

1. *Letters from Dr. Kirk, concerning Dr. Livingstone.*

(Communicated by the FOREIGN OFFICE, through LORD ENFIELD.)

"MY LORD,

"Zanzibar, March 10, 1871.

"I have the honour to forward, in translation, copies of letters just received from Ujiji, from which it will be seen that up to five months ago Dr. Livingstone was at a place named Manakoso, and only awaiting the men and supplies sent off by me last year, and that they have now reached him, or at least been forwarded from Ujiji to the place where he is.

"It being now time to close letters, for transmission by the present occasion, I shall not be able to make inquiry among the Arabs acquainted with these parts as to the position of the places named, but which I suppose are on the western side of the lake.

"JOHN KIRK."

(TRANSLATION.)

*To Consul Kirk, from Sherif Basheikh bin Ahmed.*

I have to inform you that on the 15th of Shaban (10th November), a messenger came from the people of Menama with letters from the Arabs who are there, and one from the Doctor, and these letters were dated the 20th Rejib (15th October).

In answer to my inquiries, they told me that the Doctor was well, although he had been suffering; and that he is for the present at the town of Manakoso, with Mohamed bin Gharib, waiting for the caravans, being helpless, without means and with few followers, only eight men, so that he cannot move elsewhere or come down.

We have sent off twelve of our men with American cloth, kaniki, beads, sugar, coffee, salt, two pair of shoes, shot, powder, and soap, and a small bottle of medicine (quinine).

All that he was in need of we have sent to him, and I remain at Ujiji awaiting his orders.

Dated 20th Shaban, 1287 (15th Nov., 1870).

True translation.

JOHN KIRK.

(TRANSLATION.)

*To Ludda Damji, from Said bin Majid.*

(*After compliments*).—This letter is from Ujiji, and the news here is good, and nothing but good to report. Trade also is prosperous.

Letters have come from the people of Menama, from Mohamed bin Gharib and his people, and they have got good prices, such as please them; and the Christian is in their company, and they intend returning to Ujiji in the month of Safr (April, 1871).

Sherif reached Ujiji, having with him the goods of the Christian; and we intend sending some of these goods to him, for he is destitute, and the people of Sherif will accompany the messengers who take the letters.

"MY LORD,

"Zanzibar, 18th Feb., 1871.

"I have the honour to report that information having reached me, through a native, that the men sent off by Mr. Churchill with stores for Dr. Livingstone, as reported in his Despatch of the 18th Nov., 1870, were still at Bagamoyo, a coast-town on the opposite mainland, and had not taken any steps to procure porters and proceed on their journey, I determined, if possible, to go myself and see them off. Captain Tucker, commanding

H.M.S. *Columbine*, on my request, kindly offered to place his ship at my disposal for this purpose.

"On reaching Bagamoyo, I found that the men referred to were still living in the village, while Arab caravans set out on the same journey. It is true that porters this year are difficult to obtain, few of the people of Unyamwezi having come down, in consequence of deaths last year from cholera among their friends.

"However, by using my influence with the Arabs, I succeeded at once in sending off all but four loads, and followed inland one day's journey myself. The remaining four loads I arranged on my return were to be taken as far as Unyanyembe by an Arab caravan, and thence sent to Ujiji by Said bin Salim, the governor.

"Once fairly off on the road, there is little to induce these people to delay; whereas at Bagamoyo, living in good huts among their own people, and thinking that there, unknown, they might enjoy themselves and earn monthly pay, had I not gone in person they might have loitered yet several months.

"While passing along the trade-route on the short excursion I made from Bagamoyo, we met several caravans on their way from Unyamwezi, Urori, &c.; and by questioning the natives, as well as the leaders, found that no news had been received lately at Unyanyembe from Ujiji, and nothing known of Dr. Livingstone. All were aware that he had gone on a journey, from which he had not yet returned up to the latest dates.

"The country I passed through after crossing the River Kingani was like a beautiful park and woodland, full of all sorts of big game, including the giraffe, eland, zebra, hartebeeste, wilde-beeste, &c., some of which I shot not more than 12 miles from the coast-town of Bagamoyo. The Kingani River was full of hippopotami, and on its banks wild buffaloes were found.

