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David Livingstone

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[0344]

[338]

Desp

No 2

and with bows and arrows was invincible
He is said to have destroyed many native
traders from Tanganyika but twenty Arab
guns made him flee from his own stockage
and caused a great sensation in the country
He was much taken with my hair, and
woolen clothing, but his people heedless of
his scolding so pressed upon us that we
could not converse, and after promising
to send for me to talk during the night our
interview ended - He promised guides
to Moero, and sent us more provisions
than we could carry, but shewed so much
distrust that after all we went without
his assistance -

Insama's people are particularly handsome
many of the men have as beautiful heads
as one could find in an assembly of
Europeans - all have very fine forms
with small hands and feet - Some of
the West Coast ugliness from which most
of our ideas of the negroes are derived is
here to be seen - - No prognathous jaws
nor Lark heels offended the sight - My
observations deepened the impression
first obtained from the remarks of Mr
Winwoode Reade that the typical Negro
is seen in the ancient Egyptian, and
not in the ungainly forms which grow
up in the unhealthy swamps of the West
Coast - indeed it is probable that this
upland forest region is the true home
of the negro - the women excited the
admiration of the Arabs - they have
fine small well formed features -
their great defects is one of fashion

which does not extend to the next tribe
[0345]
[339]

Desp
No 2

they file their teeth to points - the hussies ! -
and that makes their smile like that of the
Crockodile -

Insama's country is called Itawa
and his principal town is in Lat 8° 55' South
and Long. 29° 21' E. From the large population
he had under him, Itawa is in many parts
well cleared of trees for cultivation, and it is
lower than Ulungu being generally about 3000
feet above sea - Long lines of tree covered
hills raised some 600 or 700 feet above their
valleys of denundation prevent the scenery from
being monotonous - Large game is abundant
Elephants buffaloes and zebras grazed in large
numbers on the long sloping banks of a river
called Chisera a mile and a half broad -
In going North we crossed this river or rather
marsh which is full of Papyrus plants &
reeds - our ford was an elephant's path, and
the roots of the Papyrus though a carpet to these
animals were sharp and sore to feet usually
protected by shoes, and often made us shrink
and flounder into holes chest deep - the Chisera
forms a larger marsh West of this ~~which took~~
~~us an hour and a half to ford~~, and it gives
off its water to the Kalongosi a feeder of Lake
Moero -

The Arabs sent out men in all directions
to purchase ivory, but their victory over
Insama had created a panic among the
tribes which no verbal assurances could
allay - If Insama had been routed by 20
Arab guns no one could stand before them
but Kasembe - and Kasembe had issued
strict orders to his people not to allow
the Arabwho fought Isama to enter his
country - they did not attempt to force
[0346]
[340]

their way but after sending friendly messages
and presents to different chiefs which these

were not cordially recieved, turned off in some other direction, and at last despairing of more ivory turned homewards - from first to last they were extremely kind to me and shewed all due respect to the Sultan's letter - I am glad that I was witness to their mode of trading in ivory and slaves - It formed a complete contrast to the atrocious dealings of the Kilwa traders who are supposed to be, but are not, the subjects of the same Sultan - If one wished to depict the slave trade in its most attractive, or rather, least objectionable form, he would accompany these gentleman subjects of the Sultan of Zanzibar - If he would describe the land traffic in its most disgusting phrases he would follow the Kilwa traders along the road to Nyassa, of the Portuguese half-castes from Tette to the river Shire -

Keeping to the North of Insama all together and moving Westwards we[our] small party reached the North end of Moero on the 8th November last - There the Lake is a goodly piece of water twelve or more miles broad, and flanked on the East and West by ranges of lofty tree covered mountains, the range on the West is the highest and is part of the country called Rua - Moero gives off a river at its North West end called Lualaba and recieves the River Kalongosi (pronounced by the Arabs Karungosi) on the East near its middle, and the rivers Luapula [^] [and] at its [^] [Roukwe] Southern extremity the point of most interest in Lake Moero is that it forms one of a chain

