

## Letter to Andrew Smith, 31 May 1859

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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River Zambesi 31<sup>st</sup> May  
1859

My Dear D<sup>r</sup> Smith

A point which we had under discussion in your house so forcibly back to my mind a time ago that I felt bound to write you by the earliest opportunity and let know that I fear I misled you saying that the Balonda have square . of their own innate notion. We just been into a country almost with Louda. It is high - has the same vegetation and abounds in streams rising in bogs. and there saw reason to doubt squares among aborigines. We went up the Shire one hundred miles in this steamer a first trip. In a second we passed former point - a rapid or cataract - foot. and proceeding northwards a mountainous region for some forty discovered a magnificent Lake Shirwa. It is about 20 or 30 broad and fifty or sixty long - seperated according to native from a much larger lake called Nyinyesi = the stars, by a strip of land only

[0002] five or six miles broad. Shirwa itself distant from a branch of the Shire called Rus only 30 miles so we have a prospect opening up all Eastern Africa with land of not more than fifty miles. We hear nothing of Burton's party but Nyinyesi the Nyanja or Nyassa which is believed reach well up to the Equator. Well so much way of preface. When up there and travelling foot we always slept outside the huts except . and remembering your idea of round huts found you were perfectly right. Only when came to any village where native traders been did we see an attempt at the square yet round roof. Where no traders had all were round both walls and roof must have been the case in Louda though I did not have the cause. The Bechuanas nothing square except pitfalls - I in imitation of the four feet of the . the Barouse

make their huts of half moon shape but when travelling sheds which I think may glide into -

Stakes are planted in a slanting direction bushes stuck in opposite them so as to form oblong sheds. In the Manganja country where were this sort of shed was built on platform

and an end or two ends put making a rude approximation to a square of the Manganja had lean-tos to their huts were square or approaching to it. Otherwise think you are quite right in setting down

[0003] untutored tribes as building round huts. The make a frame for the outer walls.

then make the roof in it as one puts a paper into a funnel. It is made ready there then turned over on to the walls. Excuse the and believe that I felt sorry when by observation I found that I had misled you Balanda whom I saw with square walls. imitated native slave traders huts. They however straight walls with sharp well angular corners for their sheets.

We have had fever but of so mild a that D<sup>r</sup> Kirk and I failed to recognise for many months. It was quite unlike I suffered so much from when destitute every comfort; and resembled closely "common colds." their frequent recurrence the same individual with the same symptoms last led us to believe it was fever. One sore bones. all over sore &c. another got having had brain

fever as they call it at the Cape. Another looked as if he had bilious attack and another as if he had a of indigestion. We begin to suspect that everywhere may be the effect of malaria cure it quickly by what I discovered when , a pill of Resin of jalap,calomel, and : as soon as the bowels move, relief is . We then give quinine to complete the . This quinine is no prophylactic that can see. I never found it prevent a single in my own person nor in others. We

[0004] well because well provided for, and we the quinine partly for the dram, and partly prevent you folks blaming us after we are ! As for the Portuguese - they ought to die of . They all have syphillis either congenital or from the priest to the pagan - a dirty crew "sames" - a species of itch is about universal & is ashamed of it. D<sup>r</sup> Kirk and I have more exposed to malaria than the others we have escaped. The Kroomnen take it call it the same as they get at Sierra Leone

The Shirwa region is high we rose 1500 feet above the ship in ten days short . Mount Bzomba or Zomba is over 6000 feet high. yet people live on its top may be fifteen miles broad. Shirwa is bitter like but possibly not the as a weak solution of epsom salts plenty of leeches, fish & alligators. I shall be to give you some photographs of the for your work on ethnology if you not in a great hurry with it. My takes them. The peculiarity of this is expansion of the alae nasi and the prolonged upwards & backward. No other . Good legs like Europeans often our artist, Bowes, fails miserably with . He makes a mixture of west coast African Australian with a dash of Patagonian a colour indiscribable.

My very kindest to M<sup>rs</sup> Smith. David Livingstone

D<sup>r</sup> Peters of Berlin has I believe worked up the zoology of this region. We caught young elephant but one of the Makalolo in a fit of excitement wounded it so that it . M<sup>rs</sup> L was at Kuruman I believe We expect a stronger vessel out to take us the rapids above Tette

My address is care of Admiral, Sir Frederick Grey KCB Cape of G. Hope