

## Fragment of 1870 Field Diary (X-XIII), 10 October 1870

*David Livingstone*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))  
[0001]

X

to be copied into Journal = 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1870 came out of hut today [1  
]

after being confined to it since 22<sup>nd</sup> July or 80 days – by irritable  
ulcers on the feet - The last 20 days I suffered from fever  
which reduced my strength, taking away my voice and  
purging me = appetite good but the third mouthful of any  
food caused [...]ausea & vomiting – purging took place of  
profuse sweating – I am thankful to feel myself well –  
only one ulcer open the size of a split pea – Malachite was  
the remedy most useful but the beginning of the rains may  
have helped the cure as it does to others = copper rubbed down  
is used when malachite cannot be had – We expect  
Syde Bin Habib soon - He will take to the river and I  
hope so shall I – The native traders reached people who  
had horns of oxen got from left bank of Lualaba – Ka-  
tomba's people got most ivory namely 50 tusks – the others  
only four – the Metamba or forest is of immense extent  
and there is room for much ivory to be picked up  
at 5 or 7 bracelets of copper per tusk if the slaves sent  
will only be merciful – The nine villages and a 100 men  
killed by Katomba's slaves at Nasangwa were  
all about a string of beads fastened to a powder horn  
which a manyema man tried in vain to steal – – Ka  
gets 25 of the 50 tusks brought by his people  
[0002]

XI.

we expect letters & perhaps men by Syde Bin Habib.

No news from the coast had come to Ujiji save a rumour  
that some one was building a large house at Bagamoio  
but whether French or English no one can say – possibly  
the Mission urged on by Colonel Playfair & D<sup>r</sup> Kirk  
Tozer curiously enough follows the policy of Bp Mackenzie  
which he so formally repudiated – Rearing boys got from  
captives of men of war and writing to India that to teach  
the young thus obtained is the great secret of mission work  
He does not know that the especial instruction  
of the young has been advocated & acted on for the last  
30 years in Africa India South Seas & elsewhere – Possibly  
the erection of a huge establishment on the mainland

may be a way of laboriously proving that it is more healthy  
than the island to which he was driven by fear of death  
It will take a long time to prove by stone & lime that the higher  
lands 200 miles inland are better still both for longevity  
and work – I am in agony for news from home  
All I feel sure of now is that my friends will all wish  
me to complete my task – I join in the wish now as  
better than doing it in vain afterwards  
[0003]

## XII.

The Manyema hoeing is little better than scraping the [2  
]  
soil & cutting through the roots of grass & weeds by a horizontal  
motion of the hoe or knife – They leave the roots of maize  
groundnuts – sweet potatoes & dura to find their way into  
the rich soft soil, and well they succeed so there is no need  
for deep ploughing – The groundnuts & cassava hold their  
own against grass for years Bananas if cleared of  
weeds yield abundantly – Muhamad sowed rice  
just outside the camp without any advantage being secured  
by the vicinity of a rivulet and it yielded for one measure  
of seed one hundred & twenty measures of increase – This  
season he plants and on the damp soil  
along a rivulet called bonde The rainwater does not  
percolate far – The clay retains it about 2 feet beneath the  
surface – this is a cause of unhealthiness to man – Fowls  
and goats have been cut off this year in large numbers  
by an epidemic -

Sentence to be inserted after ””there may only be a thread”  
of water at the bottom but the mud is grievous” Some 20  
or 40 yards of the path on each bank is mixed up by the feet  
of passengers into a deep sticky mass – [...]–[You] may put one  
foot on each side and[of] the walk and waddle onwards but soon  
that fails you for the rank vegetation often usurps the few  
foot holds you have and down  
inches you come into the mire  
[0004]

## XIII.

Often too the path takes the bed of the rill for 50 or 60 yds  
as if the first passenger had gone that distance seeking a space  
of forest less dense for his path = Near a village the road run-  
ning along a rivulet may have been to make it difficult for an  
enemy to find a path by night = The approaches to hamlets on the  
side of a hill are certainly made with a view to confuse marauders  
for they come near the dwellings and then ascend to a point  
above the highest point of the village, and they go winding up  
and down the steepest parts of the slope The rank vegetation

being left so that it is impossible to take a straight course –

The visit of the Ujijian traders must be felt by the Man-yema to be a severe infliction - The huts are appropriated and no leave asked – Firewood - pots – baskets food used without scruple and anything that pleases is taken away – Usually the women flee into the forest and return to find the whole place a litter of broken food – I tried to pay the owners of the huts in which I slept but often in vain for they were hidden in the forest and feared to come near – It was common for old men to come forward to me with a present of bananas as I passed uttering with trembling accents "Bolongo "Bolongo" friendship friendship. If I stopped to make a little return present others ran for plantains or palm toddy = The slaves eat up what they demanded without one word of thanks - "but they are bad" dont give them anything" Why what badness is there in giving food - "O they like you" but hate us" - one man gave me an iron ring and seemed inclined to be friendly – yet they are undoubtedly bloodthirsty to other Manyema & kill each other