

Letter to [Edmund Gabriel?], 8 March 1861

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[0001]

Rovuma Bay

8th March, 1861

My dear Friend,

By our new vessel which touched Loanda I hear that you are gone to . I take the liberty of intruding on your with a subject that is of some importance the geographical world, and concerning me as attempt by a literary friend to deprive of the of being the first European that crossed continent and throw discredit on my .

In 1853 or 4 (I quote from memory) met a S^r Silva Porto of darkish color, but straight hair which was cut short, at

Linyante and in the Barotse country (nalide). told me that he had attempted to go but had been prevented from pro-more than a few days beyond where met him. His attempt was made during same time that I was ascending to the , and having met there, his attempt not possibly have been far. He stated that he had sent his people by a southern eastwards, and they too had been com-to return after proceeding but a short . He invited me to go with him west-as he was then only waiting for the to begin his homeward journey, but I in order to avoid slave company and slave path. I was much longer on the route I adopted than he and when was in your house his Journal was being

[0002] piece meal in the 'Boletin'. His with me was noticed in his Journal so was my wagon, &c, but not a syllable his having crossed over to Mozambique.

You told me that when the Arabs came Banguela that the Government of Loanda a conto of Reis and an honorary in the army to any one who would them to the East Coast but none . Porto's difficulties and inability attempting to go East were one of the reasons induced me to go West. I had not the ambition to accomplish the feat I afterwards led to perform.

Now, a M^r Macqueen has produced Journal to the R.G.S. in which it is made to appear that Porto over to Mozambique, and discovered all that we have since made known. It is believe published in the 'Proceedings' of the .G.S. but this additional piece was certainly published at Loanda, and M^r Macqueen to be the victim of a literary fraud, and him the Geographical Society. Have any objection to give to Sir Roderick your recollections of the publication.

Porto is now said to have been sent by the Governor Loanda and to have returned /54 (when I with you) from Mozambique. He could have done so without your knowledge and had he done so the Portuguese who claims the honor for his country would have gone back to 1815 to two black men

[0003] only came to Tette (Blue Book, 1856-7).

You may remember too, that when I for two [...] , the Governor E. do Amiral in politely aiding me reference to them, made mention of the of the Government to ascertain the of crossing to the East coast, and quite in accordance with your state-to me that no one had then been among his countrymen to attempt it.

If you have no objection to state your on these points to Sir Roderick, will enable the Society to judge how it has been imposed on by a literary concocted by some one from the we have since given about

Shirwa & Nyassa. I think M^r Macqueen been duped by some zealous Portuguese.

We are now off the Rovuma and in of an entrance into the interior of Eastern exterior to Portuguese claims; the promises well. No bar & no bottom across mouth with a line of seventeen fathoms. A body of water a mile wide rushes out, but is the rainy season. You will hear all the Oxford & Cambridge Mission at home. have persuaded Bishop Mackenzie to post-pone landing for three months, he will then be the ~~most~~ three most healthy months of year. He is at Johanna. My heart at the prospect of the gospel ~~soon~~ being soon planted in this trodden down land.

If we get an overland route to Nyassa's -

[0004] -end we shall prefer it, though it be times as long as that past Murchison's up Shire. We shall soon be able give information about Rovuma. We now only for coals. As soon as we do that body knew all about it long before. publish what they knew first.

Sorry to hear of our poor friend Brand's . God grant that we may do something good before our time is past. I made a in giving our prescription substituting for Rhubarb, and now add the true .

(signed) David Livingstone