. This is very much  
like that which M<sup>r</sup> Crowther describes.  
There are some notices about Londa &  
Angola in the last number of the Royal  
Geographical Society in the possession  
of D<sup>r</sup> Beke which you may feel  
an interest in reading

I have engaged a passage to Galle in  
the "England" steamer. I hope you will be  
able to preach to the very fine crew of the  
Frolic on your way to Secheylles which  
was more than I could do on our way  
here, and that you will be successful  
in your mission there. May it be granted  
that you return with M<sup>rs</sup> Ryan & family  
in renewed health to this deeply interesting  
field of labour. Your Lordship's servant

David Livingston