[0347]
[341]

of Lakes connected by a river some 500 miles in length - First of all the Chambezi rises in the country of Mambwe N.E. of Molembe - it then flows South West and West till it reaches Lat. 11° South and Long. 29° East where it forms Lake Bemba [^] [or Bambedo] - emerging thence it assumes the new name Luapula - ~~which~~ [and] comes down here to fall into Moero - on going out of this Lake it is known by the name Lualaba as it flows N.W. in Rua to form another Lake with many islands called Urenge or Ulenge - Beyond this, inform-

-ation is not positive as to whether it enters
Tanganyika or another Lake beyond that -
When I crossed the Chambeze, the similarity
of names led me to imagine that this was a branch of the Zambezi - the natives said
”No - this goes South West and forms a very
large water there” - but I had become prepossessed
with the idea that Lake Liemba was that
Bemba of which I had heard in 1863 - and
we had been so starved in the South that I gladly
set my face North - the river like prolongation
of Lake Liemba might go to Moero, and then I worked
my way to this Lake when I could not follow
the arm of Liemba - Since coming to basembes
the testimony of natives and Arabs has been
so united and consistent - that I am but ten
days from La[...]-[ke] Bemba [^] [or Bambeolo] that I cannot doubt
its accuracy - I am so tired of exploration
without a word from home or any where
- else [^] [for two years] that I must go to Ujiji or Tangangika
for letters before doing anything else -
the banks and country adjacent to Lake
Bambaolo are reported to be [^] [now] very muddy
and very unhealthy - [^] [I have no medicine] the inhabitants
suffer greatly from swelled thyroid gland
or Derbyshire neck, and Elephantiasis and this
is the rainy season & very un[...]-[safe] for me -
[0348]
[342]

When at the lower end of Moero we
were so near Kasembe that it was thought
well to ascertain the length of the Lake , and
see Kasemba too - We came up between the
double range that flanks the East of the Lake ,
but mountains, and plains are so covered
with well grown forest that we could
seldom see it - We reached Kasembe’s town
on the 28th Novth It stands near the North end
of the Lakelet Mofwe - this is from one to three
miles broad and some six or seven long - it is
full of sedgy islands and abounds in fish
the country is quite level but fifteen or
twenty miles West of Mofwe we see a long
range of the mountains of Rua - Between
this range and Mofwe the Luapula flows
past into ~~Moero~~ - Moero [^] [the Lake called Moero okata = the great Moero] being about fifty
miles long - the town of Kasembe covers
~~about~~ a mile square of cassava plantations
the huts being dotted over that space - some
have square enclosures of reeds but no

attempt has been made at arrangement,
it might be called a rural village rather
than a town - no estimate could be
formed by counting the huts, they were
so irregularly planted, and hidden by cassava
but my impression from other
collections of huts was that the population
was under a thousand souls - the court
or compound of Kasembe - some would
call it, a palace, is a square enclosure
of 300 yds by 200 yds - it is surrounded
by a hedge of high reeds - inside, where
Kasembe honoured me with a grand
reception, stands a gigantic hut for
Kasembe, and a score of small huts
for domestics - the Queen's hut stands
[0349]
[343]