"Unfortunately wherever the giraffe exists in numbers this rich and comparatively healthy region is infested by the 'Tsetse' fly, so dangerous to cattle and horses.

"On my return to Bagamoyo, I devoted a day to the study of the French mission establishment, and their management of freed slaves. On this I shall do myself the honour to submit a separate report to your Lordship.

"Since my visit, four years ago, I found the town of Bagamoyo to have trebled its extent. Native huts were fast being replaced by stone buildings; and here, as elsewhere on the coast, the trade rapidly passing into the hands of the Kutchees.

"JOHN KIRK."

The CHAIRMAN, in commenting upon the above letters, said that Sir Roderick had begged him to state to the meeting how gratified he was, before retiring from the office of President, to receive a confirmation of the safety, to so late a date, of Dr. Livingstone, in whom he had always taken so profound an interest. The meeting would remember that, through good report and evil report, Sir Roderick Murchison had stood to his colours manfully; and, almost alone among the geographers of England, he had lent a deaf ear throughout to all possible insinuations or fears regarding Livingstone's safety. Sir Roderick's gratification was, however, tempered with pain at not being able to be present on this occasion, when the intelligence was to be communicated to the Society.

The most important letter now communicated was that from the Arab officer who had been sent up by Dr. Kirk in charge of stores from Zanzibar to Ujiji. He reached Ujiji, it would appear, in last September, and on the 15th October he received a letter from Dr. Livingstone. The Sheriff's letter was of considerable interest on various grounds. It stated that he had received Dr. Livingstone's letter (of October 15th) on the 10th of November, thus

showing that Dr. Livingstone at that time was only twenty-five days distant from Ujiji. It further showed that the Sherif was so much interested in the matter as to send off twelve men with the supplies immediately on the receipt of Dr. Livingstone's letters. They were all gone before the 15th November. That was very satisfactory. The second letter was from an Arab merchant, written to his correspondent at Zanzibar, and apparently quite independent of the Sherif. It was probably written a day or two before the Sherif's letter, as it stated that the stores and supplies were about to be sent, whereas in the Sherif's own letter it is stated that they had actually been sent before the 15th November. There was a remarkable expression in this second letter, to the effect that the caravan with which Livingstone remained intended returning to Ujiji from Manyema in the month of Safr, that is about the present time; so that the merchant's arrangements were to remain for five months longer at Manyema, in order, no doubt, to complete the purchases and sales, and then to come on quietly to the coast. It did not follow, however, that Dr. Livingstone would wait five months needlessly at Manyema. The intelligence and supplies sent from Ujiji on the 11th of November would reach him, at any rate, by the 15th December; and, if he wished to return at once, he might leave by the end of that month, so as to reach Ujiji about the end of January. If he continued his journey at once he might reach the coast in about three months and a half from that time, that is about the end of April. This was supposing he was determined to return to England immediately on receiving his supplies. Of course, at this distance of time and place, it was impossible for us to speculate with any confidence on what his next step might be. We knew, however, that all Livingstone's later movements had been in accordance with his preconceived plans. He had been above a year in this country of Manyema, his previous letters being written in May, 1869, from which date up to October, 1870, he had been occupied in his explorations. His own account of what he intended to do was sent to Dr. Kirk in May, 1869, when he said "As to the work to be done by me, it is only to connect the sources which I have discovered from 500 to 700 miles south of Speke and Baker's, with their Nile. The volume of water which flows north from lat. 12° s. is so large, I suspect that I have been working at the sources of the Congo as well as those of the Nile. I have to go down the eastern line of drainage to Baker's turning-point. Tanganyika, Nzige Chowambe (Baker's?) are one water, and the head of it is 300 miles south of this. The western and central lines of drainage converge into an unvisited lake west or south-west of this. The outflow of this, whether to Congo or Nile, I have to ascertain. The people west of this, called Manyema, are cannibals, if Arabs speak truly. I may have to go there first, and down Tanganyika, if I come out uneaten, and find my new squad from Zanzibar." Therefore, from May, 1869, to October, 1870, he was occupied in the very researches to which he alluded in this letter, and whether he came home at once or remained another year would entirely depend on the results he had obtained during that interval. If he had satisfied himself that the waters he had been following turned to the westward and formed the head-waters of the Congo, he (Sir Henry) thought he would most likely come home rather than follow them to the west; if, on the other hand, he found that they ran to the north, whether he would think it necessary to follow them to the Albert Nyanza or proceed to Zanzibar, would depend upon his health and other circumstances. But, from his knowledge of Livingstone's character, he believed he would rather sacrifice himself than leave the problem unsolved, especially if he heard of Sir Samuel Baker being about to launch his boats on the Albert Nyanza. He (Sir Henry) could not help thinking that if Livingstone was in tolerable health after obtaining his stores, and was able to take the field again, he would prefer completing the great work upon which he was engaged. However, that was a matter of speculation.

