

## Field Diary XVII, 9 April-27 April 1873

*David Livingstone*

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[0001]

[0002]

XVII

Moselabamba S of  
Gonda - chite one day off

[0003]

[0004]

XVII.

9<sup>th</sup> April 1873 - at R.  
Monikazi or Munikazi

copied = from XVI =  
5<sup>th</sup> April 1873 March from  
Kabinga's on Chambeze  
luggage in canoes &  
men on land = We  
punted on flood 6 ft  
deep with many  
anthills all about  
covered with trees -  
course SSE - for 5 miles  
to across R. Lolingela  
sluggish & of 300 yards

---

6<sup>th</sup> Leave in the  
same way, but men  
were sent from Kabinga  
to steal the canoes

[0005]

which we paid his  
brother Matipa for  
handsomely - a stupid  
drummer beat the  
alarm by which we  
were called inland  
and found the main  
body of people gone on  
By this the party was  
separated and we  
pulled & punted 6 or  
7 hours S - W - in great  
difficulty as the fisher  
men we saw refused  
to shew us where the  
deep water lay - The  
whole country South  
of the Lake was covered  
with water thickly dotted  
over with Lotus leaves  
and rushes - It has a  
greenish appearance  
and it might be well

[0006]

to shew the spaces  
annually flooded by a  
broad wavy band 20  
30 and even 40 miles  
out from the permanent  
banks coloured light  
green - the broad  
Estuaries of 50 or  
more miles into  
which the rivers  
form themselves  
might be coloured  
blue, but it is quite  
impossible at  
present to tell where  
land ends & Lake  
begins - It is all  
"water water everywhere"  
and seems to be  
kept from flowing  
quickly off by the

[0007]

narrow bed of the  
Luapula which has  
perpendicular banks  
worn deep down in  
New red sandstone -  
It is the Nile apparently  
enacting its inundations  
even at its sources -  
The amount of water  
spread over the country  
constantly excites my  
wonder - it is prodigious  
Many of the anthills  
are cultivated and  
covered with dura  
pumpkins = beans -  
maize but the waters  
yield food plenteously  
in fish and Lotus  
roots - a species of  
wild rice grows but  
the people dont need or  
know it -

[0008]

A party of fishermen  
fled from us - but by  
coaxing we got them  
to shews deep water -  
they then shewed us  
an islet about 30 yds  
square without wood  
& desired us to sleep  
there - we went on  
and they decamped  
Pitiless pelting showers  
wet everything but  
near sunset we saw  
two fishermen paddling  
quickly off from an  
anthill with a hut &  
plenty of fish and some  
fire wood - there we  
spent the night and  
watched by turns lest  
thieves should come  
and haul away  
our canoes & goods  
Heavy rain = and

[0009]

one canoe sank and  
wet everything in her  
The leaks in her had  
been stopped with clay  
and a man sleeping  
near the stern had  
displaced these frail  
shores - Did not touch  
the fish and cannot  
conjecture who has  
inspired fear in all  
the inhabitants

---

7<sup>th</sup> Went on SW &  
saw two men who  
guided us to the river  
Munikazi which  
forms a connecting  
link between the river  
Lotingela and  
the Lolotikila about  
the Southern borders  
of the flood - men  
were hunting and

[0010]

we passed near large  
herds of antelopes  
which made a rushing  
plunging sound as  
they ran & sprang  
away among the  
water - a lion had  
wandered in this ? ; [...]  
world of water and  
anthills, and roared  
night & morning as  
if very much dis-  
-gusted and we could  
sympathize with  
him - the men took  
us to near the Munikazi  
and left us well pleased  
with the payment at  
a broad bank of  
shallow water near  
the river at which we

had to unload and  
haul - The natives

[0011]

beating a drum on our  
East made us believe  
them to be our party &  
some thought that  
they heard two shots  
This misled us &  
we went towards them  
through Papyrus  
Tall rushes - Arums  
and grass till tired  
out and took refuge  
on an anthill for the  
night - lion roaring  
We were lost in stiff  
grassy prairies -  
from three to four  
feet deep - of water - 5 hours

Fired again in the  
stillness of night  
but recieved no  
answer - so on the  
8<sup>th</sup> we sent a  
small canoe at

[0012]

daybreak to ask for  
information and  
guides from the  
drummer village =  
Two came and they  
too thought that our  
party was on the East  
but in that direction  
the water was about  
15 inches in spots &  
three feet in others  
which caused constant  
dragging of the large  
canoe all day and  
at last unloading  
at another branch of  
the Monikazi with  
a village of friendly

people where we slept  
5 hours E & by S

---

All hands at the large  
canoe could move  
her only a few

[0013]

feet - rushes Papyrus  
Arums - wild rice  
and stiff aquatic  
grasses - putting all  
their strength to her  
she stopped at every  
haul with a jerk as  
if in bank of adhesive  
plaster - Measured  
the crown of a Papyrus  
plant or palm  
3 feet across horizon  
tally and stalk 8 feet  
in height - Hundreds  
of a large dark grey  
hairy caterpillar have  
cleared off the rushes  
nearly in spots &  
now live on each  
other - they can  
make only the smallest  
progress by swimming

