

Letter to Frank Vardon, 30 January 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Kongone mouth of Zambesi

30 January 1861.

For Major Vardon be forwarded

My Dear Vardon

I have written to you twice I came out but having recieved no I fear the letters may have mis-. I shall therefore try to reach you way of your brother in London.

We are down here waiting the arrival of new steamer which we understand to be a real one and made not merely draw grist to the mill of some greedy . We have about a hundred of swamp in our rear, and eight these the deadly mangrove marsh. neighbours are six black "rogers" by the Portuguese to assert their over a flag staff, and a port we discovered - and plenty of , oryxes & bush bucks. you may be sure we often send a wistful

[0002]

[glance] across the watery waste in front.

We lately went up to Linyanti on foot. only points of importance we ascertained, the presence of very fine cotton in the parts of the country, and the extension the coal field up to near Victoria Falls. same falls too after a second visit feel inclined to pronounce the most in the world. We could see clearly the bottom of one half of the Falls - the water lower at the time than we ever saw it. the depth is not 100 feet as I conjectured, 310 feet, or nearly twice the depth of

Niagara. Then the breadth is not 1000 yards formerly stated, but nearly 2000 yards say 1860 by way of assisting the ~~memory~~ memory. Though this is a little more. then allow one to see

[diagram of a river]

them with the advantage the crack into which river rolls is prolonged in a zigzag and the promontories made the wavy line allow one to walk

[0003] in N^o 1. facing the falls, or in N^o 2 with river on each side, and some 300 or 400 below jammed in the bottom of the in 20 or 30 yards - the promontories lower & have perpendicular sides, and of the same height as the bed of the river the falls. the base of No 1 is only 400 of N^o 2 - 150 D^o so you can by a few see the river running in opposite ways.

We returned by buying canoes below falls, and sailing down to Chicova -Thence marched again on foot to Tette. From

Kafue to the falls there are more large animals in any part of Africa we have seen. numbers of elephants, buffaloes & were really prodigious. they obliged to come to the water for it the dry season. We saw a pure hippopotomus & several piebald . Two half caste Portuguese traders with 400 slaves had got 40,000 lbs of by shooting and trading in a few months market we have opened yet our own

[0004] are prevented from reaping any the benefits by that stupid treaty of Sir George with the Boers.

I am very much delighted with the prospect a mission from the English Universities. is going on briskly, and I expect that will soon make a beginning in part of this coast. the work

before is nothing less than the final extermin of the slave trade by the introduction commerce and the gospel into the market. And I trust that soon, that body the church of England may itself committed to this great & enterprise. I have great faith in church if it only sets to work.

You may hear of a very untoward made by the London missionaries at Linyanti. by some , it is supposed, we were made aware of their movements till reached Victoria falls, and then we that they had arrived, and six out

[0005] nine Europeans, and four native , had perished of fever - this at the very time we were on our up and curing the disease so quickly a severe case, in a European even, detained us more than a day or two our march was on foot. the was found to be effectual first my own children and in a party of at Lake Ngami in 1850, and have never failed in a single case . It is referred to in the "Missionary " but I deeply regret that I had an opportunity of pressing it on attention of these good people in time. of them M^r Helmore you probably - he was a personal friend and excellent missionary. This threw a on our visit to the Makalolo.

You will be pleased to hear that
Sechele is doing well. He has nine tribes him. And has a Hanoverian Missionary

[0006] M^r Schroeder, who succeeds well. Old
Mosilikatze has John Moffat as his - (and another)- He is still the old rogue yet is unable to walk something the matter with his knees, I fear will be Mosilikatze to the end of chapter. We met some of his people at Mosilik Senna lately. they on seeing my Makololo. they had to buy guns. Laws here dreadfully against selling guns to natives, neither Governors nor governed the laws on that subject.

Please present my very kind to M^{rs} V. My wife is England & not very sweet because stay so long away. We shall get work at last when our vessel comes. believe it will be a good one, as we have got from the Admiralty been of first rate quality. Let me from you David Livingstone

[0007]

M^r Frank Vardon
15 Waterloo Crescent
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