

Unyanyembe Journal, 28 January 1866 - 5 March 1872

David Livingstone

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[0732][732]

1872

January -

The meat of all very good but that of the Graffe super excellent The Basa vira owners of the country had fled from Simba son of the Banyamwezi chief of Unyanyembe and we had none but pleasant intercourse with the present inhabitants - The rams had commenced or were commencing as we came Eastward for but few days elapsed without very heavy showers - When near Unyanyembe the grain was just coming up - In some cases early planting & showers had raised the maize a foot or one foot and a half - The game was somewhat scattered as usually happens when water stands in pools all over the country - Much of the way on the Unyanyembe side of the country was flat - with patches of trees alternating with open grassy glades where at other seasons water is scarce many of the trees are denuded of their bark to be made into bark cloth - Kirinda's or baskets or thatch - They are upland forest trees - Honey sometimes found in abundance - A swarm of bees attacked a donkey M^r Stanley bought for me and instead of galloping off as did the other the fool of a beast rolled down and over and over - I did the same then ran - dashed into a bush like an ostrich pursued
[0733] [733]

1872

Jany

then ran whisking a bush round my
head they gave me a sore head & face
before I got rid of the angry insects -
I never saw men attacked before -
Donkey was completely knocked up by
the stings on head face & hips & died in
two days in consequence -

Our march extended from 26th December
1871 till 18th February 1871 - or 54 days
This was over three hundred miles &
thankful I was to reach Unyambe
and the tembe Kurkuru for having
only ill made French shoes sent from
the coast I was delighted to find that two
pairs of fine English boots had most
considerately been sent by my friend
M^r Waller

I found also that the two headmen
selected by the notorious but covert
slave trader Ludha Damji had been
plundering my stores from the [^] [20th end of
October 1870] to [18th] ~~to near the end~~ of February
or nearly sixteen months - one
had died of small pox and the other
not only plundered my stores but broke
open the lock of M^r Stanley's store
room and plundered his goods - He
declared that all my goods were safe
but when the list was referred to &
the goods counted and he was questioned
as to the serious loss he at last reme-
mbered a bale of 7 pieces Merikano
and three Kanike = or 304 yards that
he evidently had hidden - on questioning
about the boxes brought he was
equally ignorant but at last said "oh
I remember a box of brandy where it
went - And every one knows as well [as I]
[0734] [734]

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Feby

18th

this and M^r Stanley's goods being found
in his possession made me resolve
to have done with him - My losses
by the robberies of the Banian employed
slaves were more than made up by
M^r Stanley who gave me twelve bales
of calico nine loads = 14 ½ Bags of beads
38 coils of brass wire - a tent-boat
bath cooking pots - 12 copper sheets -
air bed - trousers - jackets &c =
Indeed I am again quite set up &
as soon as he can send men not
slaves from the coast I go to my
work with a fair prospect of finishing
it.

On coming to Unyanyembe we
found that all the Arabs were collected
between one and two days distant at
Mfutu and Kirira in order to fight
with an adventurer called Mirambo
who though originally a Pagazi or
carrier belongs to a good family NW
of this - He gradually collected a body
of desperadoes around him - Mazitu or
Mafiti - Banyamwezi all eager
to rob and plunder wherever
he led - Built a strong stockade
and then proceeded to levy mohonga
on all the Arabs who came near
him - Made extended forays
on the country people burning then
Boma's or stockades, and when
the Arabs refused to join him
[0735] [735]

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Feby
18th

in a foray against the chief of Un-
-yanyembe raised his exactions to
a mere plundering - and one trader
he sent back after taking most of his
goods - - The son
of Seyed bin Majid a very fine &
brave young man [^] [with his young comrades] went up to
Marambo's stockade entered it &
took it [^] [~~before this~~] but was engrossed by the
wealth in ivory & other things found

and all laden with spoil retired to
 be waylaid in the long grass when
 everything was thrown down and
 slaves not killed fled - The fine
 young man perished there and none
 could be persuaded to go out & rescue
 the speared in the long grass - In ~~another~~
 this [^] case the so called governor was
 the first to begin a panic & flight
 by mounting a fast donkey and
 never hal[s]ting till he got home to
 [Yuihara] ~~Kurikira~~ [^^] [when Mi[a]ramba came to town] they have destroyed a
 all the villages near to Mirahibo's
 as confederate with him, and are
 expected to make an end of him
 soon and restore peace & prestige
 in the country - a large body of
 Baganda have come but they are
 to be sent against the Batuta for
 the Arabs have no food for
 them

[0736][736]

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March

5th

Note - sent to Syde bin Salem the
 so called governor for a box detained
 by him for four years though I
 sent for it twice It was paid for
 to Ujiji the carrier Salem Palamotla
 having got \$15 but governor took
 it and now returned [^] [it] without any
 apology - two fine English guns & a
 pistol packed by D^r Kirk in
 1868. The wood work all eaten off
 by white ants - the books gone
 writing paper not present - the
 iron work rusted & spoiled a cheese
 in tin and a little medicine in tin
 A box containing 500 ball cartridges
 had been left in the wet for years
 A box of Brandy all drunk and
 bottles broken to conceal the theft,
 but in one bottle the cork had been
 driven in and a maize cob cork
 inserted - A china tea service
 sent by some kind but unknown

donor was not submitted to the
smashing the brandy bottles suffered
Not a word of apology offered
for all this loss, or for the plunder
ing of which he was cognizant
by Saloom [^] [since killed] - Shereef & Athman.