[0014]

or rather wriggling  
in the water - their  
motion is that of a  
watch spring thrown  
down and dilating &  
contracting

---

9<sup>th</sup> after two hours  
threading the very  
winding deep channel  
of this southern  
branch of Munikazi  
we came to where  
our party had crossed

it and gone on to  
Gandochite a chief  
on the Lolotikila -  
men were all done  
up so hired a man  
to call our men to  
take the loads but  
he was stopped by  
his relations in the  
way saying "you

[0015]

ought to have one of  
the travellers own  
people with you" - He  
returned but did not  
tell us plainly or truly  
till this morning

---

10<sup>th</sup> the headman  
of the village explained  
and we sent two of our  
men who had a night's  
rest with the turn  
again of yesterday  
(I am pale bloodless  
and weak from bleeding  
profusely ever since  
the 31<sup>st</sup> March = last  
an artery gives off  
a copious stream  
and lakes away my  
strength = Oh how I  
long to be permitted  
by the Overpower to  
finish my work - )

[0016]

Pollux 100 ° - 5' 20' 10<sup>th</sup> April  
10 April [Map of star positions with degrees and rough locations.]  
Munikazi R

[0017]

Munikazi R 11<sup>th</sup> April 1873  
Bar. 6 AM  
25.80

26.05 68 °.5  
clear  
calm  
25.59

9 AM clear  
25.85  
25..05 74°  
25.62

---

12<sup>th</sup> cross Munikazi  
about 100 or 130 yds broad  
and deep = great loss of  
Haema made ^me so weak  
I could scarcely walk but  
tottered along nearly two  
hours then lay down  
quite done = cooked coffee =  
our last = & went on  
but in an hour was  
compelled to lie down =  
very unwilling to be  
carried but on being  
pressed allowed the men  
to help me along by  
relays to Chinama  
where much cultivation  
is carried on = camped in  
garden of Dura S. 3½

[0018]

13<sup>th</sup> April 1873 found  
that we had slept on the  
right bank of the Loitikila  
a sluggish marshy  
looking river = very  
winding but here going  
about S.W. country  
All so very flat all the  
rivers down here are  
of necessity tortuous  
fish & other food abun-  
-dant - people civil &  
reasonable - they usually  
partake largely of the  
character of the chief &  
this one Gando chite is  
polite - sky clearing



& South East wind is  
the lower stratum  
now - It is the dry  
season well begun  
73 inches is a higher  
rain fall than has

[0019]

been observed anywhere  
else = even in Northern  
Manyuema it was  
lower in inches than  
here far South on the  
watershed = In fact  
this is the very heaviest  
rainfall known in  
these latitudes = between  
50 & 60 in the maximum  
one sees intermin-  
grassy prairies with  
lines of trees occupying  
quarters of miles in  
breadth & then to give  
way to Buga or prairie  
again - the Buga is  
flooded annually  
but its vegetation is  
dry land grasses =  
Other Bugas extend  
out from the Lake

[0020]

10 - 20 - 30 or even  
40 miles and are  
known by aquatic  
vegetation Lotus -  
papyrus = arums -  
rushes of different  
species and many  
kinds of purely  
aquatic subaqueous  
plants that send up  
their flowers only to  
fructify in the sun  
and then sink to  
ripen, one bunch after  
another, others with  
great cabbage looking  
leaves seem to remain

at the bottom always  
the young of fish  
swarm and bob in  
and out from the  
leaves = a species

[0021]

of soft moss grows  
on most plants and  
seems to be good  
fodder for fishes  
fitted by hooked or  
turned up noses to  
guide it into their  
maws = one species  
of fish has the lower  
jaw turned down into  
a hook which enables  
the animal to hold  
the mouth close to the  
plant as it glides up  
or down sucking ^in all  
its soft pulpy food -  
The superabundance  
of gelatinous nutriment  
makes the swarmer  
increase in bulk with  
extraordinary rapidity

[0022]

13<sup>th</sup> April 1873 Cont<sup>d</sup>

---

and make the food  
supply of the people plen-  
-teous = the numbers  
of fish caught by weirs  
baskets, and nets now  
as the waters decline  
are prodigious = They  
feel the element becom-  
-ing insufficient for  
comfort and retire  
from one buga to  
another towards the  
Lake, and the narrower  
parts are duly prepared  
by weirs to take ad-  
-vantage of their neces

-sities the suns heat  
seems to oppress  
them & force them to  
flee

[0023]

With the South East  
aerial current comes  
heat, and sultriness -  
a blanket is scarcely  
needed until the early  
hours of the morning =  
and here, after the  
turtle doves and cocks  
give out their warn-  
-ing calls to the watchful,  
the fish eagle lifts  
up his remarkable voice  
It is pitched on a high  
falsetto key - very  
loud, and seems as  
if he were calling  
to someone in the  
other world = once  
heard his weird un-  
earthly voice can  
never be forgotten  
It sticks to one through life

[0024]

