

Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 8 July 1868

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

3 Extracts from a letter of
Livingstone to the President.

Near Lake Bangweolo
8 July. 1868.

My dear Sir Roderick
My letter to Lord Clarendon
will explain what I have been doing and why I
can only give you a leaf out of my note book.
The sources of the Nile are undoubtedly between
10° and 12° South, ~~or some 400 miles south of the Victoria Nyanza~~, not one or two, but
upwards of
twenty of them rise south of all the Lakes
except Bangweolo. The great valley is exactly
like the valleys of the Congo and Zambesi, and
you have been seeking the sources too far to the
north. I have yet to follow down the three lines
of drainage into which the twenty-three sources

[0002]

converge, and do not speak very positively as to
whether they flow past Tanganyika to the west into
Chowambe, which I suppose to be Baker's Lake, or
into Tanganyika and through by a river named
Loanda into the same lake.....

We are in the same quarter of the world
yet - I do not know if Kirk has come to Zanzibar.
I hope in a couple of months to be at Ujiji, where
I have goods and I hope letters. Want of paper
prevents my writing to my friends. A note for
Agnes goes by this.

With love to Lady Murchison, I am ever
affectionately yours
David Livingstone

[0003]

Postscript

The following is a summary on Sources

from 30 to 50 yards broad, and always deep enough to require either canoes or bridges. Chambese, Luapula, Lualaba and the Lakes receive thirteen sources, each larger than the Isis at Oxford or Avon at Hamilton. Another line of drainage receives five sources. A third receives other five, or twenty-three (23) in all. I do not count small burns from five to ten or fifteen yards broad. Lofu has eleven of these, all perennial, nor do I refer to the oozes or sponges which are the sources of them all.
(signed) D L.