

## Letter to Benjamin Pyne, 15 October 1849

*David Livingstone*

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[0001]

Kolobeng 15 October 1849[MS 8/3]

My very dear Friends

I believe I told you in my last that I intended to visit a reported Lake in the regions beyond us. I am happy to say that after a 1200 miles trip I have been permitted to return in safety having seen the Lake and a people speaking a different language from the Bechuana- After travelling 300 miles we struck the beautiful river Zonga and then by winding along its banks about 300 more to the westward we came to the Lake Ngami. The river is very beautiful indeed - it is subject to a periodical rise & fall & probably derives its water from melting snow. It was rising when [we] were there & was notwithstanding perfectly pure - from 50 yards wide [...] we struck it widened as we ascended till it was more than a 160 yards of deep water between a broad belt of reed growing with shallower parts. great shoals o fish come down with the water -  
[0002]

and the Bakoba catch them with nets - they are darker in complexion than Bechuana and paddle along the Lake & rivers ajacent in canoes - I often said[led] along in them & visted their villages, as the wagon went along the bank - They seemed to understand the message of mercy better than any people I ever spoke to for the first time - We all admired the frankness of their manners - We reached the Bataoana on the first of August & rode 6 miles beyond to the broadest part of the Lake - It presented a horizon of water to the South South West - so we could not tell its size it may be 70 miles long for a native takes three days to walk around to the narrow part at the Norwest the banks of the Tonga however with the Tumanakle flowing into it arrested nearly all my thoughts - they are extremely beautiful

and seem like a navigable highway into  
a large section of country - gigantic trees  
line their banks - three of these are new  
& fruit-bearing - one I saw on the opposite  
bank of the T. had fruit more than a foot  
long & 3 inches in diameter hanging from its  
[0003]

branches - the tribes we visited were the Bakurutse  
Battelle - Bataoana & Bakoba - - I wished to visit  
a tribe 200 miles beyond but the Bataoana  
chief kept all the canoes at the ford out of our  
sight - as it was - I have been absent from  
wife & family for 4 months and 10 days.  
The gentlemen who came from England  
to accompany me are passing homewards  
I have not time to write you at length  
but give you a few lines rather than  
none at all - the Noreast Extremity  
of the Lake is in 20° 20' S. the long.  
may be 24° E.. I think I told you in in  
my last that we had another son. M<sup>rs</sup>. L.  
united with me in very kind salutations  
to you and your family - May you  
enjoy every needed blessing -

affectionately yours

D Livingstone

We expect M<sup>r</sup> Freeman soon  
[0004]  
[ River Za[...] ]  
[9<sup>00</sup>]

you must excuse this short letter - Do

~~leave of Rio W. Blaly's Cape Town~~

Benjamin Pyne Asepil

Wildingtree

Ongas

Essex