

Letter to The Earl of Clarendon, 18 May 1866

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My Lord, we could not discover a for camels thro' the mangrove of the mouths of the Rovuma proceeded about 25 miles to the N. that river, & at the bottom of Nikindany, entered a beautiful landlocked called Kinday or Pemba. The seems not more than 300 wide, & of these about 150 are deep; reef on each side of the channel so plainly of a light colour that ship ought to touch. The harbour is of the shape of the "spade" on , the entrance being like the short . There is a mile nearly of space anchorage, the Southern part being 10 to 14 fathoms, while the N.W. portion shallow and rocky. It is a first-rate for Arab Dhows, the land rising nearly round from 200 to 300 feet. The water is calm, they can draw their craft to the to discharge & take in cargo. They are also screened by the masses of trees all round it from sea-ward .

The Earl of Clarendon K. G. The

[0002]

The population consists of coast & their slaves. The six villages wh^h they live are dotted round the , & may contain 300 souls in all. seemed to be suspicious & but for our been accompanied by H.M.S.

"Penguin" would have given trouble. ordinary precaution of placing a over our exposed goods caused a & the sirkar or headman thought he gave a crushing reply to my , when he blattered out "But have no thieves here!"

Our route hence was S.S.W. to the Rovuma, wh^h we struck at the spot on the chart as that wh^h the "Pioneer" turned in 1861. We travelled the same plateau that is seen to both sides of the Rovuma like chain of hills from 400 to 600 feet high. where the natives, who are called , have cleared spaces for the whole country within the of the moisture from the ocean covered with dense jungle. The trees general are not large, but planted so together as generally to exclude the . In many places they may be said

[0003] be woven together by tangled masses climbing plants, more resembling the and cables of a ship in inextricable than the graceful creepers wh^h we are familiar in northern . They gave the impression of remnants of the carboniferous by geologists, and the huge of that time were the beings that could wriggle thro' them. paths have already been made, we had both to heighten & widen for camels & buffaloes. The people at sea-coast had declared that no aid be got from the natives. When we seven miles off, we were agreeably to find that for reasonable we could employ any number of & wood-cutters we desired. As were accustomed to clearing away the climbers for their garden ground, whittled away with their tomahawks remarkable speed & skill. Two days' hard labour was as much as could stand. It is questionable whether people (except possibly the Chinese) ^h are not meat-eaters can endure

[0004] labour of a kind that so many muscles into violent as this work did. French

navvies not compete with the English, they were fed exactly like the . The Makoude have only fowls, a goats, & the chance of an occasional of the wild hog of the country.

Little can be said about the of the country. By the glimpses we got it seemed with great masses of dark foliage, except where the gave a lighter tint, or a had changed it's leaves to in anticipation of winter. The we followed sometimes went or across a "wady", in which we smothered by the grass overhead.

Such rocks as we could see where grey sandstone, capped by conglomerate. Upon this we stumbled against blocks of wood, so like the recent, that one would be unwilling to believe at that they were stones. This is a

[0005] indication here of coal being , & pieces of it were met in sands of the river

When about 90 miles from the mouth the Rovuma, the geological structure , & with this change we have more forest - Thermier vegetation & more grasses. The chief rock is Syanite, & patches of fine white dolomite upon it in spots. Granitic masses been shot up over the plain wh^h in front all the way to Nyonano - confluence of the Rovuma or Louma & Loendi. In the drier country we found one of those inexplicable droughts had over the north Bank of the

Rovuma & a tribe of Mazite or Mazitu Zulus had come down like a of locusts & spread away all the above & in the ground. I had now make forced marches with the Makoude quest of provisions for my party, & now with Matumora or Machumora, chief at Ngomano, & by sending some

20 miles to the South West I shall soon them. This is the point of confluence

[0006] the name Ngomanoor or Ngomano , of the Louma & Loendi. The Loendi is decidedly the parent stream, & comes from the S.W., where in addition to bold granitic peaks the dim outline of highlands appears. Even at that they raise the spirits, but possibly is caused partly by the fact that this about 30 miles beyond our former -point and the threshold of unexplored.

I propose to make this my head-till I have felt my way round Lake Nyassa. If prospects are fair there need not return, but trust to another for fresh supplies, but it is best say little about the future. Matumora an intelligent man, & one well-known be trustworthy. He is appealed to on all for his wise decisions, but he has not much real power beyond what his gives him.

The Makoude are all independent of other - but not devoid of a natural of justice. A carrier stole a shirt

[0007] one of my men. Our guide pursued at night - seized him in his own house the elders of his village made him pay 4 times the value of the article stolen. other case of theft occurred. No dues demanded, and only one fine - a very one - was levied. Attempts have been to make the Arabs pay, but they always been resisted.

So much has been said about Arab by him, that it was with interest were made about their success converting the Makoude to the faith. Here as elsewhere no to teach had been made. Some asserted that it would be useless the Makoude had no idea of a Deity. making inquiries about the Gum- digging, I was shewn a tree from ^h the gum was actually dropping, but do not dig under the trees at present . They choose the vicinity, in the belief near to the modern trees those which what is now considered fossil must have grown. Here they dig; "and", said that spokesman, "the first and

[0008] days we may labour in vain, but may give it us after that." To this of a Deity all responded.

"It is as He wills it. "

The experiment with the buffaloes and has not been satisfactory; one buffalo two camels died. Had we not been in Tsetse Country, I would have ascribed this overwork and bruises received on board Dhow wh^h brought them from Zanzibar. broke out into large ulcers. The were not those I have observed oxen and horses. When stung by , blood of the arterial colour flows the point. This may be the effect of the , for when an ox known to be bitten was it's blood was all of the arterial hue. had but 4 buffaloes for the Experiment, & as , as 3 remain, I remain in doubt.

Hoping that this short sketch which I in haste for an Arab who is passing to the coast may be approved,

I am &c

/signed/ David Livingstone

Earl of Clarendon