

Letter to Lord Palmerston, 13 May 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Senna 13th May 1859

Private

My Lord

We have just returned from discovery of a magnificent Lake, and as you took a interest in our Expedition feel anxious to tell you about success so far. We ascended branch of the Zambesi called the

Shire about a hundred miles from confluence in January last. people were very much never having been by whites before for the have always been of them as a very warlike . the steamer caused a panic we were constantly gaurded large parties armed with bows poisoned arrows. Returning we found the alarm and left the vessel with

[0002] chief named Chibisa. We then Northwards on foot after 18 days march reached a Lake called Shirwa. It is from to thirty miles broad and

50 or sixty long – We could not see end though we ascended a height the purpose but two mountain rose in the blue distance like little , and the waves dashed on the as if it were an arm of the . there is no outlet known. the is slightly bitter and contains of fish alligators & hippopotami most interesting point about it the fact as asserted by the natives there is a partition of only five six miles between Lake Shirwa Lake Nyinyesi = "stars" - the , Nyassa &c of the maps is very much larger - then we found out afterwards Shirwa part of Shirwa is only about 30 from the navigable Shire.

[0003]

Shirwa is surrounded by moun-of great height. many are

6000 feet high. the Lake is 2000 above the level of the sea - whole region is high and watered with flowing streams very great quantity of land under cultivation with cotton everyone spins and weaves it chiefs may be seen the spindle and a bag instead the distaff in hand. They treated well. Only one party seemed to treat us scurvily & did so only untill they told we were English - they taken us for Portuguese and in the habit of going down Quilimane with slaves for . It is really no flattery say that to you we owe influence of the English name. French emigration slave trade

[0004] on regularly now from Quilimane the Portuguese say Ah we can our slaves now the English not interfere with French vessels is indisputable that the repression the slave trade was mainly owing the cruizers. The other part of the - developing lawful commerce I fear be checked by this new trade. A mercantile agency in Shire would soon collect large of cotton, but the Portuguese watch us lest we introduce own merchants. Were your in power - (We have had no from England for fourteen months) would strongly urge free trade to be on the Zambesi. We slept

22 days on the ground in this high and got wet with the dew off grass which overhangs the paths & heads every morning but returned the vessel in good health. We have cases of fever among us but it is cured, and I think that colonization our own countrymen would complete your Lordship began in suppressing slave trade David Livingstone [D^r. Livingstone
13 may 1859]