

Letter to Arthur Tidman, 8 November 1853

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[0001]

Linyanti 8th November
1853

Rev^d D^r Tidman

Dear Sir

By a letter dated September last
I informed you of my intention to proceed Westward in
order to open up a way to the coast. I was then waiting
for rains and as these have now commenced I leave
this on the 10th currt. I have altered my mind with
respect to the route which I intend to try. We sent
men to the Westward in order to examine if there is any
strip of country free of tsetse in that direction - their
report was unfavourable. I then resolved to go on
the trail of the Mambari but the slave merchant
signalized his departure by seizing two men and
a woman as slaves. The Makololo assembeled im-
mediately and compelled him to unchain the captives
This affair made me alter my resolution [^][again] for if I
followed his footsteps the different tribes through which
we have to pass would naturally believe me to be
of the same clan. Indeed knowing what my
precursors had done, I should not feel very respectable
to myself. I therefore intend going up the river
Leeambye to the point at which we turned in
August and then ascend the Leeba to the people
called Balonda and proceed westward ~~on foot~~
by land. The chief has lent me his own canoe
[0002]

and as I was unable to take a horse to the Barotse
country on account of the tsetse at this season biting by
night as well as by day Sekeletu placed four riding oxen
at my service, These are now in that country so I hope
to get on. I go in the canoe from this down the Chobe
to the confluence. Then up the Leeambye and Leeba till
we reach the falls reported to exist on that river. The canoe
will be sent back and we must do the best we can
beyond. I leave in company with Barotse people
alone. The people we brought from Kuruman have
been rendered useless by fever, so I send them
back. I am again through God's mercy and kindness

quite recovered from the effects of that disease. I think I am getting rid of intermittent too and if spared will impart some knowledge of Christ to many who never before heard his blessed name There are many and very large tribes in the direction in which we go. All are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. I hope God will in mercy permit me to establish the gospel somewhere in this region, and that I may live to see the double influence of the spirit of commerce and Christianity employed to stay the letter fountain of African misery

In the sketch enclosed in my last I neglected to mention that the ridges noted therein only seow the commencement of lands not usually inundated There are very large tracts of country beyond these which are annually flooded either wholly or partially. The [0003]

Leeambye is not the only source of the waters of inundation the reports of intelligent natives lead me to believe that the Bashukulompo or Maninché river - The Loeti - the Kabompo the Makoma and Leeambye are all branches, (of one river), leaving and returning to the parent stream in a remarkably level country [Livingstone includes a map of the rivers mentioned above here] this ideal sketch will perhaps enable you to understand my meaning. the dotted lines at the top may be the situation on an immense river or of very numerous branches each pouring out vast quantities of water you will percieve also that the country is peculiar and will require a modification perhaps of our pla[...] of operation therein. In no other country is ther[...] such a large surface of land annually inundated as in this

My letter of September contained three enclosures for M^{rs}Livingston. It contained full information respecting the visit to the Barotse, this opportunity of transmitting letters was unexpected but though I had written fully before I thought it well to let you know of the alteration of my plans. and that I am on the point of starting

I am

Affectionately Yours

David Livingston

P.S.

As Sesheké is only about 7 days on foot from the Maninché
[0004]

and the falls of Mosioatunya may be avoided by sailing down
that river into the Zambesi this may be a good path down to
the East Coast. I mention this in case of my being cut off.

D.L.

Care of Rev^dW.Thompson

Cape Town

Prepaid

Rev^d Dr Tidman

Mission House

Bloomfield St.

London