

Letter to George Back, 30 November 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Tette 30th Nov^r 1860

Dear Sir George

I have been very far from of your kindness, though you have no evidence of my remembrance since came back to Africa - but you know the sort life an Explorer leads and will be disposed to make .

We have just come off a trip of about 1400 . We went up this river to the country of the Makololo travelling along the North bank on foot returning partly in canoes and partly on foot nearly the same track. We had thus a good of examining the whole river at ~~dr~~ water and saw about a hundred miles it which the tsetse prevented me from seeing 1855. We crossed the Kafue at its confluence went along the fine fertile valley in which river gently flows among a people who all be called Batoka though each small tribe its own name besides. they were hospitable and being in the habit cultivating the ground extensively they had of food to bestow. They cultivate great of very fine cotton too though the go stark naked. the women have more and go decently covered. their country well furnished with coal - many rivulets fragments of the precious mineral none knew that it would burn. We saw two fine large seams in the bank

[0002] the Zambesi from which steamers will one be loaded - for the river above Chicova finer i.e. more navigable than below

Tette and Lupata

On a second visit to the falls of Victoria which you shewed a kind interest. I inclined to say that they are the most in the world. the breadth is not 1000 as I conjectured but between one statute one geographical mile we say 1860 yards it is a little more, by way of assisting memory. the depth is not 1000 [feet] as I stated 310 feet and even now at extreme water there were 800 feet of water falling leaping sheer down 310 feet it is collected both ends of the fizzle to the escape being nearer the North than South is like the letter but come to the or Eastern

side of the crack and you it prolonged in the most wonderful manner. If you will excuse the it may convey my meaning promontories formed by the zigzag of the same height as the bed of

the river the Falls - they [are] flat & covered with trees the sides are perpendicular and you walking along their tops can see river some 300 feet jammed in a of 20 or 30 yards base of one promontory is only 560 paces

[0003] of another 400. The river being very low could see clearly the bottom of one half of full fizzle. The columns of vapour smaller than when I was there in /55 - but still very high as we saw them at a distance of 20 . And this water fall exists in what we all thought to believe were interminable of burning barren sand where most enterprising rivers ran only be lost.

We found it hot enough on our return in going we climbed up to the Highlands the Batoka and saw hoar frost and little ice. The soil becomes disagreeably even for [a person with] shoes. 136° at 3 P.M. a thermometer in the shade of the body marching is often over 100°. the even becomes hotter than that of natives 99° 1/2 while the natives shew 98° the most remarkable

feature in the was the rate of evaporation was often a difference of 33°- 36° even 40° between the wet and dry bulbs

In meeting with our old friends the we were grieved to find that of them had died of fever and if they are not permitted to from their unhealthy swamps they will break up as a tribe. party of missionaries had

[0004] severely from the same com-.their loss makes me value remedy rather highly which I have found effectual in curing the disease ever 1850 - but I do not like to a fuss about it as I would as we medical people say . We have however enjoyed opportunities for testing it during Expedition.

Your knife is my constant companion it has often brought you vividly my recollection. Please present kindest remembrances to

Lady Back and believe me

Faithfully Yours

David Livingstone