

## Letter to [George Denman?], [26 September 1861?]

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

We who were up on the Highlands all the people fleeing from the and it was clear that if they not induced to desist the bishop soon have the country to . We therefore went to the of Mount Zomba to hold a with the marauders. We came them when in the act of burning villages. Here the bishop offered a fervent prayer. The Ajawa had long line of captives laden with and we could hear the wail the dead mingling with the shouts welcome to the victors. The Ajawa if we came peaceably & though assured them that we did they seemed look upon us - A party of about 20 - such an easy prey that they began , to shoot us with their arrows - this probably arose some Manganja who followed calling out to them "Chibisa is ." Chibisa is one of their great

[0002] and is believed to ensure victory his medicines. this deprived us the benefit of our English name - has been the effect of the English cruisers and Lord Palmerston's entire trade policy that wherever known English name is highly respected. Arab Dhow, for instance, which purchasing slaves & ivory about miles south of this and we are 120 miles up the Lake, fled soon as they heard that three English were coming up. Elated as the were with their victories, only interpreted our assurances [our] slowly retiring from their village evidences if fear, rushed at surrounded us. Poisoned arrows at 50 yards distance are no , so we were obliged to drive away with our arms. When saw how far our rifles carried never came near again but that part of the country.

[0003]

The bishop will now follow his work peace, that is, if the Portuguese will him. It is believed that the of the coast from

Cape Delgado to Delagoa Bay was to them for the especial purpose suppressing the slave trade - they virtually converted it into private slave preserve for the benefit of the favourites of the Govt. of Lisbon. I am very unwilling believe this of them, but I must last confess it to be the case. Major was removed from Tette because he favoured us, and much his will made Governor Iboe "interiors" i.e. in the mean , till another comes out. It thus to him in a way he could not but complained loudly at

Mosambique that it placed him a false position for there is no at Iboe to speak of but [in] slaves

[0004] was thus almost compelled to a slave trader. The Governor G.<sup>1</sup> Mozambique has gone into recieving the emoluments of slave trading. the of Quillimane has given his to a Senhor Cruz the principal

[slave] trader of this quarter, and he of Tette had up at Zomba purchasing the captives. The salaries of all Governors are small - the court of Lisbon knows them to be so yet appointments are well known be conferred as favours. In fact profits arising from conniving the slave trade are the emoluments the Portuguese Government on its officers. The province the mother country about £5000 , and no trade is carried on East Africa and Portugal. they should persist in keeping other nations out I cannot divine the few traders they have are half castes - convicts or the of convict soldiers. I am to believe that Don Pedro anything about it. He wished colonize and some soldiers were last sent out as colonists. the Governor of Tette told me that the whole thing was a imposition on his Majesty for though

[0005] implements had also been the soldiers knew nothing except their accoutrements. For his 's own sake the way should opened for other nations for then will it be known that he is to blame. The presence of others undoubtedly be most beneficial the Portuguese settlements in the way stimulating their industry. If we ivory and slaves there is ~~trade~~[produce] carried out in one year - Natal than has been during the hundred from the Zambesi. you can do in the way of the Portuguese to abandon their exclusive policy will be so gain to the cause of humanity progress.

We carried a boat past thirty five of cataracts and then sailed up. In no part of Africa have we such a teeming population as the shores of this Lake. It may be this is the fishing season

[0006] the shores seem covered with people. ivory and cotton are offered for . We can only promise that a large will soon come and buy all the two articles. If we may judge the amount of cotton we buy the ship from a small portion the river Shire, and that too not in cotton season, the supply to be obtained will be very considerable. the is deep - we got no bottom with sounding line at 35 fathoms say

200 feet. It has no current in it. are four crossing places on it. the canoes which go at a good cross over at one place in six - in another in twelve, and some parts they do not cross at - though even there we can see tops of the mountains. We shall it but it may be said to be from 30 to 50 miles broad. It has long coast line from numerous

[0007] , and is surrounded, as far as have yet been, by mountains. the we called Marimba. they civil. The lake rises during the season about 3 feet - the waves rollers, which are very formidable, up to four feet. In Average years Shire rises about the same height, never falls much - but this was an extraordinary year & left marks 12 feet above ordinary . At the upper part of the Elephant the Shire branches out so that could not get five feet for the below that it is all deep & the cataracts it is all deep - into the Lake, when it shelves off

8, 10, 12 14 &c fathoms - if we get weather we shall measure depth better (no bottom at 100 fathoms)

thanks for your friend Blakesley's . I think that he has missed weak point. It is not the Zambesi

[0008] a Mississippi steamer could on it the whole of ordinary years, eight months of the drier ones. amount of coal too could be and [a] Lignum vitae & ebony be at once established. My weak lies in the presence of the Portuguese settlements; and the Portuguese Governors to sell their grandmothers for gain. however in the quiet of his incumbering will concoct a better plan than either

D<sup>r</sup> Barth's or mine, and then come to help to put it into execution promise him as good elephant & shooting as is to be found Africa. the people have few or no and the animals are not afraid of bow and arrow - If he will not to these terms I need not try him a fish which seems to possess of the shape and habits of our salmon be contended with and thankful any more criticisms you may supply.

I am anxiously expecting a steamer this Lake - she must be a strong . Ma Robert would have floundered in the first storm. I think it may be to go on establishing ourselves heeding the Portuguese at - if they plunder my goods at

Tette I shall say little - please remember to your brother Captain Denman  
& believe me yours &c David Livingstone