

Letter to Unknown, 7 December 1857

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

50 Albemarle St.

7 Dec^r 1857

Sir

The company which was attempted to be formed at Lisbon on the plan of the East India Company did not receive the sanction of the Portuguese Government

[0002]

It was concocted by a gentleman who is reported to have been a little "cracked" but the main idea commended itself to many as feasible. The numbers that supported him in bringing it before the government shewed anxiety to get the country off their hands

[0003]

but a pretty evident desire also to secure the ultimate benefits of English capital & commercial enterprise to Portugal alone. In returning my great desire is to get the Zambesi proclaimed a free pathway to the country beyond their possession. They will derive

benefit thereby but

[0004]

it remains to be seen
whether the Portuguese
Government is
enlightened enough to
see their own
interest. If free passage
is granted frankly
then there is little doubt
but that the Interior
will be opened to
trade & civilization

The work of S^r
Botelho with which you
are no doubt acquainted
gives a very glowing account
of the resources of East Africa

I am &c David Livingstone