13 April 1872 Cont<sup>d</sup>

---

We were four hours  
in being ferried over  
the Loitikila, or Lolo-  
-tikila in four small  
canoes and then 2  
hours S-W- down its  
left bank to another  
river where our camp  
had been formed -  
sent over a present  
to the headman and  
a man returned with  
the information that  
he was ill at another  
vil - but his wife

would seek canoes  
tomorrow to trans-  
-port us over and  
set us on our way  
to Muawzabanza

[0025]

South West and  
over Lolotikila again

14<sup>th</sup> at a branch of the  
Lolotikila clear sky  
25.90  
26.11 7AM  
66 °  
25.70  
AM 9 =  
29.93 9 AM  
71 °  
clear  
windy  
26.14  
25.71

3 PM  
25.90 80 °  
clear  
windy  
26.10  
25.68

15<sup>th</sup> cross Loitikila  
again where it is only 50  
yards by canoes = and  
went S.W. an hour  
I being very weak had to  
be carried a part of the  
way and glad of resting  
flow copiously  
last night, woman  
wife of chief gave a  
present of a goat & maize

[0026]

16<sup>th</sup> April 1873 - Went  
S.W. 2½ hours and

crossed the Lombatwa R  
of 100 yards = neck deep  
and flowing fast in  
aquatic vegetation  
Papyrus &c W. into the  
Loitikila = In all about  
S.W = 3

---

17<sup>th</sup> a tremendous rain  
after dark burst all  
our now rotten tent  
to shreds - Went on at  
6-35 for 3 hours = &  
I who was suffering  
severely all night had to  
rest - got water near the  
surface by digging in  
yellow sand - three hills  
now appear in distance  
course S.W 3¾ to a

[0027]

village on Kazya R  
A Nyassa man declared  
that his father had  
brought the heavy rain  
of 16<sup>th</sup> on us - we crossed  
three sponges

18<sup>th</sup> on leaving the  
vil on Kazya we  
forded it & found it  
70 yards broad - waist  
to breast deep all over  
a large weir spanned  
& we went on the  
lower side of that -  
much Papyrus & other  
aquatic plants in it -  
the fish retiring now  
with the falling waters  
are guided into the  
rush cones set for  
them - crossed two  
large sponges and

[0028]

I was forced to stop at  
a village after SW 2  
Ill all night = very = but  
remembered that the  
bleeding & most other  
ailments in this land  
are forms of fever took  
two scruple doses of  
quinine & stopped it  
quite =

19<sup>th</sup> a fine bracing  
S.E breeze kept me  
on the donkey across  
a broad sponge and  
over flats of white  
sandy soil, and  
much cultivation for  
an hour and a half  
When we stopped at a  
large village on the right  
bank of and  
men went over to the  
chief Muanzabamba

[0029]

to ask canoes to cross  
tomorrow = I am excessive  
ly weak & but for the  
donkey could not move  
a hundred yards = It  
is not all pleasure  
this exploration - the  
Lavusi hills are a  
relief to the eye in  
this flat upland  
their forms shew an  
igneous origin = the  
R. Kazya comes  
from them and goes  
direct into the Lake =  
no observations  
now owing to great  
weakness = I can  
scarcely hold the  
pencil & my stick  
is a burden = Tent  
gone the men build  
a good hut for me &

the luggage SW - 1  $\frac{1}{2}$

[0030]

20<sup>th</sup> April 1873 = S. service  
cross over the ^sponge Moenda  
for food & to be near the  
headman of these parts  
Muanzabamba - I am  
excessively weak =  
vil R Moenda ^sponge 7 AM 25.88 66 °  
clouds  
high  
26.12  
25.70  
cross Lukolu in a canoe  
R. is about 30 yds broad  
very deep and flowing  
in marshes - 2 knots  
from SSE to NNW  
into Lake

---

21<sup>st</sup> Tried to ride but was  
forced to lie down and  
they carried me back to  
vil. exhausted

---

22<sup>d</sup> carried in Kitanda  
over Buga SW 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

[0031]

23<sup>d</sup> D° 1 $\frac{1}{2}$   
24 D° 1.  
25<sup>th</sup> D° 1  
26<sup>th</sup> Do 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

---

to Kalungo Mofus  
total 33 ° = 8 $\frac{1}{4}$

---

27 knocked up quite  
and remain = recover  
sent to buy milch  
goats - We are on the  
banks of R Molilamo

[0032]

half scrople.

[0033]

11 o,cloak.\_night 28<sup>th</sup>. April

In the chest was found  
about a shilling and  
half, and in another chest  
his hat, 1 watch, and 2  
small boxes of measuring  
instrument and ~~on~~ in each box  
there was one. 1 com-  
pass, 3 other kind of mea-  
suring instrument;  
4 other kind of measur  
ing instrument.  
And in other chest 3  
~~and half~~ and half drachmas

[0034]

[0035]

Nyemela = Tsessébe  
Konze = Hartebeest  
Dope = Wildebeest  
Nyumbo = gnu

Kopa = Gando chite =

Lavusi Hills 3 S of  
vil Mueze R Kazya  
comes from them - is  
70 yards broad = waist  
& breast deep now &  
has a strong weir right  
across

[0036]

[Annotated insert from the Stirling University Conservation Project from 1986.]

[0037]



[0038]