

## Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 16 October 1855, 3 March 1856

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[0001]

Linyanti, on the River , 16<sup>th</sup> October,  
1855.

~~To Sir Roderick Impey Murchison~~

Sir,

By a note dated

Cabongo in August last, I endeavoured convey an idea of the country between Cassangé and that point, and if the rough tracing enclosed reached its , you will have remarked there was little absolutely new to . The path followed that usually trodden by native , ~~who~~ <sup>are</sup>[[<sup>^</sup>][who are]] employed by the Angolese to trade with Matiamvo - (<sup>^</sup>["the] Muata-yamvo["]of some) - the paramount of the negro tribes called Londa (Lunda) or Balonda. There is another straighter course situated a little

[0002] North, and I suppose it is there the of water mentioned by others is experienced. never found it necessary to carry a supply, and almost always spent the night at villages on streams or rivulets. A Portuguese and planter, Senhor Graça of Monte Allegre, whose acquaintance I had pleasure or making, was once a visitor Matiamvo, and his notes having been in the Government Gazette or "Boletin" of Loanda, might, I concieve, still found in Lisbon. ~~RGS vol xxvi pages 124-128~~ [ *\*See R.G.S. Journal . xxvi, pages*

*123, 128.Ed.]* ] A severe and continued attack of fever, soon after the Quango, made me so very feeble deaf, [<sup>^</sup>][that] I was glad to avail myself the company and friendly aid of native Portuguese, whose employer, Senhor Neves of Cassangé, very politely them by letter to forward my by every means in their power. the of the Cheboqué (Cheebokwé) was not exposed to temptation to take of my weakness, - a temptation often proves rather too powerful for goodness of more enlightened specimens humanity. The most then I could effect

[0003] the circumstances, was to put down the with greater precision than any of my , who have uniformly been unfurnished instruments[.]~~could accomplish~~

The rate of travelling of such traders may interesting to those who examine their of journies to [<sup>^</sup>][otherwise] unknown regions. found the average between a great number regular sleeping stations to be seven miles. the average time required was three and a half hours, and speed two geographical mile an hour. The stoppages from all causes[,] amounted 20 days monthly[:]- so that a month's means actually one of ten days, seventy miles. The carriers are very to help each other[:] hence the of one man often stops the of the whole party. When we with them, our own rate was and a half geographical miles per day. required an average of five hours at the rate of two geog[<sup>^</sup>][raphical] miles an . and we travelled twenty days each . The negro step was quicker than [,] but we generally overtook them [<sup>^</sup>][while] resting

[0004] arrived in equal times. If we kept going six successive days, both men and oxen symptoms of knocking up, ~~and this~~ [al] though were a most willing company and all [were] anxious to get home. It was therefore necessary give another day weekly for rest, besides

. The starchy nature of the food had[,] I [,] considerable influence on the rate of . In winding through forest[,] I could not any approach to a reckoning of distance observation was always necessary. the could not be much under twenty miles these cases.

I had indulged the hope of proceeding the headquarters of Matiamvo[,] who would seems to be located nineteen days .N.E. of Cabongo, or on Lat. 9° 20' South . 22° 32' East; (~~This is differently put in the sketch sent from Angola, but the latest is supposed to be the most correct.~~)[b] But the delay had now made such an inroad our stock of goods, [that] we saw clearly ~~that~~ by the of our arrival there, we should be unable to give a suitable present to the prince, pay our way afterwards to the South. this would not have proved a barrier, for a branch of the Leeambye[ai] or Zambesi is

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2<sup>d</sup> Sheet is reported to flow southwards from a a few days East of his town (23° or 24° E.L.?) and it would have of great importance to [^][have] discovered conveyance all the way down the country of Makololo. But is universally [asserted][& ] believed <sup>^</sup>~~and~~ ~~asserted~~ that Matiamvo on no account [^][permit] any white man[,] even native trader, to pass him in direction. It is his own principal for ivory. the tribes living there many elephants and bring the ivory him as tribute. (they are called Kanyika and Kanyoka or Banyika & Banyoka) but slender acquaintance the Londa dialect[,] we felt that pay not persuasion could effectively employed to secure permission follow our object; so we decided, on Cabongo to proceed South East our friend Katema and thence down Leeba.