Probable loss by Governors carelessness

Fine double barrelled smooth bore	200
Long single barrel Jacobs Rifle	85
Cartridges 500 fine Eufield Cartridges	25
Books writing paper - box -	30
£68 ==	\$340
For carriage from coast \$60 =	60
	\$400

[0737][737]

Unyanyembe near Kazeh of
Speke 20th Feby
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The Right Honourable

Nº
5-

Earl Granville
My Lord

My letters to & from
the coast have been so frequently destroyed
by those whose interests and cupidity lead
them to have correspondence as likely dispose
their slaving that, I had nearly lost all heart
to write - But being assured that this packet
will be taken safely home by Mr Stanley
I add a fifth letter to those four already
pawned the pleasure of believing that this
will really come into your Lordships hands
overcoming the consiousness of having
been much too prolix - The subject to
which I beg to draw your attention is the
part which the Banians of Zanzibar who
are protected British subjects play in carry-
ing on the slave trade in Central Africa
and especially in the Manyuema - The
country West of Ujiji - Together with

a proposition which I have very much at heart - The possibility of encouraging the native christians of English settlements on the West coast of Africa to remove by voluntary emigration to a healthy spot on this side the continent

The Banian British subjects have long been and are now the chief propagators of the Zanzibar slave trade - Their money and often their muskets, gunpowder - balls - flints - beads, brass wire, and calico are annually advanced to the Arabs at enormous interest for the murderous work of slaving of the native of which every Banian is fully aware - Having mixed much with the Arabs in the interior I soon learned the whole system that is called Cutchee or Banian Trading [0738] [443]

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20th

is simply marauding and murdering by the at the instigation and by the aid of our Indian fellow subjects - the cunning Indians secure nearly all the profits of the caravans they send Inland, and very adroitly let the odium of the slaving rest on their Arab agents - As a rule very few Arabs could proceed on a trading expedition unless supplied by the Banians with army ammunition and goods - slaves are not bought in the countries to which the Banian agents proceed - Indeed it is a mistake to call the system of Ujiji slave trade at all - The captives are not traded for but murdered for - and the gangs that are dragged coast-wards to enrich the Banians are usually not slaves but captive free people - A sultan anxious to do justly rather than pocket head money would proclaim them all free as soon as they reached his territory -

Let me give an instance or two to illustrate the trade of our Indian fellow subjects - My friend Muhamad Bogharib sent a large party of his people far down the great river Lualaba to trade for ivory about the middle of 1871 - He is one of the best of the traders - a native of Zanzibar and met one of the Mainlanders who are lower types of man - - The best men have however

often the worst attendants - This party
was headed by one Hassani and he with
two other headmen advanced to the people
of Nyangwe 25 copper bracelets to be
paid for in ivory on their return - The
rings were worth about five shillings
at Ujiji - and it being well known
that the Nyangwe people had no ivory
The advance was a mere trap for an
returning and demanding payment
in ivory in vain They began an assault
which continued for three days and
all the villages of a large district
[0739] [739]

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20th

were robbed - some burned - many men
killed and about one hundred & fifty captives
secured - On going subsequently into Southern
Manyuema I met the poorest of the above
mentioned headmen who had only been able
to advance 5 of the 25 bracelets and he told me
that he had bought ten tusks with forty of the
captives, and having recieved information
at the village where I found him about two
more tusks he was waiting for eight more
tusks from Muhamad's camp to purchase
them - I had now got into terms of friendship
with all the respectable trades of that quarter
and they gave me information with
unrestrained freedom, and all I state may
be allied on - On, asking Muhamad
himself afterwards near Ujiji the proper
name of Muhamad Nassur who con-
-spired with Shereef to interpose his own
trade speculation between D^r Kirk and me
and defray all his expenses out of my goods
he promptly replied - "This Muhamad
Nassur is the man from whom I borrowed
all the money and goods for this journey"

I will not refer to the horrid & senseless
massacre which I unwillingly witnessed
at Nyangwe in which the Arabs themselves
computed the loss of life at between three and
four hundred souls - It pained me sorely
to let the mind dwell long enough on it to
oen the short account

Nº 3
of this
series

I gave, but I mention
again to point out that the chief perpetrator
Tagamoio recieved all his guns [...] gun-
-powder from Ludha Damji the richest
Banian and chief slave trader of Zanzibar
He has had the cunning to conceal his
actual participation in slaving - but
there is not an Arab in the country who
[0740] [740]

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would hesitate a moment to point out that
but for the money of Ludha Danye and
other Banians who borrow from him
slaving especially in these more distant
countries would instantly cease - It
is not to be overlooked that most other
trade as well as slaving is carried on
by Banians - The custom House and
revenue are entirely in their hands -
The so called governors are their trade
agents - Syde bin Salem Buraschid
The thievish governor here is merely a
trade agent of Ludha, and honestly having
been no part of his qualification for the
office the most shameless transactions
of [^] [other] Banian agents are all smoothed
over by him - A common way he has
of concealing crimes is to place delin-
-quents in villages adjacent to this
and when they are enquired for by the
Sultan he reports that they are sick -
It was no secret that all the Banians
looked with disfavour on my explora-
-tions and disclosures as likely to injure
one great source of their wealth -
knowing this it almost took away
my breath when I heard that the great
but covert slave trader Ludha Damji
had been requested to forward supplies
and men to me - This and similar
applications must have appeared
to Ludha so ludicrous that he probably
answered with his tongue in his cheek

His help was [^] [all] faithfully directed toward
securing my failure - I am extremely
unwilling to appear as if making a
wail on my own account or as
if trying to excite commiseration