

## Letter to Robert M. Livingstone, 26 September 1861

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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Lake Nyassa 26 Sep<sup>t</sup>  
1861

My Dear Robert

You asked me once this Lake were beautiful. I am 120 miles up from its southern , and yet I cannot very well answer question for this is the time of year in which a great deal of grass is and the air is so hazy that cannot see any distance. We can make out that it is, as as we have yet gone, encircled mountains - and highland scenery always beautiful. We suppose it be 30 or 40 miles broad at its wider but should we have fair weather hope to measure it by means of the , a chronometer and sextant. It is deep in some parts, we could no bottom at 35 fathoms or 210 feet. At present it is frequently and its waves rise very high a very short space of time - Its

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[shores] are crowded with inhabitants and they never saw white men before swarm around us as boys do a man at home. An Arab vessel a dhow ran away to the Eastern when we came near. It had a of slaves. The object we have in in coming is to put a stop to traffic and we hope to do so by lawful commerce & gospel of Christ. We went up with bishop Mackenzie to the highlands to shew him a healthy place and him to the people and four parties of slave hunters. took about 140 captives from them I gave them to the bishop to his mission with. of them were women and children naked and tied to each other by passed round their necks. the had a horrid stick on their necks with iron. these slave had induced a number of

[0003] another tribe to capture people for we came to this tribe while burning villages. and though we told them we came peaceably and to talk them they saw that we were a party and might easily be . rushed at us and shot posioned arrows. One fell between bishop and me another whizzed another man & me. We had to them off, and they left that of the country. Before going them the bishop engaged in prayer during the prayer we could hear wail for the dead by some manganja thought not worth killing, the shouts of welcome home to these murderers. It turned out that were only some sixty or seventy and not the Ajawa tribe we had a narrow escape from murdered

How are you doing? I fear what I have observed of your

[0004] that you will have strive against fickleness. Everyone his besetting fault. That is no to him but it is a disgrace he does not find it out and by God overcome it. Your Uncle Robert very fickle, never overcame it, has many opportunities of succeeding life but wanted steadfastness of and is now settled down as poor trader. I am not near to advise what to do but whatever line of you choose resolve to stick to it serve God therein to the last. Whatever you are conscious of tell to your Heavenly Father, strive to master them and confess all him when conscious of having gone . And May the Good Lord of impart all the strength you need your way unto the Lord also in him, and acknowledge in all your ways and He will you. I am writing now we cannot put out the boat through the surf. It our progress greatly.

I hope to write to each of you we reach the sea in next. Ever affectionately

David Livingstone