

## Letter to John Kirk, 14 May 1871

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14<sup>th</sup> May 1871 66 23 Chakanja Ludha's slave and Juma slave 31 2  
of Mamea ringleaders of mutiny and the loudest in asserting that the  
Consul told him not to go forward but [...]back - and not to  
follow me if I went to a "bad country" demanded leave for 15 days to go & buy  
gaudy lambas where cheap on our West and on my refusing went &  
told Abed what ample rations they got at the coast and now would  
leave me - I refused because Abed has got a canoe for me - price not  
settled as owner is sick - and I sent a party about six miles off to examine  
another - see the owner - measure it and come back with him if willing for  
the price next day - They remained away six days - I could not trust these  
ringleaders out of sight so sent other two of the slaves with guides to order  
the first party back - These went on with them to kill Manyema & they  
did kill three men - I told them I would never let them go anywhere unless  
I could go myself - a party is going to buy copper as it is smelted near us  
They killed a great number who stood in mute amazement at the guns  
and their effects - These ringleading worthies in everything that is bad  
hope to repeat this bloodshed because they incur no danger &  
would get slaves - I never imagined that human or Muhamadan  
nature rather could be so atrociously vile - By the back of this I give  
them a dismissal - Twice I refused to go North at Bambarre - then  
in the way threw back their rations of beads demanded double though  
what I gave was three times more than the Arabs give their slaves - I  
am glad to get rid of them by their own desire = They got two to follow  
them by loud talking of what they get at the coast - and they know that  
my beads Quinine are nearly all at Ujiji - As to wages you will know best  
they compelled me to an advance to six dollars at Bambarre - a distinct  
breach of their engagement with you

I am far JK West - Loeki or Lomame is at least 60' further - very broad  
a true Lake Lincoln above - When on its West bank we shall be some six  
weeks only from the mouth of the Congo - The people swarming and  
friendly till abused by blood hounds - They drink a cup of coffee after each  
meal - the trees are abundant - I am to get some - It is well dried in  
the fruit rind - If Waller likes to set a trap for Cooley he might publish  
about my great Westing and draw the author of "Inner Africa  
laid open" out among stupidity in thinking Lualaba aught else  
but the Congo - Then publish this addendum - you will naturally  
like the great apostle of hearsay geography  
if very pigheaded ^swear I have been following the Congo instead of the  
Nile but here the mighty river takes a sweep towards the East - takes  
in the Lomame and becomes more grand than ever 6 or 8 miles broad  
with many very great inhabited islands in it before it joins or receives

the Kiziwa which might be Lake Albert - Ivory is like grass - This is great news for Suaheli & at 2 rings of copper a tusk - I wish that license were refused to all the Sultans subjects for Interior trade who are guilty of bloodshed causelessly

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