COLONEL GRANT said that Burton and Speke had crossed the lake from Ujiji, and heard of this country which Livingstone had visited. At the point which they reached they met a trading-party, similar to the one employed by Dr. Kirk to convey the letters and provisions to Livingstone. This proved that trade had been carried on here for many years. Even Indians from Bombay sent their messengers far away to the west and north, and at certain seasons of the year the ivory was collected: when the crops were ripe their caravans went down to the coast, arriving at Zanzibar in October and April. At any other time solitary individuals might cross, but caravans of fifty or sixty people would never attempt it. He thought that Dr. Livingstone, when he received the supplies, would wait until the traders returned to Zanzibar. However anxious he might be to get back to England, he would not be able to move until the harvest season, and he might, therefore, arrive either at the end of this year or not before next April. As yet no account had been received from Livingstone of the exact elevation above the sea of Lake Tanganyika. It was merely conjecture on Livingstone's part that its waters went northward; but he (Colonel Grant) was of opinion that the Victoria Nyanza, and the Lakes of Karagweh, which flow into it, are, and would eventually be found to be, the most elevated of all the sheets of water that supplied the Nile, and therefore its true source.

Mr. FRANCIS GALTON believed that no anxiety need be entertained about the safety of Dr. Livingstone. Our great traveller had a reluctance to giving partial details of his explorations, preferring to bring back the results of the whole: communications, therefore, might not be received from him so frequently as geographers wished. There was no ground for crediting Livingstone with any excessive home-sickness. He was as much at home in Africa as in England, and, in fact, he had spent more of his life in Africa than in England; therefore, when he received his supplies, if he had more work to do, no doubt he would remain. He warned the Society not to expect too much from Dr. Livingstone's labours during the past year, since it is more probable than not, that his freedom of movement had been much embarrassed by the want of supplies. Progress in Africa very much depended upon accident: Livingstone, in his early journeys, swept across Africa with great rapidity; but during the last four or five years his journeyings had only reached from Zanzibar to Manyema. Before concluding, he took the opportunity of expressing his admiration of the recent achievements of a solitary German botanist, Dr. Schweinfurth, whose remarkable route had been laid down on the large map hung up on the wall, and who had apparently succeeded in connecting the basin of the Nile, in a latitude south of Gondokoro, with the basin of Lake Tchad.

The Rev. HORACE WALLER said he was delighted to know that the right kind of stores had been sent to Livingstone. Those who had travelled in Africa knew that the loss of shoes alone was almost equivalent to the loss of life. On two occasions Livingstone and Kirk suffered most severely from their shoe-leather wearing out; and, as Livingstone had been away much longer than he had originally expected, no doubt he had been in great want of shoes. He believed that if Livingstone had satisfied himself that the waters of Tanganyika were connected with the Albert Nyanza, and thence found their egress through the Nile, he would at once come back to England. If there was one thing he hated more than another, it was to travel with an Arab caravan, where he would be surrounded by slaves throughout the whole route; and rather than do that he would, as he had on many occasions previously, tramp it to the coast by himself.