

Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 4 December 1863, 10 [February 1864]

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Murchison's Cataracts 4 Dec^r
1863

My dear Sir Roderick

The Despatch containing for our withdrawal though dated 2^d Feby did not reach me till 2 July when the water fallen so much the Pioneer could not be taken to the sea. To improve the time therefore July & the flood of Dec^r I thought that I might whether a large river enters the Lake at the North and also verify the impression that most of the drawn to Zanzibar Iboe & Mozambique from the Lake District. Our plan was to round the East shore & North end of Nyassa, but very unfortunately lost our boat by five of natives trying to shew how much more clever were than five Makololo who had the management it. It broke away from them in a compacting reach of the river and [rushed] away like a shot the cataracts. We then went forward on foot now struck nor west so as to come to the of the north end of the Lake without coming contact with Mazite or Zulus who have de-its shores there. but we soon came to range of mountains running N. & S. The on its Eastern base was 2000 feet above sea - of remarkable beauty and well supplied streams of delicious cold water. the range least 4000 feet above it forms the edge of the table land on which the Maravi dwell. ~~But~~ were [however] falsely informed, that no people lived the other side and went along the valley till we out at the neck of the Lake. the bold mountainous of Cape Maclear on our right and hills of Tsengain front. again going N. W. we to a stockade which the Marzite attacked day before and we saw the loathesome evidence

[0002] the fight, and wishing to avoid them turned East till we came to the Lake & marched its shores. On coming to Kotakota Bay 12° 55' S. we found two Arabs busily engaged transporting slaves across by means of three boats, building a dhow to supply the place of one to have been wrecked. they pay one fathom of , value one shilling for a boy and two for a looking girl. yet they would not pay for the ivory which they carry. a trader with slaves must pay at least the price of one slaves must pay at least the price of one per day for their sustenance. It is the ivory and slave trade which allow traders the profitable. This is the crossing place nearly all the slaves that go to Quilloa,

(or Kilwa) Iboe, and Mozambique. A few go to the end of the Lake and for Leapuego the shire. But here lies the great trades route Katanga- Cazembe &c. The Babisa are the traders - the Manganja are the cultivators the soil. The Arabs, the same we met before very civil[.][They] came forth to meet us and presented , meal, sugar-cane, and a piece of Malachite. them we went due West, and in three days to the edge of the plateau which from below like a range of mountains. The long ascent, with hill and dale, and the ~~ther~~running fringed with evergreen trees, ~~was~~[was] very to the eye, but sore upon the legs, often [us] all to puff and blow as if broken winded. heights have a delicious but peculiarly piercing . It seemed to go through us - Five Shupangamen had been accustomed all their lives to the malaria the Zambesi Delta were quite prostrated by that to me was exhilarating and bracing.

We ~~went~~[travelled] about ninety miles West then turned to the North West. The country is level but boiling point shewed a slope in the direction were going. the edge of the plateau is 3440 above the sea

[0003] the Loangua of the Lake the height shewn is 3270 feet [//] The direction of the streams verifies these heights and your famous hypothesis - [;] for the Loangua of the Lake finds its way to the Nyassa while another called Loangua of the Maravi, flows to the westward at enters the Zambesi at Zumbo. The feeders these rivers are boggy valleys with pools in their . We were said to have crossed one branch of Moetala or Moitawa which flows N.N.W. into a lake called Bemba. The valleys in which the rise closely resemble those in Loanda or Lunda here each bank is dotted over with villages and great deal of land is cultivated. The vegetation is stunted and the trees covered with [flat] lichens like [those] on old Apple tress in Scotland, and a long thready sort orchilla weed, shews a humid climate. We were in the direction where a great deal of ivory is by people on the slave route and this induced to put hindrances in our way, refusing to food, and misleading us &c. [//] The time that could spent with safety had expired[,] our aura from food expended and dysentery fell upon us. I was explicit orders not to take any long journey have the Pioneer down to the sea by the Earliest . I might have speculated on a late rise in that , but did not like the idea of failing in my with the vessel, and gave up further progress. temptation to go on was Lake Bembawas, said be but ten days distant. Thence according to , and Arab report, issues the River Loapula Luapula which flowing west ward forms the Mofu or Mofue and Moero, then passing town of Cazembe it turns round to the North is lost in Tanganyika. Is there an outlet to Tanganyika on the west into the R. Kasai East of I formerly crossed that river? All agreed in that no river flowed Eastward into L. . Two small ones do. but at a distance say 80 or 90 miles from the Lake the watershed is to west. One should have no bias in investigating questions by the aid of travelled natives, but had a strong leaning to a flow from Tanganyika

[0004] Nyassa.~~but~~ I wished I was [however]shortly of one & all. and I had crossed so many running , which from entering the Lake among sheds not been observed from the boat in our first , that before reaching Kolakola, I had come the conclusion that a large river was not needed account for the perennial flow of the Shire. am sorry to give only native information instead observations by my own eyes; but having been to work of much more importance exploration, the above was all I could do set free. The work on which I [had] laboured years has all been spoiled by the Portugese [omit] slave hunting, my only regret is ever having given nobles the smallest credence for a desire to civilize Africa.

As we (the steward of the Pioneer and I[myself]) were on metal not to overstep the limited time at our disposal may be worth mentioning, that we travelled 660 miles in 55 travelling days - averaging

12 per day in straight lines. the new leaves on trees of the plateau were coming out fresh & there. and we reached this on the 31st Oct^r find all, except the evergreen ones by the streams bare of leaves as in midwinter.

: Shupunga 10th Feb

P.S. the river rose in tremendous force on 19th January. Much later than usual. It many a groan from me it was plain that I had plenty of time have examined Bemba, the beginning suppose of the drainage system which an outlet by the Congo. Mofu or Mofue was seen I believe by Monteiro in his to Cazembe. We travelled part of way on the route from Quillwawa to same chief. I hope a report of my being has not reached my family they may believe it more the readily on of the loss already sustained. I have known any difficulty with an interior or any other not engaged in slaving am deeply grieved to hear of the death of our friend Admiral Washington.He did everything his power for us David Livingstone