

## Letter to Adam Sedgwick, 24 August 1866, 1 February 1867

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Lake Nyassa 24 August 1866

My very Dear Friend have taken a sore longing write to you though I have not the faintest prospect being able to send a letter to the sea coast. The Arab traders on their way thither avoid me as if I had the . In six or seven cases they set off across country soon as they heard that the English were coming - dashing through bush and brake here is a more serious than with you for the grass is generally over ones in the hollows - as thick as a quill in the stalk & intertwined with creepers - I would fain have spared slaves who were thus dragged, but the masters took care to look me in the face. One sagacious old leader had about 800 slaves in his party, hearing that after march of eight days through a fine country completely by the slave trade, we were nearly famished, that we were just at hand, came forward & presented bag of flour and an ox. I daresay he had some goodness in him though it looked like taking the "bull by the horns," for I had only three or four of the strongest our party, and we were making a forced march in order purchase & send back provisions to the weaker still behind this was the only chance we had of sending a letter, our friend could not wait till we had written. He beginning that long march which we had just , and every hour to him was precious.

To give you an idea of the country it is a gradual from the coast up to within forty or fifty miles of Lake. The first 80 miles or so are covered with dense , the only bare spaces being the clearings of the . the rock where it can be seen is coarse sandstone with blocks of salicified wood lying on it. overlies coal. Beyond the sandstone we came on and sometimes granite. There the forest is scraggy it is still so thickly planted that one can rarely the horizon. About 200 miles inland the country undulating and on the crests of the waves one mountains all around - great rounded granitic - igneous rocks appear among these masses large patches of ferruginous conglomerate are with. The country is still rich in soil but the are small as we attain greater altitude - and the of running rills in the mountainous is quite astonishing. I counted in one day's

[0002] no fewer than fifteen flowing burns - These the sources of the Rovuma. The watershed between and the Lake rises up to 3400 [& even 4000 ft] feet. This elevated region just Magomero magnified, and to this poor

bishop Mackenzie hoped to extend his mission - I had wear my thickest flannels. The water though only

61° felt much too cold to bathe in. Cattle shewed that no exists, and large patches of English peas in full shewed how English vegetables could flourish. most influential chief on these highlands is Mataka of Ajawa or Waiyou extraction. Some of his people without his knowledge gone to the Lake and carried a number of cattle & people. Mataka had ordered to be taken back before we arrived, but I accidentally the party. The women & children numbered 54. the men and boys about a dozen, but they were [then] employed the cattle which were about 80 head in all - this act was the more creditable inasmuch as has been subjected to none but slave trading influences. all through this region the process which bishop stemmed goes on annually - The Ajawa or Waiyou make the forays, and the Arabs furnish the & guns - I look at this fine region fast becoming with feelings of inexpressible sadness - allow the Zanzibar slave trade within certain limits, the effect of this license is, that insignificant island a great slave emporium and hundreds of miles of a finer country is annually swept of crowds of - our mission

there is virtually gagged - The Sultan all civility & flattery but no missionary progress be allowed among his bigotted Mahometans - and about half the missionary strength must always be absent in quest of health. It is almost enough to bring Mackenzie turn round in his grave to find his degraded to a mere chaplaincy of a consulate - I fear that there is no hope of seeing central Africa occupied by its mission in our day. I was much delayed by want of provisions, and by the of some sepoys whom I had to dismiss but easy boating of about three weeks [to Magomero] will bear comparison to the few months hard toil we in coming here. When we see how bigotted & the coast tribes are how friendly people in the interior prove themselves I conclude that Africa must be Christianized from within.

[0003] a path may be found I can conceive of none to that by the Shire. It is true we lost valuable - the Arab who proved our friend in need told me a piece of news the Kilwa (Quilloa) slave traders lost one hundred of their number in one sickly . I saw several of their graves, and surely the church afford to spend lives in saving as freely as others in destroying. But after all I have hopes in the yet and I cannot believe that all the hopes and sympathies which clustered around poor Dear friend are to go into thin air.

I ought to have mentioned that on the highest part of the we had mica schist - and then when we come here the gneiss is thrust away from the Lake & tilted on edge. the strata often dipping quite perpendicularly I can see no agent that thus thrust it away. It felt coming to an old home to see Nyassa again and in the rollers of its delicious waters - I was quite by the roar of this inland sea. The people generally been friendly with us - though from their with coast Arabs they have learned some their ways suspicion has not taken root. I have yet learned that any Arab has endeavoured propagate Mahometanism. their zeal for that faith to have perished and without being uncharitable don't think they have much of it themselves.

I have been rather surprised at finding an undoubted that even where polygamy has free scope venereal disease is rampant. Two English officers assured me that they had seen nothing its prevalence in Europe. One of these officers so scandalized on finding what we call respectable men with it that he threatened to complain the Sultan. this says little for polygamy.

I have several times recollected a remark by the Dean of Ely in your house that he might be able to do something to promote the education my children. I did not think much about it the time but it has since struck me that if I had opportunity I would tell him that I shall esteem a great kindness if he in any way remembers . I am rather oddly situated as to friends. have a great many sincere true hearted ones whose favour I feel very grateful - to

[0004] for their favour and to Him who disposes hearts to feel kindly towards me. but again & again have been left in the lurch. One mentions some new most interesting book - "I would have sent it" he "but you have so many friends, I am sure some one have sent it." So with news. They are sure some my "many friends" must have given all. As ~~he~~ education spontaneously it seemed as if he not one of the many who feel that others are so more liberal than themselves. I have one son Glasgow college sixteen years of age - another at a school in Hamilton about ten years of age the Dean wish any information about Professor Andrew Buchanan of Glasgow supply it - or James Young - Limefield - West Calder - Scotland

It is possible that you may know M<sup>r</sup> Young by report - formerly my teacher in chemistry - has a fortune by Paraffin oil & is a fine straight forward good man.

another of their gaurdians. Dean may have nothing at his disposal I do not value his kindly feelings the less I am sure that you will excuse my asking to give the above information at your . I think of you as I saw you last at Norwich beg you present my salaam to Mary Bell to any of your Boquet of flowers you may . I leave a little space to fill up when I see a prospect of sending a letter

Bemba Lat 10° 10' with Long. 31° 50' East 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1867 have been a long time in working up to what is probably watershed I seek - 4500 feet above the sea & the Loapula front. A hungry time we had in passing through the forests of the Babisa country - no animals to be and the people had no grain to sell. Mushrooms plenty though but woe me good only for exciting of the roast beef of bygone days - no salt either causes the gnawing sensation to be ceaseless but got through by God's great mercy. Sugar we forgotten all about & roast a little grain to make it is coffee but we have got to a land of & are going to have our christmas feast tomorrow had nothing to celebrate it when the day passed but we talked of it for all that. I am excessively but take on fat kindly as do some races of . I have heard nothing of home since we left coast but pray that the Most High may keep all dear friends & relatives among I am glad place my very dear

Professor A Sedgwick I am

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