

Fragment of 1870 Field Diary (LXXXVIII-CI), 21 February-2 March 1871

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[0001]

LXXXVIII

21st arrived at Monandewa's vil. [32

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situated on a high ridge between two deep & difficult gullies - People obliging & kind = chief's wife made a fire for me in the evening unbidden - 22nd on N.W. to a high hill called Chibaude a yunde with a spring of white water at the village on the top - Hunger from some unknow cause but people cultivating now on the plain below with a will - 23^d on to two large villages with many banana plants around but men said they were in fear of the traders and shifted their villages to avoid them - We then went on to the village Kahombogola with a feeble old man as chief - country beautiful and undulating - light green grass covers it all save at the brooks where the eye is relieved by the dark green of lines of trees - grass tears the hands and wets the extremities constantly - soil formed of debris -> of granite rocks - rough & stoney but everywhere fertile - one can rarely get a bare spot to sit down and rest

24th to a villag[villag]e near Lolinde R. then cross Loengadze & sleep on bank of Luha [R.]
[0002]

LXXXIX

to Mamohela welcomed by all the Arabs - and got a letter from D^r Kirk and another from the Sultan - and from Muhammad bin Nassib going to Karagwe all anxious to be kind Katomba gave flour - nuts fowl & goat - a new way opened to Kasongo's much shorter than that I followed - I rest a few days & then go on -

1st March 1871 I was to start this morning but the Arabs asked me to take seven of their people going to buy viramba as as they know the new way the offer was gladly

accepted - I gave a note to Katomba
to take my double barrelled gun at Ujiji
I pay him this for all his services &
he gives me a young she Soko to be carried
for me there Ujiji - She is a most friendly
little beast came up to me at once making
[0003]

XC

her chirrup of welcome - smelled my clothing
& held out her hand to be shaken - I slapped her
palm without offence though she winced - She
began to untie the cord with which she was
afterwards bound with fingers & thumbs
in quite a systematic way and on being
interfered with by a man looked daggers &
screaming tried to beat him with her hands
she was afraid of his stick and faced him
putting her back to me as a friend = When
allowed to unloose herself she walked away
using the hands as crutches - treading on the
backs of the fingers on the spaces between
the first joint from the nail to the second
the knuckles & back of the hand being held
perpendicularly - sometimes she walks
upright but the crutch movement in
which the feet are lifted forward together
is the common way of going - she holds
out her hand for people to lift her up and

carry her quite like a spoiled child then
bursts into a passionate cry somewhat
like that of a kite wrings her hands quite
naturally as if in despair & sometimes adds
a foot to make the appeal more tender -
she sits eighteen inches high - Her black
long hair was beautiful while she was tended
by her mother who was killed - she eats
everything - comes and sits down on my
mat beside me as a child would do - covering
herself with a mat to sleep - makes a
nest of grass or leaves and wipes her
face with a leaf - - When wounded Soko
stuffs leaves into the hole - is not mis-
chievous as the monkeys are
[MS.10703]

[0004]

XCI

= I present[...] my double barrelled gun to [33
]

Katombaas he has been very kind called
away from Ujiji - He gave me the Soko
but will carry it to Ujiji for me - I have tried
to refund all that the Arabs have ap-
-pended on me I left Mamohela on
2nd March and came to Munanbunda's
seven of Moene[a]kila's people go with
us and serve as guides - on the 3rd
we came to Monangongo

[4th] [...] ~~the~~ Headman hid himself from fear as
we are near to where bin Juma killed five
men - then on 5th we came through the
same dense forest country as on 4th
and reached villages beside some hills
called Mobasilange - the village at
which we sleep is called Bazilange
most of them are very pretty and stand
on slopes the main streets East and
West allow the bright sun stream his
[0005]

XCII

his clear rays from one end to the
other and dry up the moisture of the frequent
showers - a little verandah is often put
in front of the door - Here at dawn the
family gathers round the fire and sit in
the enjoyment of the delicious air talking
over their little domestic affairs & waiting
till the sun warms them - the leaves of the
forest trees around and near them are
bespangled with thousands of dew drops
the cocks crow & strut - the kids gambol &
leap - The older goats make believe fighting
the fairy scene is no doubt one never
forgotten by the young whose infamy is
guilted by the scene[picture] whose beauty is quite
indescribable - Thrifty winces often make
the heap of grass roots which bake their
clay pots [^] [or make salt] serve as the morning fire - In some
cases all the village is deserted as we come
near - doors are shut & a bunch of leaves
[0006]

