

## Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 2 February 1867

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Private

My Dear Sir Roderick

This is the first oppor-I have had of sending a letter to the Coast it is by a party of black Arab slave from Bagamoio near Zanzibar. They penetrated here for the first time and came a shorter way than we did. In my Despatch Lord Clarendon I give but a meagre geographical because the traders would not stay than half a day but having written that the night I persuaded them to give an hour or two this morning - and if is fuller than his Lordship's you will how to manage. I mentioned to him I could not go round the North end of Lake Nyassa because the Johanna men would fled at first sight of danger - and they actually flee on the mere report of the of the terrible Mazitu at its Southern . Had I got them fairly beyond the they would have stuck to me but so long we had Arab slave parties passing us they not to be depended on - and they were inveterate thieves it was quite a relief get rid of them, though my following was reduced nine African boys - freed ones from a at [ Nassick] Bombay. I intended to cross at middle of the Lake, but all the Arabs fled soon as they heard that the English were coming, the owners of two dhows now on the kept them out of sight lest I should burn as slavers. I remained at the town of Mataka, which is on the water shed between Coast Lake & about 50 miles from the latter. tere are least a thousand houses and he is the most

[0002] chief in the Country. I was in his which extends to the Lake from the middle July to the end of September. He was very that some of the liberated boys should with him and I tried my best to induce but in vain. He wished to be shewn how make use of his cattle in agriculture. I promised try & get some other boys acquainted with Indian for him. That is the best point I seen for an influential station & Mataka some sense of right when his people went his knowledge to plunder at a part of Lake he ordered the captives & cattle to be sent back. was his own spontaneous act & it took before our arrival but I accidentally the strangers. They consisted of fifty four children about a dozen boys & 30 head & calves. I gave him a trinket in memory his good conduct at which he was delighted it had not been without opposition that he out his orders & he shewed the token my approbation in triumph.

Leaving the shores of the lake we endeavoured ascend Kirk's range but the people below were of those above and it was only after and old friend Katosa or Kiemasusa had turned out with his to carry our extra loads that we got up. is only the edge of a plateau - peopled by various of Manganja who had never been engaged slaving - in fact they had driven away a of Arab slave traders a short time before. used to think them all Maravi but Katosa the only Maravi chief we know. The Kanthunda "climbers" live on the mountains that rise out the plateau. Chipeta live more on the plains . Echewa still further North We went West a very hospitable people till we thought were past the longitude of the Mazitu - then North & all but walked into the hands a marauding party of that people. After a rather -zag course we took up at the point we had left

[0003] 1863 or say 20 west of Chimanga's - crossed the

Loangwa in 12° 45' south, as it flows in the bed of an Lake - and after emerging out of this great ascended the plateau of Lobisa at the southern of 11° South. The hills on one part of it rise to 6600 feet above the sea. While in the lowlands could easily supply our party with meat, large game abundant but up on these Highlands of the

Babisa none were to be found. the country depopulated by the slaving in which the people engaged is a vast forest with here & there at wide intervals miserable hamlet. The grain is sown in little in the forest & they had nothing to sell. We now a good deal of actual gnawing hunger day after day we trod the sloppy dripping which yield some wretched wild fruits & of mushrooms. a woman can collect a - 1/2 a hundred weight & after cooking pounds into what they call porridge. but woe is me! are good only for producing dreams of the roast of bygone days. they collect six kinds & about ten - some as large as the crown ones hat. When we got to the Chambeze as the

Zambese is here called it was true to its character of animal life in its waters & on its banks we soon got an antelope. We crossed it in 10 ° 34'. was flooded with clear water but the lines of trees which shewed its actual banks were not than forty yards apart. We came here on the day of January - a stockaded village with three of defence - the inner one having a deep dry round it. I think if I am not mistaken we are on the watershed we seek between the

Chambeze & Luapula. I have not had anytime take observations as it is the rainy season almost always cloudy but we shall rest a here and get some flesh on our bones. are about 10° 10' South & 31° 50' East. Alt. 4500 feet above the sea. The Loapula or Luapula is said to be very large but I hope to fuller information from Tanganyika.

[0004] have done all the hunting myself - have enjoyed health, & no touch of fever - but we lost our medicine - the sorest loss of goods I sustained. So I am hoping if fever comes fend it off by native remedies & trust in the watchful care of a Higher Power. the chief seems a jolly frank person but unless country is insecure I don't see the use of lines of circumvallation. He presented a on our arrival & a huge elephants tusk I had sat on it.

I have had no news whatever from the coast we left it but hope for letters and our stock of goods - a small one - at Ujiji. have been unable to send anything either - letters I had written in hopes of meeting Arab slave trader but they all "skedaddled" as they heard that the "English were coming could not get any information as to the followed by the Portuguese in going to Cazembe's we were on the Babisa plateau. It was then out that they had gone to the Westward of which from the Loangwa valley seems a range mountains. The makers of maps have [it] much too far East. The repetition of of rivers which is common in this probably misled them. There are four

Loangwas flowing into Lake Nyassa.

Would you kindly say to Captain Richards I had to draw some rifles & ammunition the H.M.S. Wasp and I shall feel obliged if makes that right. Also that Casella has me Aneroids without a single note or as to their errors - not a vestige of error either boiling point or common thermometers tried them as the level of the sea - "Maker to the" seems to counterbalance the care with which used to test them all at Kew. He shall hear or it yet.

With kindest regards to Lady Murchison.

I am ever affectionately yours

David Livingstone