behind that of the chief with a number of
small huts also - Most of the enclosed space
is covered with a plantation of Cassava -
"curcas pungans" - and cotton - Kasembe sat
before his hut on a square seat placed on Lion
and Leopard skins - He was clothed in a coarse
blue and white Manchester print edged with
red baize, and arranged in large folds so as to
look like a crinoline - [put on wrong side foremost] His arms legs & head
were covered with sleeves - leggings & caps made
of various coloured beads in neat patterns -
a crown of yellow feathers surmounted his
cap - Each of his head-men came forward
shaded by a huge ill made umbrellah, and
followed by his dependants - made obeisance
to Kasembe and sat down on his right &
left - various bands of musicians did the
same - When called upon I rose and bowed -
and an old counsellor with his ears cropped,
gave the chief as full an account as he
had been able to gather during our stay of the
English in general, and my antecedents in
particular - my having passed through
Lunda to the West of Kasembe, and visited
chiefs of whom he scarcely knew anything
excited most attention - He then assured
me that I was welcome to his country to go
where I liked and do what I chose - We then
went [^] [two boys carrying his train behind him] to an inner apartment where the
articles of my present were exhibited in
detail - He had examined them privately
before, and we knew that he was satisfied

they consisted of eight yards of orange coloured
serge - a large striped table cloth - another
large cloth made at Manchester in imitation
of West Coast native manufacture - It
never fails to excite the admiration of

[0350]

[344]

Arabs and natives, and a large richly
gilded comb for the back hair such as Indu
wore fifty years ago - It was given to me by
a friend at Liverpool and as Kasembe &
Insama's people cultivate the hair into large
knobs behind, I was sure that this article
would tickle the fancy, Kasembe expressed
himself pleased, and again bade me welcome.

I had another interview, and tried to
dissuade him from selling his people as
slaves - he listened a while - then broke off
into a tirade on the greatness of his country
his power and dominion, which Mohamed
bin Salh who has been here for ten years
turned into ridicule, and made the audience
laugh by telling how other Lunda chiefs
had given me oxen and sheep while Kasembe
had only a poor little goat & some fish to
bestow - He insisted also that [^] [there] were but two
sovereigns in the world - the Sultan of
Zanzibar and Victoria - when we went
on a third occasion to bid Kasembe
farewell, he was much less distant &
gave me the impression that I could soon
become friends with him - but he has
an ungainly look, and an outward squint
in each eye - a number of human skulls
adorned the entrance to his courtyard -
and great numbers of his principal
men having their ears cropped and
some with their hands lopped off shewed
his barbarous way of making his ministers
attentive and honest - I could not avoid
indulging a prejudice against him -

[0351]

[345]

The Portuguese visited Kasembe long ago -
but as each new Kasembe builds a new town
it is not easy to fix on the exact spot to which

strangers came - the last seven Kasembes have
 had their towns within seven miles of the present
 one - D^e Lacerda - Governor of Lette on the Zambesi was the only visitor of scientific
 attainments, and he died at the rivulet called Chungu three or four miles from this - the spot
 is called Nshinda or Inchinda which the
 Portuguese wrote Lucenda or Ucenda - the
 Latitude given is nearly fifty miles wrong,
 but the natives say that he lived only ten
 days after his arrival, and if, as is probably,
 his mind was clouded with fever when
 he [^] [last] observed, those who have experienced
 what that is, will readily excuse any
 mistake he may have made - His object
 was to accomplish a much desired project
 of the Portuguese to have an over land com-
 munication between their Eastern & Western
 possessions - this was never made by any
 of the Portuguese nation, but two black traders
 succeeded partially with a part of the distance -
 crossing once from Cassange in Angola to
 Lette on the Zambesi, and returning with a
 letter to from the Governor of Mosambique -
 it is remarkable that this journey which was
 less by a thousand miles than from sea to
 sea and back again, should have for ever
 quenched all white Portuguese aspirations
 for an overland route
 [0352]
 [346]

