

Letter to Joseph D. Hooker, 9 December 1861

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[0001]

River Shire 9th Dec^r 1861

Private

My Dear D^r Hooker

Many thanks for your letter by the Pioneer. We had just from the Makololo country & a long run up the Rovuma I thought it would be as well to wait answering you till I had something write about. D^r Kirk wished to home as by the Victoria fall journey had pretty well worked up the of a large section of the country when he heard of a new steamer a new field up Rovuma he willing enough to stay - We failed the Rovuma chiefly because the vessel is too deep - then came to the Shire intending to examine Rovuma from above downwards have again failed. We carried a past the cataracts then sailed 60 miles up the Upper Shire -

[0002] some 225 up the Lake. We found it deep - and from 20 to 50 miles broad length is that above indicated though say only over 200 miles. The country is all highland or mountainous sudden storms come down which seas in which no open boat could . We were there during the Equinoctial and it would have been foolhardi-to have crossed to the Eastern shore that period. When we came to near North end, or where the people go it, no food was to be had, and we went we saw skeletons putrid bodies of the slain the handiwork a tribe of Zulus called Mazita or . I met seven of them and they as much afraid of me as I ought have been of them. they would not me to their chief. the country was so we were obliged to return be content with the most contradictory of Rovuma ever heard. One man intelligence and with no motive we

[0003] imagine for deception, would positively that we could sail out the Lake into the river - Another would we must lift it [(the boat)] a mile - another miles - a fourth a hundred & one point alone did all agree it was

"a very large river". The reason why want an outlet there is the Portuguese us everywhere and introduce . When we took the bishop to a spot about 15 miles south Zomba we met Portuguese slavers from near that mountain lots of captives - we took them & them over to the bishop to be on by His Reverence secund-Artem high Churchii. If you are high church you had better rub out that of profanity! We have of cotton for the collecting but Englishman will submit to officials. We shall be for the best part of a year carrying a steamer past the . We expect her soon and parts to be screwed together.

[0004]

Kirk will tell you about the palm oil nut on the Lake. It is not half the size of that the West coast & is not used for anything cannot be of any value for they collect insect not bigger than our smallest and boil them into cakes which are as a relish with other food. I expect of the real nut from Loanda for planting.

I am very glad to hear that you are to bring out a Genera Plantarum have often talked about & felt that you did not come out more the sake of your family you ought to more of a popularity hunter - "Bosh"

[you say] "Teach your grand mother" &c. &c. &c. We think hand how all your friends would if any of the Nobodies should be over your head. Be as angry as like with me I repeat you ought make yourself more known. Could not do something in the popular with your Museum. there

is nothing in it - see how Playfair and
Sir Roderick get on. It is all fair above board.

[0005] have been sadly vexed by Rae the boxes five of which were lately at Mozambique without any . He was entrusted to address to your father when he should paint. Some boxes had " D^r Kirk" the corner. M^r Burrup the missi-who saw them added " England" wide direction enough. One box no address contained birds belongs to my brother. I have bothered enough by my com-, but did not expect Rae act this way. If all had been Kirk I should have had smooth .

D^r Meller is very industrious many of his specimens will duplicates of Kirk's. I feel because many of the from Zomba were the as Welwitsch got on the

[0006] of Angola. Ours were long ago and but for Rae's would have been registered

Please present my kindest to M^{rs} Hooker, and to your . My wife is I believe now her way out here after a three unexpected separation. Has eldest boy taken to anything hopeful ran away from tutor lately. They were trying cram him [with Latin & Greek] if I understand , and thrashing was threatened off he went. Our friend Playfair at this juncture & he is now a school at St Andrews. It is to think how much we were when we were !! David Livingstone