XCIII

on a handful of reeds green placed across
it to say "no entrance here" - chickens not caught
while all the fowls and goats are carried off
we[a]il for the hens & tell like the smoking fires
of flight from the slave traders - They have
found out that I am not a slaver and
when the people remain stand calling

as I pass - "This is the good one [^] [Bolongo]" - "Friend
ship Friendship" - They sell their fine iron
rings eagerly for a few beads - The rings are
out of fashion since beads came in -
" slaves" slap grown men in sheer wanton
-ness I have threatened to thrash them if
I see them but out of sight of me they do it
still - The owners confess that all the mischief
is done by slaves, and then when Manyema
resent and kill the nasty curs vengeance
is taken by guns - The free men behave
better than the slaves = The Manyema are
far more beautiful than other free o

[0007]

XCIV

bond of Zanzibar - The men say "if we had
Manyema women we should get beautiful
children" Many women are very pretty & the men
handsome. Hands feet & limbs perfect - orifices
of the nose widened by snufftakers - teeth not
filed except a little space between two front incisors

5th March 1871 We heard today that Muhamads
people passed us on the West with much ivory
I lose thus 20 copper rings I was to take from
them and all the notes they were to make
for me of the rivers they crossed =

6th passed through very large villages with many
forges in active work - men followed us as if
to fight but we got them to turn peaceably
we dont know who are enemies so many
have been maltreated & had relatives killed - The
rain of yesterday made paths so slippery that
the feet of all were sorely fatigued and on
coming to Mangara's I resolved to rest on 7th
near m^t Kimari - gave a cloth & beads in lieu
of a fine fat goat from chief a clever good man
[0008]

XCV

9th March 1871. We marched about five hours [34
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across a grassy plain without trees = Buga or Prairie
The torrid sun nearly vertical sent his fierce rays down
and fatigued us all - crossed two [^] [Sokoye] streams by bridges &
slept at a village on a ridge of woodland overlooking
Kasonga - After two hours this morning we came
to a villages of this chief & at one were welcomed
by the safari of Salem Mokadam & I was given
a house - Kasonga is a very fine young man

with European features and very clever and
good - Has four guns - Muhamads people
were led by his and spent all their copper for
some fifty frasilahs of good ivory [Calculation here.]
From this party men have been sent
over Lualaba and about fifty frasilahs obtained
All praise Kasonga - - this place is about
6 miles [^] [East] from Lualaba and very healthy

10th Muhamads people are said to have gone
to Luapanga a powerful chief who told
them they were to buy all their ivory from

[0009]

XCVI

him - He had not enough and they wanted
to go on to a people who have ivory doorposts
But he said "You shall go neither forwards nor
backwards but remain here" He called an
immense body of archers and said you must
fight these" - they killed Luapanga and many
of his people called Bahika - crossed a very
large river the Morombya or Morombwe
and again the Pembo river but don't seem
to have gone very far North -

I wished to go from this in canoes but Ka-
songo has none so I must tramp for 5 or 6
days to Moene Lualaba to buy one if I have credit
with Abed

11th Had a long fierce oration from Amur in
which I was told again & again that I should be
killed and eaten - people wanted a white one
to eat = I needed 200 guns - must not go to die -
I told him that I was thankful for advice if given by
one who had knowledge but his vehement threats

[0010]

XCVII

were dreams of one who had never gone
anywhere but sent his slaves to kill people = He
was only frightening my people and doing me an
injury - Baker had only twelve people & came
near to this. "Were the people cannibals" &c &c
I left this noisy demagogue after saying I thanked
him for this warnings but saw he knew not
what he was saying - The traders from Ujiji
are simply marauders, and their people
worse than themselves thirst for blood more
than for ivory - Each longs to be able to tell a tale

of blood, and Manyema are an easy prey
Abed [Hassani] assaulted the people at Moene Lualaba's
and now they keep to the other bank and I am
forced to bargain with Kasongo for a canoe
and he sends to a friend for one to be seen on
the 13th. This Abed declared to me that he would
not begin hostilities but he began nothing
else. The prospect of getting slaves over -
-powers all else & blood blood flows
in horrid streams - The Lord look on it
He will have some tale to tell Muhamad Bogh[...]
[0011]

