

Letter to Lord Palmerston, 15 January 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Private

Kongone mouth of the Zambesi

15 January 1861

Viscount Palmerston,

12 ap 1861

My Lord

We have lately taken the Makololo came with me to Tette back to their country, as we were in honour bound to do, though it involved a march of over 600 miles on foot. the most important points observed were the of the coal field which begins Tette nearly up to the Falls of Victoria these same falls themselves. the coal probably play an important part the future of the Cape Colony though a rather short sighted treaty with the Boers, traders are debarred at present from trade of that region. By a second visit the falls & by careful measurement I am to call them the most wonderful the world. they are about twice the of Niagara, and if I recollect rightly broader or 1860 yards. That , more than an English mile. then the falls into a crack which is prolonged a most remarkable zig zag manner. the

[diagram of a river]

formed by the wavy form the crack are exactly the same as the bed of the river above the falls and you can walk

[0002] facing the the falls at the first promontory in the others with the river some 300 feet and on each side of you jammed at bottom of the crack in some 20 or 30 yards saw the columns of vapour which come out of the fissure twenty miles off, and it was the period of extreme low there were eight hundred feet of water falling. this, in a country set down speculative geographers as "interminable plains into which rivers ran and lost." is sufficiently interesting for it be inferred that the world did not what Africa was, or what it is of becoming. When in Africa formerly, had no more idea of writing a book on it your Lordship has of becoming an hunter. I now see many things then escaped my notice, and this especially the case in the matter of cotton. the central districts I could not recollect seen the plant, but we now saw so large that boys climb up the trees, of a quality which can only be produced some parts of South America. All the we have sent home to Manchester [^][been declared] of higher value than the common kinds of America. It would be mistake to distribute foreign seed. Indeed in America it must always be treated an exotic, here it is in its native country

[0003] the annual burning of the grass does not it. I am exceedingly glad to hear that mission from the English Universities to be established in the Interior which in to Christian instruction will to introduce lawful trade. That cotton will be the most easily established more especially if the missionaries like monks previous to the period of their corruption not disdain to hold the plough. We mean try and find an entrance to the Interior the country exterior to the Portuguese for it is impossible to do among them. this is to be the first of our new vessel which I am thankful to hear your Government granted. We are now down here its arrival every day. We are by swamps for at least a miles - eight miles of our vicinity of the deadly mangrove swamp is believed to be the very hot bed of , and which, as often as the tide retires

most offensive effluvia. I do not this to magnify the service, but a sort of introduction to what I am you will be glad to learn, that we believe now know the remedy for Fever. this remedy we find the disease no than a common cold - and you know used to be the consequence of sleeping among the mangroves.

[0004] first time I employed it was in the case my own children in 1850 at Lake Ngami, I have never found it to fail in a single case . I was however not sure that it would efficacious in Europeans generally until ample experience of this Expedition demonstrated . It is noticed near the end of my book but are so often decieved in medicine that felt it would look quackish if I spoke positively. reaching Victoria Falls we heard for the first that a party of London missionaries been cut off by fever at Linyanti and took place at the very time that we were the way, and curing severe cases in Europeans quickly that our march on foot was rarely more than a day or two - I found the proper medicines for its composition my waggon which has been kept for me years within a few hundred yards of their . their unhappy fate made me to say more about it. the medicines are common ones. I have com-it formerly to Lord John Russell should it prove as useful in the West as have found it in the East a saving of life will be effected

I hope to have something more interesting communicate on our return from the Rovuma, and am exceedingly pleased to hear you and Lady Palmerston take a kind in my proceedings. Your encouraging of 30th Sept^r 1859 reached me only a ago. I am My Lord, Yours Faithfully

David Livingstone

[D^rLivingstone

15/1/61 for fever]