

Letter to [Robert Gray], 21 March 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Had the projected Institution been in existence before Sechele fell away from his profession of christianity his children might have recieved great benefit
He sent them of his own accord to Kuruman for instruction and
I believe they were supported there for a time by M^r Moffats private bounty.
I am unaquainted with the missionaries now at Sechele's

River Zambesi

21st March 1860.

My Lord Bishop

In a speech delivered
at Manchester about a year ago,
I found, for the first time a
few days since, the very cheering
intimation that Miss Coutts had
subscribed £2500 towards an
institution for the sons of
native chiefs. As you have no
doubt been generously supported
in the noble undertaking by
other members of the English
church, and cannot fail to be,
by the Divine blessing, extensively
useful, I take the liberty to
congratulate you on the enterprise.
Feeling a deep interest in any
plan for the elevation of the
population of this country,
[0002]

but imagine that they would gladly induce Sechele to avail
himself of any advantages you may have to bestow on his
children. and to me it would be a great satisfaction
to hear that any of the Bakwains had been so favoured. I do
very heartily bid you God Speed

whether white or black, I may
be allowed to shew my sympathy
with yours by alluding to the
extensive field which in the
course of time your benevolence

will affect.

The Kaffre or Zulu family extends right up to the Zambesi. Under the name "Landims" (Landeens) they have conquered all the gold region called Manica, and all the south bank of this river (except the lands in the immediate vicinity of the forts Senna and Tette) is under their sway or depopulated.

The estate of Shupanga which, yielding the immense trees used in forming the large canoes common on the Zambesi, cannot be dispensed with by the Portuguese, is retained only by paying a large [annual] tribute. [0003]

Some 600 dollars are paid to the Landeens, and only 400 of rent to the Portuguese Government. The language is nearly identical with that of the Zulus of Natal and Moenekhosi or Manikhosi. (the "Manicus" of the Boers) [the paramount chief of the whole region north of Inhambane,] is of the same family as Panda. They all have a certain amount of respect for the English or as they call us Maingeretse. When D^r Kirk visited a village subject to their sway, his wants were abundantly supplied, and payment refused: Your efforts and those of other bodies of Christians among these fine people will without doubt be one day crowned with glorious results.

If we turn to the influences at work hitherto in this region

we see abundant reason for joy
at the prospect of the introduction
of better agencies. We have recieved
much kindness from individual
Portuguese, and can therefore
[0004]

speak confidentially only about
their system. Their establishments
are not colonies, but small penal
settlements. No women are sent
out to them, and frightful immorality
is the result. The prevailing
drunkenness makes it wonderful
that the people live at all. Our
expedition is hated as a sort
of standing protest against vice.
and we should be "good fellows"
only by joining in their vices.
With a soil and climate superior
to Natal nothing is done but
paltry peddling in ivory and
gold dust. When we go down
to the coast we have abundance of
fresh meat without trouble from
the game, but inland the grass,
intermingled with Indigo and cotton,
is too tall for hunting, and we
can get neither vegetables nor
fresh meat for either love or
money. I am trying to obtain
free navigation of the Zambesi
for all nations, and if you can
lend any influence to effect
it you will aid in breaking
up the exclusive system which
is the ruin of the country.

I am &c David Livingstone