

Letter to Vincent W. Ryan, 26 September 1856

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My Lord

I herewith return the Church Missionary Intelligencer with many thanks. I was not previously aware of its existence, having been disappointed in the expectation of seeing a similar publication given to the public in 1850. It was projected by M^r Taylor the author of the "Natural history of Enthusiasm" near whom I lived while he was in Essex. I tried to do my best for it by giving the only detailed account of the discovery of Lake Ngami I ever wrote but it never saw daylight. I hope this work will continue to be carried on with spirit as it seems well adapted to be extensively useful
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the accounts given by Rev S. Crowther are deeply interesting and his experience on the banks of the Niger strike me as closely resembling my own, among tribes of the true Negro family in the centre of the country. Their friendly disposition to the white man (and where we are known to the Englishman as the best specimen of the white man) - their love of barter, and strong religious tendencies, constitute very interesting features in their character and I hope that God will lead His people to send them that gospel by which the poor dwellers in the wilderness will be made to bow down before Him. In ascending the Leambye (Zambesi) to the country of the true negroes called Londa I rescued eighteen captives made by the Makololo in a foray a short
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time before and returned them to their families which I guess was not a bad passport for the first Englishman they had ever seen. In returning, two chiefs Masiko and Mboela, brothers by the same father but different mothers were on the point of fighting and I believe actually had a skirmish but both sent embassies to me the one blaming the other [for] the breach of the peace which I had enjoined. One party followed us down the river about 100 miles to tell me that Masiko had been attacked by Mboela but had beaten him off with loss though Masiko had offered to refer the dispute to me as arbitrator. the private persons of the embassy mentioned to my men that when Masikorecieved my message with the captives they [0004] (the commonality) were so delighted they all ran down the river and gambolled about like porpoises for joy at the prospect of living in peace. This is very much like that which M^r Crowther describes. There are some notices about Londa & Angola in the last number of the Royal Geographical Society in the possession of D^r Beke which you may feel an interest in reading

I have engaged a passage to Galle in the "England" steamer. I hope you will be able to preach to the very fine crew of the Frolic on your way to Secheylles which was more than I could do on our way here, and that you will be successful in your mission there. May it be granted that you return with M^{rs} Ryan & family in renewed health to this deeply interesting field of labour. Your Lordship's servant

David Livingston