

Letter to Lord Palmerston, 16 October 1862

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Rovuma Bay 16 Oct^r

1862

Private

My Lord

In spite of all our efforts were baffled and delayed in the part of the Zambesi till the river and we had to go to Johanna a new crew. It then occurred me to go up the river Rovuma boats and see whether in the of the Portuguese continuing refuse free egress by the Zambesi have not another outlet from Lake region. We began our on the 9th September and up 114 miles as the crow but 156 of actual distance the river. The water as we was very low and we often to drag the boats over but in one month we accomplished all that it prudent to attempt.

We had to pass a number river pirates about sixty miles

[0002] the mouth and tried hard to on friendly terms with them but paying about 30 yards of calico way of cementing friendship parted with us by giving us volley of arrows and four balls went through my . I believe they expected us to away and leave all we had be plundered. They were living sandbanks afraid they said of stolen, and intent on stealing . they partake of the border , and are found all round ever hindering ingress, and think slave-hunting makes them . the attack on us was causeless, and in one village saw two human heads cut off. them there was no trade above that part a great deal carried on by means of canoes, all the people even those the same tribe were quite friendly.

the river has an elevated table on each side for eighty miles, then opens on a wide plain with and there detached hills.

[0003] this plain the slave trade route from

Nyassa to Quiloa (Kilwa) passes. It the river twice & indeed it the Rovuma about thirty miles our turning point - and that is only ten days from the Lake. bed of the Rovuma gradually became , and at last was seen coming numerous channels through of rock, though the adjacent was as far as we could see quite level. the canoes go these channels and we might hauled the boats but they have been damaged in the

[^][descent] and having come to the limits of navigation we did not wish lose a moment of the flood time the Zambesi

The people generally cultivate largely all live in fear of being stolen keep large quantities of grain and yielding seeds in the woods but live sandbanks now that the river is - and are much more afraid of themselves than their goods. one cannot concieve the amount will be added to the sum of happiness by the success the English measures for abolishing slave trade. this part possesses

[0004] natural riches in oil producing seeds copal, and valuable timber. the far exceeds in size & value that of , and besides some valuable for ship building we saw many new to us. We saw but little but it was growing around old . Indeed we saw but little of country. We have now seen the river flood and at its lowest. It has the of the Tsetse - but a steamer 18 inches of water when loaded ply during seven or eight months the year, and raise a lucrative trade, is no bar at the mouth, and English trade prosper on the this route will be adopted

rather pay dues to the Portuguese who using the mouths of the Zambesi have established a sort "paper blockade" over them. We sail back to the Zambesi. No one felt the delay more keenly than I have - and no effort on my part be spared that in my next I be able to report that we commenced work on the Lake.

Allow me to congratulate you on present very favourable aspect of the trade question. It seems as if you were see your long continued labours crowned success. With kind salutation to Lady P.

I am &c David Livingstone