

Letter to Robert Moffat 1, [1?] October, 12 October 1849

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[Part of letter from D^r Livingston Robert Moffat Oct 1849]

Kolobeng October 1849

My Dear Father

I wrote a note to you when at the Batasana & informed you that the Latitude was 19° but we had made calculation without the Nautical Almanack & when reached the waggon it was seen to be no more 20° 20' South & about 24° Long. The distance might be about 600 miles, as we went North & then a long way to the Westward. After this correction do not feel inclined to say much more for you soon have Oswel & Murray who will communicate all particulars viva voce. the Bakolia[(slaves)] as are called by Bechuanas or Bayeiye[(men)] as they themselves were the most interesting people we . they are darker in complexion than Bechuanas & speak another language. Many of them however have to speak sitchuana fluently. I derived more from sailing along the river Zouga in canoes and addressing them their little villages the reed than from all the journey. besides seemed fine frank fellows, and understood the delivered better than any lot I ever addressed the last time Oreeja is the name they give to Deity. they mentioned the names of the first & woman & if I mistook them not had some respecting the flood. they catch fish means of nets. I shall send a list to you fish are very fine. some are said to be as long

[0002] a man. the longest I saw was about three feet kill hippopotami by means of harpoons attached ropes. their canoes are poor things generally made single trees & flat bottomed. some of them take form of the tree though that may have been like the S. the Batletli are a small tribe and they are divided into three. they are a branch the Bakurutse and split off about 3 generations . the Batasana is a large tribe but the chief mere boy is an unfavourable specimen. He us going on to Sebitoane. the latter [chief] took the cattle from the Batletli and Bakurutse and they have nothing but the produce of their & fish to live on. none of them ever heard the sea or saw a European before. they were or distrustful of us at first but in returning more frank & open. the Zouga is a noble , & remarkable for its periodical rise & . the rise was taking place when we there and the water perfectly pure & cold & gave the idea of melting snow It runs the N.E but does not derive its waters the Lake although it appears to do so Batoka told me explicitly that the water came from the North by a river which into [^][it] the Tamunakle (T a m u n a k l e) & is connected with other large rivers all the North & all navigable. they seem to me form a highway into a large section of

[0003] . the prospect of this being opened up for missionaries the discovery of the Lake dwindle into nothing. the asserted that the rise in the river was not by rains. A man in a hilly country called

Mazyekua kills a man annually and throws body into the river after which the water comes the water became softer the nearer we approached junction with the Tamunakle & the air was keen & cold I could only conjecture snow must be melting in some region North. I never had such a keen appetite & we were all alike. this, although our was not much above 2000 f^t. a deal lower than Kolobeng. the disease "holsetse" seems inflammation of the . we heard more

coughing than among . and immense clouds of very fine arise from numerous salt pans adjacent the wind blows the whole country seems in a mist and as it irritates the eyes may act like the same [^][very fine dust] thing among the in Sheffield. the symptoms mentioned more like those of pneumonia than fever found a new kind of flint on the opposite of the Zouga. M^rOswel will shew it you this is dated Kolobeng, I am still 150 miles . I note a few things to save time when by goodness of God I reach there. His kindness been continually bestowed on us through the

[0004] journey, and I feel most thankful for his mercies. the time has been much longer I anticipated. It was reported to be 10 days the Bamangwato But that was not the it was only the Noka ea Batletle or river . We had to travel 300 miles beyond before saw the Lake Ñami or as the Bechuanas call it Mghabi. Ñami means water or great water the Bakoba language. ami is water itself - serapo is paddle - añkaslu the boat hook - mero fishhook & wotu canoe shall give you some words when I have time only 21 about 300 resemble sitchuana. We were full conjectures before we reached the Lake. 200 miles off we were speculating on the on the grass shewing the vicinity of the Lake in the distance were sure to be hovering it &c &c

12 October - Reached home two days ago thankful find though all had been ill & much disease & had been in the town my family were pretty good health. We were more troubled want of water in coming out than in in. Sekhomi filled up the wells we . Mr Oswel remains at Lopepe 100 miles this. M^r Murray gets the spare oxen in to push on - I endure here on horseback get oxen to bring M^rOswel out.