

Letter to George Grey, 6 April 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org), 2017

[0001]

I take the liberty of troubling you to draw some money as by the enclosed receipt. I have advised the Foreign office of it by this mail.

Senna 6th April 1860 11

Private N^o 1

My Dear Sir George

By the fragments of our lost mail bag which were picked up by some seven miles West of the shoal where they were set afloat, we recieved the very cheering news that you were returning to the Cape, and that your good Bishop was guiding a mission from the Universities of England to the Interior of this country. Right good tidings they are, and I am extremely glad & thankful in consequence. I had written you in the supposition that you were in England. I now add a little information of considerable importance to us all.

We met our friend Major Secard at Mazaro last week on his way to Kongone harbour to hoist the Portuguese flag and possibly build some sort of fort alias custom house. This is by orders from high quarters. We gave him a sketch of the route through the mangroves of the Delta to guide him to the point where he will find two flagstuffs ready made by Captain Berkeley of H.M.S. Lynx. When in line they point out the deep channel across the bar.

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The Kongone was quite unknown to the Portuguese authorities but the conjecture of the Governor of Quilimane that it may have been used for shipping slaves by native born Portuguese is probably correct = only there is no evidence in the way of barracoons or stockades remaining

A Senhor Cruz of Quilimane was the great slave emigration agent of Bourbon for

two years. When the French bullied the Portuguese in Lisbon, His Excellency of Mozambique uttered a strong denuntiation of all & sundry who had dared to promote French emigration. He must have been entirely ignorant of the existence of Cruz's regular experts though nobody else was; and he invariably told our naval officers that he was accused of bribery, but falsely, as he has gained nothing by coming out here but the loss of his health. We sympathize with the poor man, as worse things have been said of ourselves. Cruz, however, slipped over to Bourbon till the blast of indignation was past, then came (a few weeks ago) back to Mozambique with a sugar mill & coffee cleaning machine - superior sugar canes & coffee seeds & two skilled Frenchmen. All sent by the Governor of Bourbon, and the Governor of Mozambique sent orders to all the authorities here to assist them in every means in their power. The Frenchmen died, it is said

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of fever, but the coffee & sugar cane are planted. The Portuguese hate us partly because of our religion, but chiefly because our nation has opposed the slave trade, and largely benefitted Portugal. And all desire the French to come and occupy this country. This was avowed to me by the Governor of Quilimane in a conversation I had with him lately at Shupanga. He avers that Portugal having no population to spare it is natural to look to France. We see that France colonizing here would be a death blow to all our hopes for the civilization of Africa. Cruz bribed largely in favour of a brother in-law named Marianno, who had a stockade at the mouth of the Shire, and by slave hunting among the Manganja powerfully aided in the French emigration scheme. He will get Marianno back again by next October, but this time to aid in forming French slave plantations in Quilimane - He ^ (Marianno) will then have undergone a sentence of three years imprisonment at Mozambique for rebellion and murder. Matters are kept as secret from us as possible,

but if we have good information that a half caste from Quilimane has engaged the Bajaua to join him in slave forays against the very Manganja among whom

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we lately travelled. They are spoken of as "conquistada" one man with a few slaves conquering the Bajaua who are great slave traders themselves, simply means, he had induced them to kidnap by the help of his guns those who have none. My old friends the Boers used to speak in the same pompous manner when doing the same dirty deeds. You will now perceive that I have reason to be glad to hear of a prospect of the introduction of a better system, and that you have returned to promote that and every other good work. I like the plan of the Universities sending forth missions like those in ancient times, and I know of no more inviting field than the the Highland Lake region. The proposal to have a bishop to head the party is an admirable one, ~~and~~ should they secure an energetic prudent leader there can be no doubt of their ultimate success. I am sure I wish the mission may prosper from the very bottom of my heart.

I have lost my communications from Government & do not know whether we are to have another ship. If one is sent we ought to be authorized to hoist a Pendant - for the sake of the effect it would have on our Portuguese (open friends but) secret enemies. She must remain at the Cape till next rise in November as we hope to be back to Kongone Harbour from the Makololo Country on the 30th of that month

Ever Affectionately yours D. Livingstone