

Letter to Lord Palmerston, 20 October 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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River Shire, 20 Oct^r 1859

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From D^r Livingstone in Eastern Africa

My Lord

I hope that I may not intrusive in again addressing , but the effects of your in the suppression of the trade, have attracted my so often I feel under a of obligation to let you about them. I think that it will afford you to hear that the prospects benefit to both Africa and England are brightening in direction I never dreamed when at home. We have this river up to its of departure from Lake which though it has

[Viscount Palmerston]

[0002]

a place on the maps has hitherto undiscovered. and we found there are only thirty three miles rapids to be passed when the

Shire is placid again and continues right into the Lake. This river larger than the Clyde and has a fathom channel from the sea to the beginning of the cataracts 55 ° 55. South Lat. Above them enter into a cotton producing region unknown extent and greatly superior the American for here there are no to cut off the crops, and foreign which has already been introduced the natives themselves requires to be only once for regular crops during years. The land is so arranged that we have great variations of within a few miles of each other. consists at one part of three terraces the Shire Valley is about 1200 feet , and exactly like the valley of the Nile Cairo. A second terrace is over 2000 and about three miles broad while a over 12 miles in breadth is above

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3000 feet or equal to Table Mountain at

the Cape often spoken of as the highest in South Africa. We were travel-in the hottest season of the year on these terraces it was pleasantly , and they are wonderfully supplied running rills of deliciously water. On the highest terrace Mount Zomba which we ascended found to be between 7000 & 8000 ft very cold. I mention these points one of the greatest benefits expedition which you so kindly forward in the House of has to shew, is the speedy of fever without (in general) loss of strength to the patient. even on the lowlands and we have splendid sanatoria these terraces.

But another point. Lake Shirwa Tamandua is ninety miles long, we could not find out where

Nyassa ended. but it must be large it had a swell on it like the sea there was no wind, and it gives the Shire constantly & neither river

[0004] Lake vary much more than two feet either the dry or wet season. Well they [Lakes] parallel to the East coast, and all the to Mosambique, Anghoxia&c &c must at certain fords the chief of which is the point of departure of Shire from

Nyassa for then the traders can pass the partition between the Lakes without on either. We met here a large party from the Interior with an number of slaves & elephants . When they understood that we English they got into a pucker[panic] and away by night. This prestige

owe to your Lordship. I think if had a small steamer on the Lake should very soon eat out the slave , for we could develope the trade cotton which even now is grown extensively, and native traders would carry their ivory a month farther the same prices that we could give we are not hampered by dues the Portuguese. All the mouth of the Zambesi all the Shire except three miles English discoveries. Were your Lordship power I have no doubt but we should enabled to follow up the opening we have . Lord Malmesbury appears to appreciate efforts but unfortunately I never saw him D. Livingstone