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the people among whom we now travelled Balonda only, we got on very comfortably in one instance in which a chief named Kawawa who had heard of our by the Chiboque on going North, on his possessing the fords of Casai, so far as to demand tribute the "white man". Nothing could the civilities which passed between on the Sunday of our stay in his . But when we offered to cross the , he mustered all his forces to payment of a "gun an ox, man, a barrel of powder - a black ! and a book which would tell if Matiamvo had any intention sending to cut off his head" Unless had submitted to everything, as the do, and given a bad for all white men afterwards, were obliged to part with "daggers ". the canoes were all concealed

[0007] the reeds, but my men were ~~more~~[better]

of sailors than ~~they~~[his, ], and having taken loan of one by night, ~~and~~ in order to how scrupulously honest we were, left it and a few beads on their own of the river, and thanked them next for their kindness, amidst shouts laughter.

[Read]

The route we ~~now~~ followed to Katema considerably to the East of that by we went to Loanda, a curious which then escaped our [,] was now discovered, viz. - that of river Lotembwa(~~Lotembwa~~) flowing two ~~and~~ nearly opposite directions. the tracing sent from Angola[,] you see it as if rising in the small Lake . Such is[seemed] the fact[,] as far as the portion of the river is concerned. former route having led us to the Casai, at some distance West of the Northern , we were not aware of its existence returning however, we were surprised

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~~to be~~[at being] obliged to cross the Lotembwa before we [^][Lake] Dilolo. It was more than a mile , three or four feet deep and full of Egyptiacum, Lotus, papyrus, -rushes and other aqueous[atic] plants. being then informed of the singular that it actually flows N.N.W. into Casai, I did not observe the current concluding it was a prolongation the Lotembwa beyond the Lake, and that rose in a [^][long] flat marsh as most of rivers in this quarter do. But we

positively informed [^][afterwards] that the flow to the Casai and not into Dilolo.

I have no reason to doubt the ^correctness of this information I could not ascertain whether ^Lake Dilolo gives much water to the Northern Lotembwa, but had there been a current of one fourth the strength of that which flows into the Southern Lotembwa, I must have observed it: that is converged into it by The Northern Lotembwa proceeds from an arm of the Lake, one half ^a mile broad and at the part where the most of ^the water flows, it is chin deep. We then crossed rivers

[0009]7<sup>th</sup> Sheet

The Makololo wished to put a stop to their visits by force, but a hint to purchase all the ivory with hoes was so promptly responded to ^that I anticipate small trade for the Mambari in future. If any one among the tribes subject to the Makalolo, sells a child now, it is done in secretly. The trade may thus be said to be pretty well repressed. A great deal more than this however is needed. Commerce is a most important aid to civilization; for it soon breaks up the sullen isolation of heathenism, and makes men feel their mutual dependence. Hopes of this makes one feel gratified at the success, which has attended themy little beginning. But it is our blessed Christianity alone which can touch the centre of the wants of Africa. Tthe Arabs, it is well known, are great in commeree, but not much elevated ^thereby above the African in principle. thereby. My Arab friend Ben Habib now gone to Loanda,, was received most hospitably by an old female chief called Sebola mokwaia, and she actually gave him ivory enough to set him up as a trader. Yet he went with

[0010] the Makololo against her to revenge some feud with which he had no connection.

David Livingstone

[0011]

Please excuse this wretched Yankee paper from Loanda. Rags are scarce it seems now a days. but the Papyrus plant abounds through all intertropical Africa. Surely our paper manufacturers might equal the compeers of old Jannes and Janbres.

Tette or Nyunghe on Zambesi 3d March 1856

Reached this yesterday morning pretty well tired from marching through a rough, stoney jungle for some time past. I cannot copy the whole of the foregoing as a post goes off to Quillimane tomorrow morning, but perhaps early intelligence will be appreciated

[0012] than later and better written be. N<sup>o</sup> III refers chiefly to the of the Interior. Both it and tracing be sent in time. the Portuguese remarkably kind. And I am good health and spirits.

David Livingston