

Letter to H. Norton Shaw, 1 March 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Pioneer - off Rovuma

1st March 1861

Private

My Dear Shaw

Very many

and hearty thanks

for your letter, and the

packet of journals &c

which accompanied

it. this is the first

scrape of your pen

I have recieved since

we came out and

I confess that I was

beginning to be im-

patient with my

semper idem Friend

[0002]

This however sets all

to rights and I am

quite thankful.

I cannot tell you much

about Rovuma yet

as we are waiting for

H.M.S Lyra which

brings us some coals

We have no bar.

And no bottom was

found with seventeen

fathoms across the

mouth. An immense

body of water rolls

out a mile broad.

We went up some

8 miles yesterday

in a boat & saw

[0003]

that it is evidently

in flood. people

speak same language

as on Zambesi so
we shall get on. We
are trying to get an
entrance exterior to
the Portuguese claims
and are not permitted
to say anything
publicly, so this is
all between ourselves.
but by the way in
three months we
shall be able to give
you a good deal of
information about

[0004]

the Rovuma. At present
we cannot get a syllable
of information from
any one but no sooner
do we publish than
Macqueen will start
up and say he knew
all about it. Why
not tell you all
about it during the
next three months
or before we do?

I am sure that the
journal of Silva Porto
is a literary fraud,
for I met him at
the time specified

[0005]

either 1853 or 4. I
think the former but
quote from memory
alone. He then said
that he had tried to
go East but failed
after going to about
the Kafue. He tried
to send a party of his
people too but, [^] [they] failed
and he got to the
West before I did
and his journal
was published while
I was at Loanda.
His meeting with

me mentioned

[0006]

and not a word
about having gone
to the East Coast!!

If M^r Gabriel is
now [^] [as he was lately] in England
he will corroborate
the publication. His
agent is Woodhead
& co. James S^t. should
you think it worth
while enquiring

Thanking you for
your kind message
by M^{rs} L.

I am yours ever
David Livingstone

[I do not believe Macqueen guilty but
he is duped by some one.]