The different Kasembes visited by the
 Portuguese seem to have varied much in character
 and otherwise - Pereira the first visitor said
 (I quote from memory) that Kasembe had 20,000
 trained soldiers, watered his streets [^] [daily] and sacrificed
 twenty human victims every day, I could
 hear nothing of human sacrifices now
 and it is questionable if the present Kasembe
 could bring a thousand stragglers into the field,
 when he usurped power five years ago
 his country was densely populated, but he
 was so severe in his punishments - cropping
 the ears - lopping off the hands & other mutilations
 [^] [selling the children] for very slight offences - that his tribe [subjects] gradually
 dispersed themselves in the neighboring
 countries beyond his power - this is the
 common mode by which tyranny is aired
 in parts like these where fugitives are
 never returned - the present Kasembe
 is very poor - when he had people who

killed elephants he was too stingy to
share the profits of the sale of the ivory with
his subordinates - the elephant hunters
have either left him or neglect hunting
so he has now no tusks to sell to the Arab
traders who come from Tanganyika -
Major Moteiro the third Portuguese who
visited Kasembe appears to have been
badly treated by this man's predecessor
and no other of his nation has ventured
so far since - they do not lose much
by remaining away, for a little ivory
and slaves are all that Kasembe ever
can have to sell - about a month to the
West of this people of Katonga smelt
copper ore - (malachite) into large bars
shaped like the capital letter II. they
[0353]
[347]

may be met with of from 50 lbs to 100 lbs weight
all over the country, and the inhabitants draw
the copper into wire for armlets and leglets -
Gold is also found at Katanga, and specimens
were lately sent to the Sultan of Zanzibar-

As we came down from the watershed towards
Tanganyika we enter an area of the earth's surface
still disturbed by internal igneous action - a hot
fountain in the country of Insama is often used
to boil Casava and maize - Earthquakes are
by no means rare - We experienced the shock
of one while at Chitimba's village, and they
extend as far as Kasembe's, I felt as if
afloat, and as huts would not fall there was no
sense of danger - some of them that happen at
night set the fowls a crackling - the most remarkable
effect of this one was that it changed the rates
of the chronometers - no rain fell after it - no
one had access to the chronometers but myself
and as I never heard of this effect before
I may mention that one which lost with great
regularity 1^s - 5 daily, lost 15^s - another whose rate
since leaving the coast was - 15° lost 40^s and a
third which gained 6^s daily stopped altogether -
some of Insama's people ascribed the earth-
quakes to the hot fountain because it shewed
unusual commotion on these occasions,
another hot fountain exists near Tanganyika
than Insama's, and we passed one on the
shores of Moero -

We could not understand why the natives called Moero much larger than Tanganyika till we saw both - the greater Lake lies in a comparatively narrow trough with highland on each side which is always visible - but when we look at Moero to the South of the mountains of Rua on the West we have
[0354]
[348]

nothing but an apparently boundless sea horizon - the Luapula and Rounkwe form a marsh at the Southern extremity, and Kasembe dissuaded me from entering it but sent a man to guide me to different points of Moero further down from the heights at which the Southern portions were seen it must be from forty to sixty miles broad - from the South end of the mountains of Rua (9° 4' South Lat.) it is thirty three miles broad - No native ever attempts to cross it even there - its fisheries are of great value to the inhabitants, and the produce is carried to great distances -

Among the vegetable products of this region that which interested me most was a sort of potato - it does not belong to the solanaceous family but to the [^] [Papulinaceous] pea family and its flowers have a delightful fragrance, it is easily propagated by small cuttings of the root or stalk - the tuber is oblong like on a kidney potato, and when boiled tastes exactly like our common potato - when unripe it has a slight degree of bitterness, and it is believed to be wholesome - [^] [a piece of the root eaten raw is a good remedy for nausea] it is met with on the uplands alone - and seems incapable of bearing much heat though I kept some of the roots [^] [without earth] in a box which was carried in the sun almost daily for six months without destroying their vegetative power -

It is remarkable that in all the central regions of Africa visited the cotton is that known as the Pernambucco variety - it has a long strong staple, seeds clustered together & adherent to each other - the bushes eight or ten feet high have woody stems, and the people make strong striped black & white shawls of the cotton

[0355]

[349]

It was pleasant to mea[e] the Palm oil palm
(Elaies Guineensis) at Casembe's which is
over 3000 feet above the level of the sea - the
oil is sold cheap, but no tradition exists of
of its introduction into the country -

