

# Letter to Unknown

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

50 Albemarle ( St.)

7 ( Dec<sup>r</sup>) 1857

Sir

The company which  
was attempted to be  
formed at Lisbon  
on the plan of the  
East India Company  
did not the  
sanction of the  
Portuguese Government

[0002]

It was concocted by  
a gentleman who  
is reported to have  
been a little "cracked"  
but the main idea  
commended itself  
to many as feasible  
The numbers that  
supported him  
in bringing it  
before the govern  
ment shewed anxiety  
to get the country  
off their hands

[0003]

but a pretty evident  
desire also to  
secure the ultimate  
benefits of English  
capital & commercial  
enterprise to Portugal  
alone. In returning  
my great desire  
is to get the Zambesi  
proclaimed a free  
pathway to the country

beyond their possession  
They will derive  
benefit thereby but

[0004]

it remains to be seen  
whether the Portuguese  
Government is  
enlightened enough to  
see their own  
interest. If free passage  
is granted frankly  
then there is little doubt  
but that the Interior  
will be opened to  
trade & civilization

The work of S<sup>r</sup>  
Botelho with which you  
are no doubt acquainted  
gives a very glowing account  
of the resources of East Africa

I am &c David Livingstone