## Letter to The Duke of Wellington, [March 1860?]

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

A Letter from David Livingstone to the Second Duke of Wellington.

(Both the address at the head of the letter and the signature at foot have been removed). My Lord Duke,

I have refrained from writing to thank you for your bountiful of Filters, because until now I had nothing of interest to . We are now returning from tracing this river up its point of emergence from the hitherto undiscovered Lake or Nyinyesi. We had a march of 250 miles on foot in the period of the year - that called in West Africa the "smokes" instead of scraping all together as you poor English farmers - tens of thousands of acres of tall grass are burned off and atmosphere takes on somewhat the appearance of a London fog. the discovery is worth all our toil and is of more importance. than at first sight appears, for we have opened [...] the crops, and instead of the unmerciful toil required in America sowing of foreign (probably American) seed, already introduced many districts by the natives themselves, serves for three crops even through the plants are burnt off. There may evils to counterbalance these advantages but I am as yet of them.

Well, the Shire, a branch of the Zambesi which I did not ascending is easily navigable for a steamer at least hundred miles from its confluence. Then we have 33 miles cataracts and above them the river is itself again right into Lake in Lat. 14° 23 South. Above the cataracts the land arranged into three terraces of various heights from 1200 to 3000 feet. On these we have changes of climate within few miles of each other. On the last or 3000 terrace rises

Mount Zomba which we ascended and found to be between 7000 and

8000 feet high. In the lower terrace, or shire valley which exactly the valley of the Nile at Cairo, it was hot and (sic). One day took us up 3000 feet - pleasantly cool great abundance of running rills of deliciously cool water. Zomba it was cold, but even here there is cultivation. On the terraces cotton is cultivated very extensively but chiefly the indiginous variety which feels more like wool than cotton requires to be sown annually. Well these climates would keep in health, and we flatter ourselves into the belief

[0002] we can cure fever quickly even in the lowlands without in loss of strength to the patient. I long greatly to see of our own honest poor out here. They would do good to, and help to free our country from the stain of on slave labour. Beyond this part we have the land the Lakes - Shirwa or Tamandua and Nyassa[...] trade from the regions must cross the isthmus in order to get past the without embarking on ether. We met a large slaving party the most blackguard looking lot I ever saw - they had an number of slaves. On learning that we were English they off by night, probably thinking the same of us as we of them. The Lake at its southern end is 8 or 10 miles . It had a heavy swell on it though there was no wind and as gives of a large river like the Shire, which never varies more 2 or 3 feet from the dry to the wet season, it must be a large itself. But we could not explore it, for we had left Mr. Laird's sham vessel in a sinking state, and had to hasten to it. Funnel, Furnace, Deck and bottom all became honey-after only 12 months wear - this is not the only hindrance annoyance this gentleman has inflicted on us.

Many thanks for your kind present of Filters. I entrusted naval officer with the duty of selection but fear that he took that he could get hold of. We have still abundant and they very useful.

(signature missing) The letter is crossed "Dr. Livingstone's letter, March 1860".