I send no sketch of the country because
I have not yet [^] [passed] over a sufficient surface to
give a connected view of the whole watershed
of this region - and I regret that I cannot
recommend any of the published maps I have
seen as giving even a tolerable idea of the country
one ~~audacious~~**[bold]** constructor of maps has tacked
[on] 200 miles to the North West end of Lake Nyassa
a feat which no traveller has ever ventured
to imitate - another has placed a river in the
same quarter running 3000 or 4000 feet up-
hill and named it the " New Zambesi" because
I suppose the old Zambesi runs down hill - I
have walked over both these mental abortions
and did not know that I was walking on
water till I saw them in the maps -

[0356]

[350]

[0357]

[351]

1867 28 Dec^r

1867

31st

We came on to the Rivulet Chirongo and
then to the Kalenkwa where I was sick - Heavy
rains kept the convoy back - I have had nothing
but coarsely ground sorghum meal for some
time back - and am weak - I used to be the first in the line of march, and an now the
last, Mohamad presented a meal of finely
ground porridge & a fowl - I felt the difference
though I was not grumbling at my coarse
dishes - it is well that I did not go to Bambedo
Lake for it is now very unhealthy to the natives
and I fear that [^] [without medicine] continual swelling by fording
rivulets might have knocked me up altogether,
as I have mentioned they suffer greatly from

swelled Thyroid gland or Derbyshire neck
and Elephantiasis scroti -

1st January 1868

Almighty Father forgive the sins of the past year
for my son's sake - Help me to be more profitable
during this year - If I am to die this year, prepare
me for it

Bought five hoes at two or three yards of
calico each - they are 13½ inches by 6½ inches
many are made in Casembe's country &
this is the last place we can find them
When we come into Buire we can purchase
a good goat for one - one of my goats died
and the other dried up - I long for others
for milk is the most strengthening food
I can get - my guide to Moero came today -
visited Moero several times so as to get
a good idea of its size - the first fifteen
miles in the North are from twelve [^] [or more] to thirty
three miles broad - the great mass of Rua
mountains confines it there - In a clear
day a lower range is seen continued from
the high point of the first mass away
[0358]
[352]

January
1868

to the West South West - this ends and sea
horizon is alone visible away to the South
and West - from the height we viewed it
at, the width must be over forty, perhaps
sixty miles - A large island called Kirwa is
situated between Mandapala & Kabukwa Rts
but ~~on~~ [^] [nearest to] the other shore - the natives never attempt
to cross any part of the Lake South of Kirwa
Land could not be seen with a good glass
in the clearest say we had - I can understand
why the natives pronounced Moero to be
larger than Tanganyika - In the last named
they see the land always on both sides - it is
like a vast through flanked with highlands,
but at Moero nothing but sea horizon
can be seen when one looks South West
of the Rua mountains -

7th

At Kalongosi meadow - one of Mohamad's
men shot a buffalo and he gave me a leg
of the good beefy flesh - our course was
slow caused partly by rains and partly
by waiting for the convoy - the people at
Kalongosi were afraid to ferry us out of
Casembe's country and none of his people
in convoy - but at last we gave a good

9th

fee, and their scruples yielded - they were
influenced also by seeing other villagers
ready to undertake the job - the latter nearly
fought over us on seeing that their neighbors

10th

got all the fare - - We [^] [then] came along the
Lake & close to its shores - the moisture
caused a profusion of gingers, ferns &
tropical forest - buffalos, Zebras, elephants
numerous - the villagers at Clukosi
where we slept warned us against lions
and Leopards
[0359]
[353]

