

The Manyema Diary, 1871, p.116, DLC297b_116_003r

David Livingstone

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CXVI. [note for letter]

These four fountains seem to be what the Egyptians priests [^][learned men] of remote antiquity considered to be the chief sources of the [^][renowned] river of Egypt which five[for] its beneficial effects [^][and mysterious source] they regarded[devoutly viewed] as an emblem of the Deity In my letter from Ujiji in 1869 which I fear has been destroyed I described the structure of the Watershed and added information about Lake Bangweolo as a supplement to a letter of July 1868 The copy is at Ujiji so I now give from memory some idea of its contents as explanatiery of the springs of the Nile which the ancients may not have known- The watershed situated between ten and twelve South Latitude is between 700 & 800 miles in length - the general height is between 4000 & 5000 feet above the level of the sea but mountains rise stand at various parts of it which are between 6000 & 7000 feet above [...] ocean - These are what Ptolemy put down for reasons [^][now] unknown as "The mountains of the Moon"- Large flat patches of the watershed elevation are [^][flat] upland forest [^][with slightly depressed valleys][one or two miles apart] the trees on which shew by their branches and the lichens [^][on the stems] that the prevailing winds & rains are from the South East - Their aren[N]o runnels to guide off the abundant tropical rains - [from the flats] The water sinks into the somewhat sandy soil until it comes to a stratum of prime white[river] sand situated on a bed of hardened[soft] yellow sand[^][stone] which being impervious to water guides the fluid[^][it] to the nearest valley - This structure was found prevailing in the Kalahari Desert when Mr Oswell and I digged for water for our oxen in the sucking

places of the Bushmen and
Bakalahari