

# Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 8 July 1868

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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3 Extracts from a letter of  
Livingstone to the President.

Near Lake Bangweolo

8 July. 1868.

My dear Sir Roderick

My letter to Lord Clarendon

will explain what I have been doing and why I  
can only give you a leaf out of my note book.

The sources of the Nile are undoubtedly between  
10° and 12° South, ~~or some 400 miles south of the~~  
~~Victoria Nyanza~~, not one or two, but upwards of  
twenty of them rise south of all the Lakes  
except Bangweolo. The great valley is exactly  
like the valleys of the Congo and Zambesi, and  
you have been seeking the sources too far to the  
north. I have yet to follow down the three lines  
of drainage into which the twenty-three sources

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converge, and do not speak very positively as to  
whether they flow past Tanganyika to the west into  
Chowambe, which I suppose to be Baker's Lake, or  
into Tanganyika and through by a river named  
Loanda into the same lake.....

.....  
.....  
.....

We are in the same quarter of the world  
yet - I do not know if Kirk has come to Zanzibar.  
I hope in a couple of months to be at Ujiji, where  
I have goods and I hope letters. Want of paper  
prevents my writing to my friends. A note for  
Agnes goes by this . . . . .

.....

With love to Lady Murchison, I am ever  
affectionately yours  
David Livingstone

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Postscript

The following is a summary on Sources  
from 30 to 50 yards broad, and always deep

enough to require either canoes or bridges.  
Chambese, Luapula, Lualaba and the Lakes  
receive thirteen sources, each larger than the  
Isis at Oxford or Avon at Hamilton. Another  
line of drainage receives five sources. A third  
receives other five, or twenty-three (23) in all.  
I do not count small burns from five to ten  
or fifteen yards broad. Lofu has eleven of these,  
all perennial, nor do I refer to the oozes  
or sponges which are the sources of them all.  
(signed) D L.

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