## Letter to W. Black, 15 November 1871

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001] Ujiji 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1871 My Dear Sir On reaching this place in 1869 I found your very kind and welcome present of Assam tea and as I had tasted neither tea coffee nor sugar for two years and six months you may be sure that I blessed you for your kind remembrance. I was greatly reduced by an attack of pneumonia and I think that the renewal of my strength was in a great measure owing to copious libations of the delicious beverage - native food is generally coarse though the people shew a great deal of ingenuity in making it as fine and as palateable as possible but after all our systems require European food if we are to retain health and strength. I wrote a note of thanks in May of /69 but my packet of letters was destroyed between this and the sea. I therefore feel that you have set me down as ungrateful and I write this in order that you may see that I am really greatly obliged

I have been a great deal longer at my work of exploration than I ever expected - the sources of the Nile are not a little matter that one might reach - scream out Hurrah! and go away home: the watershed from which the springs of the Nile do unquestionable arise is full 700

and that I am very unwilling that you should have good reason to think

I had forgotten my benefactor

## [0002]

seven hundred miles in length from West to East and the springs in some parts I passed over are like the vegetation of frost on window panes - almost innumerable

the converge into enormous Lake rivers the central one of which is from one to three miles broad and it can never be waded at any point or at any time of the year - ultimately the two Western rivers fall into the central one and then we have in it and Tanganyika with the lake river Albert Nyanza but two main drains of the great Nile valley as was depicted by Ptolemy I have been trying to follow the central lake even down through the country of the cannibals named Manyema - it has four large lakes proper in its course the country is fertile beyond description and the population prodigious - were never visited before and the ivory lies in the forests where the animals were killed - this has brought swarms of half caste traders into Manyema and not content with ivory sufficient to acquire to be carried by three relays they must needs murder and make slaves. It is not slave trading it is simply marauding & murder and all that slaving privileges of the Sultan of Zanzibar should not suffer -Kindest salaams to M<sup>rs</sup> Black from yours &c David Livingstone

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