XCVIII

12th Rashid left today for Moene Lualaba
and I wait for Kasongos messengers to return
This spot is pretty - land undulating with trees
enough to be beautiful - Rice grows well and
food is abundant - Kasonga says that he has
but one tongue & never lies - He is a contrast
to the Arabs who are nearly all liars - Musa &
party are fair average openness of Moslem
falsehood - The only difference between their relig
and them is that Muhamad lied to force his
countrymen to give up idolatry - The impudence
of his lies is their chief feature - As a trader he
went to Damascus & heard of S^t Paul's trans-
lation to the third heaven - Muhamad at once
conceived the idea of a translation to the seventh
heaven - He had no miracle to shew in evidence
but without shame tried to appropriate Moses
bringing water out of the rock but with the characteris-
tic of all false miracles for no reason - did not
[[Livingstone has placed a very large "X" in the margin here.]] take water as all others did on
his camel and
worked his miracle where it was not needed =
[0012]

XCIX

- 13th sent my people to examine the canoe
Kasonga's men did not reach it yesterday
afraid because their Headman Kasongo
gave Hassani & Muhamad's people ivory
to assault the people at Moene Lualaba's [the trap laid was 25 copper bracelets given as debt]
They killed many and captured many more
for no reason but to get slaves [^] [and hope not to return here] - they
were market people famed by all as
good & civil - Kasongo's goodness extends
only to the traders - I told him that they
would attack him too when they had finished
all about him and he would go yet in a

slave yoke like other Manyema It is
terrible this Manyema trade - It is simply
stealing people and shedding human blood
as a sort of salvo or accompaniment
to be able to say we fought Kasongo's
enemies - Marvel not at the matter
there be higher than they.
[0013]

C
- 14th March 1871 Men did not return yesterday
I heard only lately of Youngs search for me on Nyassa
and am deeply thankful to H M Gov^t and all
concerned in taking trouble to ascertain my fate
Musa and his companions are fair average speci-
-mens of the lower classes of half caste Muham-
-madans - one need never expect aught from them
but heartlessness and falsehood - one like them
-selves who had been properly punished by Manganja
came past us and reported that he had been
plundered by Mazitu or Batuta 150 miles distant [^] [N.]
Musa was terrified & though I offered to go due
West till far past the beat of the Batuta as soon
as I turned my face thither ran away - they alleged
no other reason whatever but fear of Batuta - The
Sultan who knows his people better than anyone
else entrusts all his reverence & money affairs to
Banians from India - His father did the same - He
says if he trusted his customs income in the hands of
his own Muhammadan subjects they would steal it
[35
] all - purloin the whole - This being true of the better
[0014]

CI.
[15th] nothing better can be expected from their inferiors
Falsehood seems ingrained in their constitutions
No wonder that in all this region they have never tried
to propagate Islamism The natives soon learn to hate
them, and slaving as carried on by the Kilwans
and the Ujijians is so bloody as to prove an
effectual barrier against proselytism - The
Muhamadans have in all their intercourse
in East Africa propagated nothing but
syphilis and the domestic bug - In spreading
the disease they have been distressingly successful
even in Manyema - Filthy talkers all their
speech to the natives is too disgusting to
noticed - to avoid provoking ill will
I listened as if I heard it not -

16th The party here assaulted Kasongo's people

yesterday and killed three men capturing as
usual women & children - My men not come
back - I fear engaged in some broil

17th - 18th not come yet though two men were
sent after them 19th as I feared having killed
three men - I am clear of blood guiltiness -
no large canoe seen - people angry because Kasongo
sent traders to them killed their guide and wounded
others - I can send no where without danger of my men
eagerly engaging in bloodshed -

20th I am heart sore and sick of human blood -
[Series of calculations related to "Pieces Kanike."]

21st Kasongo's brothers child died
and he asked me to remain today while
he buried the dead and he would give
me a guide tomorrow - Being rainy
I stop willingly -

Dugumbe is said to purpose going
down the river to Kanayumbe River
and build on the land Kanayumbe
which is a loop formed by the river & is large
[Small drawn map of the river and the region encircled by it.] He is believed to possess great
power
of divination and even of killing
unfaithful women

22nd I am detained another day by sickness of
one of the party - very cold rain yesterday from
Nor West - I hope to go tomorrow towards the
sokoni or great market of this region -