

Letter to Unknown, 7 December 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

~~River Shire 7th Dec^r~~

1861

~~Private~~

~~My Dear Friend~~

~~I believe I wrote to you
on the arrival of the Pioneer about the
beginning of this year thanking you
for your very kind remembrance
of me in sending all the Society's publica-
tions - Some of the French journals
and a kind note besides. I had begun
to despair, and thought you had forgotten
me but the appearance of these things
made me both ashamed & thankful.
That old heathen Arrowsmith never
once wrote to me - though I twice wrote
to him. May he live till long after
I come home that I may punish
him for his negligence~~

We have been up to Lake Nyassa
and carried a boat passed the cataracts
[0002]
to explore by. Went along the Western
shore but a paper I have written for
the Society and send through Lord John
Russell will give you all particulars
It is very deep - from 20 to 50 or 60
miles broad and over 200 miles long
(225) - It was excessively stormy and
you must not despise us for failing
to find out all about the Rovuma.
We were on the West side and could not
cross in a little open boat at the period
of the Equinoctial gales - then we could
get no food in a depopulated part of
the country near the North end. Pirates
live on detached rocks - and human
skeletons & putrid bodies (~~exactly like~~

the old dissecting room odour) were
lying everywhere. It was like a fair dead
lock for us and we came back
intending to bend all our energies to-
wards placing a steamer on the
Lake – this will take a year at least
[0003]

Another Lake called Moelo was reported
by two Arabs we met on the Lake
they came from a place called
Katanga which seems to be S.S.W of
Cazembe - they had come down to
buy cloth at Nyassa. When we
have the steamer up we shall be
able to examine to country adjacent
with Ease.

I shall enclose a sketch of the Lake
that if you think proper M^r George
may make an enlarged one for
exhibition supposing you again
favour my paper with a reading.
The Latitudes are all correct and
the longitudes pretty nearly so
if we take as a basis M^r Maclear's
determination of my former
observations at the Lake – the first
observation is 2 up the Lake and
about 1 west of our former observ-
ations [0004]
at Mosanha's vil.

What do you think of your Yankee
friends now? I am very sorry
to hear of the break up. they were
such a glorious standing protest
against old world tyranny,
but by their horrid slave system
sent all to the dogs – One hopes,
though we can't see how it may
yet all be settled amicably.

I should have been glad to be
with you when Du Chaillu has his
night, but I must get a pathway
out of this region away from the
Portuguese before I can leave.
In the meantime I wish you
all prosperity public & private

Yours Aff^{ly}
David Livingstone