

## Letter to Benjamin Pyne, 15 October 1849

*David Livingstone*

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[0001]

MS 8/3  
Kolobeng 15 October 1849

My very dear Friends

I believe I told you in my last that I intended to visit a reported Lake in the regions beyond us. I am happy to say that after a 1200 miles trip I have been permitted to return in safety having seen the Lake and a people speaking a different language from the Bechuana- After travelling 300 miles we struck the beautiful river Zouga and then by winding along its banks about 300 more to the westward we came to the Lake Ngami. The river is very beautiful indeed - it is subject to a periodical rise & fall & probably derives its water from melting snow. It was rising when we were there & was notwithstanding perfectly pure - from 50 yards wide where we struck it widened as we ascended till it was more than a 160 yards of deep water between a broad belt of reed growing with shallower parts. great shoals o fish come down with the water -

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and the Bakoba catch them with nets - they are darker in complexion than Bechuana and paddle along the Lake & rivers ajasent in canoes - I often saidled along in them & visited their villages as the waggon went along the bank - They seemed to understand the message of mercy better than any people I ever spoke to for the first time - We all admired the frankness of their manners - We reached the Bataoana on the first of August & rode 6 miles beyond to

the broadest part of the Lake - It presented a horizon of water to the South South West - so we could not tell its size it may be 70 miles long for a native takes three days to walk round to the narrow part at the Norwest the banks of the Zouga however with the Tarnunakle flowing into it arrested nearly all my thoughts - they are extremely beautiful and seem like a navigable highway into a large section of country - gigantic trees line their banks - three of these were new & fruit-bearing - one I saw on the opposite bank of the Z.had fruit more than a foot long & 3 inches in diameter hanging from its

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branches - the tribes we visited were the Bakurutse Battelle - Bataoana & Bakoba - - I wished to visit a tribe 200 miles beyond but the Bataoana chief kept all the canoes at the ford out of our sight - as it was I have been absent from wife & family for 4 months and 10 days. The gentlemen who came from England to accompany me are passing homewards I have not time to write you at length but give you a few lines rather than none at all - the Nor East Extremity of the Lake is in 20° 20' S. the long. may be 24° E.. I think I told you in in my last that we had another son. M<sup>rs</sup>. L. united with me in very kind salutations to you and your family - May you enjoy every needed blessing - affectionately yours  
D Livingston  
We expect M<sup>r</sup> Freeman soon

[0004]

River Za[...]

Care of Rev<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup>. Blaly's Cape Town

Benjamin Pyne Esq  
Wildingtree  
Ongar  
Essex

you must excuse this short letter - DL

9<sup>00</sup> [...]