

Letter to Thomas Archer and Mary Archer, 26 October 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

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Private

River Shire, Eastern Africa

26 October 1859

My dear D^r & M^{rs} Archer suppose there is no in beginning apologies & explanations you my dear friends for my long . It has troubled me more than it have done you for again & again I remembered your disinterested to me & mine and felt that I had never once given the poor acknowledgement of letter. I do not think that a hundred wipe out the sense of obligation feel, nor do I desire to feel it less there is a pleasure in letting one that his goodness was appreciated freeing oneself as far as may from the the knotless thread character. be to you and M^{rs} A your manifold kindnesses.

We have not been idle since came here, and with a thankful to our Father above we have say that his kind Providence watched over and prospered

[0002] at every turn of our path. Even which at first seemed untoward have turned out signally the best. It would have been a long story tell you all so I begin at our latest namely, tracing this river up to point of emergence from the hitherto Lake Nyassa or Nyinyesi is a direction in which we had no intention of travelling and the is the discovery of a cotton region in every respect to the American. There are no to endanger or cut off the crops instead of the enormous toil required raise the plant in America - one serves for three years crops though the plants may be burned . The land above the cataracts is and disposed in three terraces 1200 feet 2000 feet & 3000 feet . We have as we experienced of climate within a few miles of each of them. The terraces are supplied with running rills of cool water - & cotton is grown them all. On the last terrace Mount Zomba between 7000 & 8000 feet high & cultivated on the top

[0003] Benledi on the top of Benlomond a fine river running in a valley its great top some 15 or 20 miles . I want the church missionary to occupy this field. they have been trying to get into Eastern . The Shire is easily navigable 100 miles from the Zambesi. Then 33 miles of cataracts & then an immense watered by the lakes. Tamandua measured at 90 miles long but one could say how far away head of Nyassa lay. they can come this field aye. that is if they the pluck & be at once away the unfriendly coast tribes. The land by all will assuredly it by some agency or other it has advantages for which I have paper to tell. Some of our friends hearing of this discovery will think I am now seeking the glory alone discovering Lakes Mountains - Jenny-and guddock stools - others will at a glance whether my efforts tend and perhaps it may be permitted me to do some little to relieve our from the stain of upholding by manufacturing the produce

[0004] slave labour alone. At any rate I shall while life lasts for noble & ends.

Singularly enough we have been news from home since we . Except a few newspapers [...] our despatches which have with great regularity we have private information as to how wold ways. A day or two ago we heard by a man kindly by a Portuguese gentleman of Senna that a bag awaits us there wife was some time ago at

Kuruman. We expect to ascend to the Makololo Country in the beginning next year. Hope the London Missionary has sent men to that interesting and that the men have had the to occupy it. When does the Kirk and your Kirk write? death still clear the way? What powerful body for good you will . May the Master pasted it. kindest salutations to M^{rs} A & be on your house & church

David Livingstone

This is written in a marsh with millions of mosquitoes about. Before I counted ten herds of elephants feeding in the distance. My brother here & well saving the mosquitoes.

This is a spendid sanatatorium, and one of the great benefits the will have to shew is the cure of fever even the lowlands millions of strength in general to the pateint