

Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 10 September 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Sesheke 10th Sept^r 1860

I.

Private

My Dear Sir Roderick in honour to take the Makololo back to their own , and disliking the idea of coming a stand still while waiting for news a real steamer, we started on the 16th of May Tette and in three months accom-a distance of some six hundred miles the five years sojourn at Tette of the Makololo had married slave and had families - As they were of the subject tribes and scarcely contact with Sekeletu's government home I expected that many would remaining at Tette to going home. their way of effecting this they shewed evil influence of contact with slavery though repeatedly requested to follow their choice in the matter they preferred running while we were on the march. they to have less honour than when they in the interior.

Our route lay along the North bank of Zambesi - crossing the mountain mass which Kebrabasa lies, and the Loangua & Kafue at their confluences. then along

[0002] fine fertile valley in which the Zambesi flows (being new ground) for about 100 miles - then turning Westward in Lat

17° 18' S. up a sandy river [(the Zangue) Zongue] till we saw the of the fragments of coal strewed on it's - Ascended about 2000 feet above the Zambese or 3300 feet above the level the sea to the base of Tabacheu - breathed a short time the clear cold reviving air the Highlands and actually saw hoar and a little ice. then descended into great valley of the Makololo.//When within

20 miles of Victoria Falls we could see the of vapour with the naked eye. there I could not resist the temptation of the showman to my companions

D^r Kirk and M^r C. Livingstone, though by diverging our straight course to Sesheke we added forty miles to our tramp. After a second I think that I have overstated nothing them except the height of the columns vapour - but I could not measure their . The river was now very low and was no danger in going down to my island on the lip of the fizzle for a space on the left was dry. You may 100 feet to the fall and say 200 feet. the is of the shape of the letter . the

hippopotami eaten all my trees, so henceforth we shall war with them to the knife. they are food half beef & half pork & lots of fat serves as butter. this is part of the casus belli

[0003] the way our good friend Professor Owen and the committee will stand very much their own light if the she Giraffes die a natural . If they praised the Eiland so, which we con-but so so, a dinner of she giraffe will leave all lying on their backs.

Our plan of returning is to pass Victoria Falls by canoes at Sinamanes, then drop down stream so as to be at the sea in November. this by an elephant hunter whom we met at the Falls to Mosilikatze and thence to Kuruman

We found Sekeletu labouring under a skin believed to leprosy the effect of course witchcraft and several headmen had been for the alledged crime - many influential had died of fever and the tribe is altogether a shaky condition. they are anxious generally go to the Highlands and were

much disappointed my not bringing M^{rs} L.; for all believe that or any number of M^r Moffats family would a protection to them against Mosilikatze.

they have not neglected the opening made to coast though the first party which you remember reached Loanda under the of an Arab before I reached England 1855-6 never returned - it consisted of five persons and I conjecture that the Arab them over to where his countrymen in power on pretence of finding horses for

Sekeletu - overpowered & sold them all as French emigrants. Another party was sent to purchase horse I happened to ride at Pungo Andongo in

Angola. It is now at Sesheke; and a third party just returned from Benguella on the West . A fourth party is out now. I could not out that the law promulgated by Sekeletu years ago against selling children to slave

[0004] has ever been publicly violated but the tribes are so numerous & many live 200 or 300 miles from the capital and[that] I suspect transactions of the kind have taken place them. During our months sojourn here have been treated to tea, American biscuits preserved fruits daily. We have tried to Sekeletus complaint and he is recovering; time & patience are requisite for the cure. It probably an obstinate skin disease & not leprosy

But I must tell you that we were saddened the loss of a party of London missionaries we suppose by Fever at Linyanti. Six out of Europeans perished in three months. By remedy first tried on my own children at

Lake Ngami in 1850, we at a lower & more part of the Zambesi, cured severe cases the complaint in Europeans so quickly, our march was rarely interrupted more a day or two - a man stricken prostrate sometimes able to resume ~~our~~[his] march on a day after the operation of the remedy. this while those good people were perishing. The proper medicines too for its composition were found by me in waggon, which has been carefully for seven years. within a few hundred of their graves. I think it is mentioned the end of the "Missionary Travels" which made me write - but I am now anxious it become generally known. And there is difficulty in the matter. Medicines so often people - panaceas in one hand and in another I have however never to cure during ten years. With very kind to Lady Murchison I am &c David Livingstone