

## Letter to Lord Kinnaird, 25 November 1861

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[0001]

H.M.S. Pioneer. River Shire

25 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1861

Dear Lord Kinnaird

Your most welcome of April last came to hand by two of Oxford and Cambridge missionaries without knowing a word of the or a bit of the way came up river in common country canoes has never yet been accomplished a single Portuguese

From a small section of this river - six miles, to which we were limited our vessel being too deep to run up down. we bought at a very cheap about 300 lbs of excellent clean cotton was not the period of the cotton crop had we not been employed elsewhere the quantity could easily have obtained. the people had not been by the prospect of a regular

[0002] to plant more than they meant for own use, and having ourselves been in our supply of calico we had to them the most worthless hash you concieve in payment. But calico here in very great demand. You must imagine that we are here among the

"Gonakeds." Every one is clothed with inner bark of a certain tree and is so highly valued that the very slaves cost only five yards valued here at 2/6. Women and children for two yards or one shilling. You can any work done for calico. But a difficulty meets us here. 1 We the way. 2 We open the markets

3 We so gain the confidence of the natives to any man of common sense and property are perfectly secure. Government servants to become public cotton collectors? I that after we have accomplished three important results in any one of the country there are work is

[0003] . This lower Shire valley[& hills adjacent] produces immense quantity of cotton superior common American. Who is to collect , and after it is collected are the Portuguese be allowed to put a tax on it while Portuguese productions go out . We go onwards. We are now down to the sea expecting to meet steamer built at Glasgow in , and every man of us be employed during the best of a twelve month in trans-it past Murchison's cataracts look back therefore to see if any is to be taken of our among a people now all - witness the passage of these - and I see only the erecting a fort at the of the Shire.

With respect to the finer kinds cotton the sea island, it really in this country with very

[0004] care. the soil of both the lower upper Shire contains a considerable of salt. the people even extract for their food out of it. this may the reason why it takes so kindly the soil. But we have besides an cotton which shews an and a half staple. We found it Victoria falls on the Zambesi again at the upper end of Lake With the idea of a colony throughly agree and I expect [soon] to a D<sup>r</sup> Stewart, a minister I of the free church of Scotland has come out to consult me this very point. The object is partly . and with a view to influence slave trade. and I suppose to benefit honest poor. Besides cotton we could wool on all our highlands and of being considered intruders be looked on by the natives as .

[0005]

When we went up to the highlands East Murchison's cataract's to introduce the to the Mangangja - (pronounced -anja. g not heard) we met Portuguese hunters returning with large

numbers captives - An extensive system of slave had been set agoing by instigating tribe called Ajawa to attack village of Manganja - kill the and sell the women & children to Portuguese. All the captives met fell my hands and I presented them to bishop to begin school with. the destruction going on along borders produced no effort at for mutual defence among the - All were fleeing. So in order prevent the country around the mission becoming depopulated and to stop effusion of blood we went to try what conference would do. On approaching Ajawa all our declarations of peace

[0006] nullified by some Manganja followers to frighten the enemy by calling out one of their great sorcerers had come it did not strike me that we thereby deprived of the protection of English name till afterwards - they at us like furies and shot at with muskets and poisoned arrows about 50 yards distance. We were obliged drive them off with our firearms - the alone suffered from the weapons the Ajawa. The bishop has since to drive away other companies Ajawa who were destroying his though I thought he ought to have only on the defensive as we did. slave hunting has depopulated large of as fine land as any in the world as the Portuguese encourage it - authorities keeping discreetly in the much more territory will laid waste. A colony would be a nucleus for fugitives from slave hunters. the bishop has 200

[0007] people on his station and a large is collecting around him.

On the Upper shire we found thousands fugitives. We carried a boat past the and sailed up into Lake Nyassa found it to be a very deep lake. ship could find anchorage only near shore. Our leadline gave no bottom at

210 feet in the south and in the north felt bottom with a fishing line at 600 in a bay. A mile outside we could no bottom at 696 feet. It is 20 to 50 miles broad - Over 200 long and surrounded by and high uplands. the is prodigiously large slavery is the only trade. An vessel called a dhow fled from full of slaves to the East shore . We were on the West and it was stormy during the Equinoctial gales

(September) we could not cross in an boat. The dhow had lately been built

[0008] Colonel Rigby our consul at Zanzibar in a letter published in the "Times" that all the slaves come from Nyassa & valley of the Shire and a small steamer the lake would break the neck of trade. We shall now set ourselves to work. then look for an outlet for by the Rovuma. We could no accurate information about except that it was a very large river this all agreed but its distance from Lake varied from a few yards to 50

I suppose that the Government will for the steamer after we have put on the Lake - but do not know. was built by my friends in Glasgow the builders "Tod & Macgregor" take [from me] until they see whether any thing be granted. The expenses of this [(Pioneer) &] all her crew are great £ 11,000 next year they will be less. Pioneer is unfortunately too deep splendid strong good vessel with this

[0009] fault. Were she on the Lake she be admirable. I do not grumble her I am most thankful to her, but with half her draught as intended in the plan she would gone up any of the East African .

The kind of people that would this country would be families the agricultural class - men that turn their hands to anything - their own huts - make their doors - tables - chairs, everything ought to form their first on the highlands as they became acclimatized to lower levels. This is I have recommended for Mission, and they will in all enjoy good health - If obstacle presented by Portuguese

[0010] removed, either by free access given - (It is not withheld now the placing of posts or stations on our line of entrance, what is intended) or by our an entrance by Rovuma would

say send at once. some might be made but year must elapse ere we are the Lake with our steamer. then there is difficulty of the 's draught. She could take or people up either Shire or during but a part of year. the benefits to be derived a small colony of industrious in stimulating the people the country to cultivate largely well be over-rated. I am that besides cultivating

[0011] themselves they would purchase produce of the natives with calico. all doubt slave trading would die a natural death. When entered the Lake on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September the crowds that pressed around I said to an intelligent man had been down at the coast

" We come today only to see the Lake next year we shall come in a to buy cotton and ivory. but slaves." After thinking some he addressed the crowd, going what I had said, and added

" I see plainly that these people will us. " they can see at once the we propose to confer but work must be done by many , and it is encouraging to that while benefitting we are bestowing a boon

[0012] our own poor. the bishop thought introduction of whites would drive blacks into a corner, but when I up with him to the highlands spontaneously remarked, I see you quite right there is abundance of for all - He is high church there being no one to laugh at or oppose pretensions of that party it cannot out here - To be anything better than heathenism and if the only works for the benefit the people I don't care though they pretend to be able to stand on heads as well as forgive sins.

Returning the kind saluation of  
Lady Kinnnaird. I am yours

Most sincerely

David Livingstone

I expect to be joined by M<sup>rs</sup> L soon after a & unexpected separation but without am sorry to say a single child