

Letter to [Robert Gray]

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[0001]

River Zambesi

21st March 1860.

My Lord Bishop

In a speech delivered at Manchester about a year ago, I found, for the first time a few days since, the very cheering intimation that Miss Coutts had subscribed £2500 towards an institution for the sons of native chiefs. As you have no doubt been generously supported in the noble undertaking by other members of the English church, and cannot fail to be, by the Divine blessing, extensively useful, I take the liberty to congratulate you on the enterprise. Feeling a deep interest in any plan for the elevation of the population of this country,

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whether white or black, I may be allowed to shew my sympathy with yours by alluding to the extensive field which in the course of time your benevolence will affect.

The Kaffre or Zulu family extends right up to the Zambesi. Under the name "Landims" (Landeens) they have conquered all the gold region called Manica, and all the south bank of this river (except the lands in the immediate vicinity of the forts Senna and Tette) is under their

sway or depopulated.

The estate of Shupanga which, yielding the immense trees used in forming the large canoes common on the Zambesi, cannot be dispensed with by the Portuguese, is retained only by paying a large [annual] tribute.

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Some 600 dollars are paid to the Landeens, and only 400 of rent to the Portuguese Government. The language is nearly identical with that of the Zulus of Natal and Moenekhosi or Manikhosi. (the "Manicus" of the Boers) [the paramount chief of the whole region north of Inhambane,] is of the same family as Panda. They all have a certain amount of respect for the English or as they call us Maingeretse. When D^r Kirk visited a village subject to their sway, his wants were abundantly supplied, and payment refused: Your efforts and those of other bodies of Christians among these fine people will without doubt be one day crowned with glorious results.

If we turn to the influences at work hitherto in this region we see abundant reason for joy at the prospect of the introduction of better agencies. We have much kindness from individual Portuguese, and can therefore

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speak confidentially only about their system. Their establishments are not colonies, but small penal settlements. No women are sent

out to them, and frightful immorality
is the result. The prevailing
drunkenness makes it wonderful
that the people live at all. Our
expedition is hated as a sort
of standing protest against vice.
and we should be "good fellows"
only by joining in their vices.
With a soil and climate superior
to Natal nothing is done but
paltry peddling in ivory and
gold dust. When we go down
to the coast we have abundance of
fresh meat without trouble from
the game, but inland the grass,
intermingled with Indigo and cotton,
is too tall for hunting, and we
can get neither vegetables nor
fresh meat for either love or
money. I am trying to obtain
free navigation of the Zambesi
for all nations, and if you can
lend any influence to effect
it you will aid in breaking
up the exclusive system which
is the ruin of the country.

I am &c David Livingstone

Had the projected Institution been in existence before Sechele fell away from his
profession of christianity his children might have great benefit
He sent them of his own accord to Kuruman for instruction and
I believe they were supported there for a time by M^r Moffats private bounty.
I am unaquainted with the missionaries now at Sechele's
but imagine that they would gladly induce Sechele to avail
himself of any advantages you may have to bestow on his
children. and to me it would be a great satisfaction
to hear that any of the Bakwains had been so favoured. I do
very heartily bid you God Speed