

## Letter to W. Black, 15 November 1871

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Ujiji 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1871

My Dear Sir

On reaching this place in 1869 I found your very kind and welcome present of Assam tea and as I had tasted neither tea coffee nor sugar for two years and six months you may be sure that I blessed you for your kind remembrance. I was greatly reduced by an attack of pneumonia and I think that the renewal of my strength was in a great measure owing to copious libations of the delicious beverage - native food is generally coarse though the people shew a great deal of ingenuity in making it as fine and as palatable as possible but after all our systems require European food if we are to retain health and strength. I wrote a note of thanks in May of /69 but my packet of letters was destroyed between this and the sea. I therefore feel that you have set me down as ungrateful and I write this in order that you may see that I am really greatly obliged and that I am very unwilling that you should have good reason to think I had forgotten my benefactor

I have been a great deal longer at my work of exploration than I ever expected - the sources of the Nile are not a little matter that one might reach - scream out Hurrah! and go away home: the watershed from which the springs of the Nile do unquestionable arise is full 700

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seven hundred miles in length from West to East and the springs in some parts I passed over are like the vegetation of frost on window panes - almost innumerable

the converge into enormous Lake rivers  
the central one of which is from one  
to three miles broad and it can  
never be waded at any point or  
at any time of the year - ultimately  
the two Western rivers fall into the  
central one and then we have in  
it and Tanganyika with the lake  
river Albert Nyanza but two  
main drains of the great Nile  
valley as was depicted by Ptolemy  
I have been trying to follow the  
central lake even down through  
the country of the cannibals  
named Manyema - it has four  
large lakes proper in its course  
the country is fertile beyond  
description and the population  
prodigious - were never visited  
before and the ivory lies in  
the forests where the animals  
were killed - this has brought  
swarms of half caste traders  
into Manyema and not content  
with ivory sufficient to acquire  
to be carried by three relays they must  
needs murder and make slaves.  
It is not slave trading it is simply  
marauding & murder and all that  
slaving privileges of the Sultan of  
Zanzibar should not suffer -  
Kindest salaams to M<sup>rs</sup> Black  
from yours &c David Livingstone

[0003]  
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