

Letter to George Grey, 10 May 1858

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Steamer, Pearl 10th May

1858

Vocabularies N^o 2

Sir

When I sent the vocabularies to your Excellency by M^r Moffat I was unable to write and explain that the larger volume contains the Sichuana tongue chiefly, but I had begun to put in the dialect of The Barotse immediately after the Sichuana thus "Sichuana = = serotse = English - I did this partly because it was easier to translate the serotse into Sichuana, but chiefly because I had no paper to make another vocabularly -

Towards the end of the volume there are several Sir George Grey.dialects tabulated for comparison

[0002]

The Bayeiye live on the R. Zouga - Teoghe - chobe &c the Bashubia lived at Seshéke and along the Leambye the Barotse in the valley of that name the Balojazi and Ambonda far to the N.N.W. of that point -

In the calico covers there is a number of Angolese words the dialect being termed Bunda or Ambunda - I think I made a mistake in marking them as Serotse - D^r Bleek will be able to detect which is which by comparing them with the words in the tables in the

larger volume, and noting a form of swearing which I could not understand but was told it was equal to "by the holy sacraments" - Then we have some of the Londa or Lunda dialect - spoken by the Balonda - there are also Tete words.

[0003]

I am sorry the whole is so imperfect. The Sichuana contains most of the words in common use but by no means the whole language - We are perpetually picking up new words and even in the short period of my absence in England I see by the parts of the bible brought down by M^r Moffat that he has gathered a good many that I never heard Should you deem the matter sent worth printing my companions would be very thankful for copies in order to aid them in acquiring the language, and having begged for them I feel as if the way was paved for hinting that an interleaved copy for myself would be about as civil a thing as you could do - The number of blank leaves being proportioned to the frequency of the initial sounds - in mo - li - &c - and the

[0004]

deficiencies in some of the dialects - If I had the Sichuana so printed as to allow corresponding words to be put in Londa - Maravi - &c &c on the same line in the interleaved page I think I could ~~put~~ collect as many words as have served to translate bible in the course of two years.

As I am in the way of begging may I ask your Excellency to

get M^r Moffat to go over the
analysis and add or expunge what
may be necessary - I wrote it six
years ago and had no time to
revise - One form of the verb
for instance, I have not ~~in~~ put in
at all. And others may be erroneous
My aim was to shew the simplicity
of the structure of the language
not to make a grammar
I am &c.
David Livingstone