Jany

1868

Sunday at Karembwe's vil. - the mountains
East of him are called Makunga - many villages
about - We went yesterday to the shore, and
by protraction Rua point was distant 33 miles
Karembwe sent for us to have an audience -
a large man with a gruff voice but liked by
his people and by strangers - I gave him a
cloth and he gave me a goat - the enthusiasm
with which I held on to visit Moero, had
communicated itself to Tipo-Tipo and Syde
bin Alla for they followed me up to this
place to see the Lake, and remained five
days while we were at Casembe's - other
Arabs [^] [or rather Swahelis -] must have seen it but never mentioned
it as any thing worth looking at - and it was
only when all hope of ivory was gone that

these two headmen found time to come

13th

Heavy rains - Karembé mentioned a natural curiosity as likely to interest me - a little rivulet Chipamba goes some distance underground

14th

but is uninteresting - next day we crossed the Vuna a strong torrent which has a hot fountain close by the ford in which maize and Cassava may be boiled - a large one in Insama's country is used in the same way maize and Cassava being tied to a string thrown in to be cooked - some natives believe that earthquakes are connected with its violent ebullitions - we crossed the Katette another strong torrent before reaching the North end of Moero, where we slept in some traveller's huts
-

15th

Leaving the Lake and going North we soon got on to a plain flooded by the Luao - We had to wade through very adhesive black mud generally ankle deep, and having many holes in it much deeper - We had four hours of this and then came to the ford of the Luao
[0360]
[354]

15th

Jany

1868

itself - we waded up a branch of it waist deep for at least a quarter of a mile - then crossed a narrow part by means of a rude bridge of branches & trees of about 40 yards The Luao in spreading over the plains confers benefits on the inhabitants though I could not help concluding it implants disease too, for the black mud in places smells horribly Great numbers of siluridae, chiefly clarias leapensis often three feet in length spread over the flooded portions of the country eating

the young or other fishes and insects lizards
worms killed by the waters - the people make
weirs for them, and as the waters retire kill
large numbers which they use as a relish
to their farinaceous food

16th

After sleeping near the Luao we went on
towards the village in which Mohamad's son
lives - it is on the Kakoma Rt. and is called
Kabwabwata the vil. of Mubao - one of the women
had a miscarriage in the way, but came on
after the affair was over - In many of the
villages the people shut their stockades as soon
as we appear, and stand bows & arrows in
hand till we have passed - The reason seems
to be that the slaves when out of sight of their
masters carry things with a high hand
demanding food & other things as if they
had power and authority - one slave stole
two tobacco pipes yesterday in passing through
a village - the villagers complained to me
when I came up, and I waited till Mohamad
came and told him - We then went forward
the men keeping close to me till we got the
slave and the pipes - they stole Cassava
as we went along but this could scarcely
be prevented - they laid hold of a plant
[0361]
[355]

18th

January

1868

an inch & a half thick & tore it out of the soft
soil with its five or six roots as large as
our largest carrots, stowed the roots away
in their loads, and went on eating them
the stalk thrown among those still growing
shews the theft - the raw roots are agreeable &
nutritious - No great harm is done by this
the gardens are so large but it inspires
distrust into the inhabitants, and makes
it dangerous for Arabs to travel not
fully manned and armed -

On reaching the village Kabwabroata

a great demonstration was made by
Mohamad's Arab dependants & Wanyamwesi
the women had their faces all smeared
with pipe clay, and lullilooed with all
their might, when we came among the huts
the cast handfuls of soil on their heads,
while the men fired off their guns as
fast as they could load them - those con-
victed with Mohamad ran & kissed
his hands & fired till the sound of shouting
lullilooing - clapping of hands and
shooting was deafening - Mohamad was
quite overcome by this demonstration
and it was long before he could still them

On the way to this village from the South
we observed an extensive breadth of land
under ground nuts - they are made into oil
and a large jar of this is sold for a hoe,
the ground nuts were now in flower
and green maize ready to be eaten - People
all busy planting then planting or weeding,
they plant cassava or mounds prepared
for it on which they have sown beans
sorghum, maize, [pumpkins] - these ripen, and leave
the cassava a free soil - the sorghum