

The Vicarage Leytonstone. Essex. E.

February 5. 1872.

My dear Doctor

It is hard to think what to say in a letter like this and yet it is pleasing to remember that if it please God the Expedition reaches you the three intelligent fellows who compose it will be able to post you up in most things. I must confine myself to that which I think you would most like to hear about. of course you will learn that the last scrap of writing from you which has reached the outer world was dated 30th May 1869 from Ujiji, to which, fortunately in it you speak of the efforts made by the Ujigians to destroy all your letters so we have had a clue to the unbroken silence of 2^{1/2} years. ^{In this letter} ~~there again~~ you speak so positively "Tanganyika, Nyige Chowambe (Bakers?) are one water and the head of it is 300 miles South of this" that I for one am sure you have convinced yourself of it. You go on to say that "The western and central lines of drainage converge into an unvisited lake West or S. West of this. The outflow of this, whether to Congo or Nile I have to ascertain?" Here again, ^{armed by} ~~from~~ what you say I have done my best to show people that you may be half way down the Congo, in which case no letters are

at all likely, to come back to Ziji and so to
Zanzibar. Colonel Grant, good fellow that he is,
won't hear of Tanganyika and Bakers Lake being
one and the same thing, so we agree to differ, I
of course taking my stand point on the ipissimus
verba of your letter and your close adherence to
actual observation and hatred of guessing.

If you can make out a chain of lakes with an
exit by the Nile or Congo similar to the lakes of
N. America with their St. Lawrence, you will indeed
be a benefactor to Africa and we shall yet have
another Chicago on Tanganyika.

The Diamond discoveries in the Transvaal are a
marvel. My brother, one of the council of diggers
there, says that they are being found at the rate of
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a million sterling worth per month. Gold
has been found in several places too. The natives
are in great request on the fields. My brother
finds his Caffres are on liberal wages more
trustworthy than Europeans. Now tho' it has
many things against it depend upon it if
you can discover gold anywhere about where
you are it will do more to draw Europeans

to Africa's interior than anything else and I believe
that it would militate immensely against the slave
trade.

As to the slave trade we are always hammering away
at it but under this Government we shall do badly.
^{They} ~~It~~ may go out of office at any time then we should
have a chance. It is now said that England's place
has changed relatively very much from what it was
in the days of abolition, that she has no longer
a right to monopolise philanthropic action such
as this is, the ^{European & American} ~~one~~ rests on ^{governments} ~~all~~ of course it
is a mere evasion of duty, to prevent having
to keep up the slave squadron. Never mind,
let us do our best and trust to God himself
to do the rest. I trust it will meet with yr
warm approval that Oswald has joined this
expedition. If your fancy he will lose start in
life from so doing I think you will be misled
by our anxiety. He already gets great kudos for having
undertaken to go and has received very marked attention.
Besides your children will never be forgotten. You know that
my intentions are to serve you in every way I can and some-
times this may be done by speaking very fully as the "faithful
historian"! Some of those who come to you are aware of what
has passed in the inner circle of Geographers and men of

all classes who have your interests so entirely at heart.
 Your letter to the F.O. in which you spoke so very bitterly
 — and against former map makers (old Anthon Smith in
 particular so folks say) struck dismay into them. These
 again, designedly or by accident, no observations strictly
 geographical have come to hand, it is said you have
 purposely suppressed them — this has caused some very
 strange remarks indeed and if we live to meet
 again, please God, we will have a laugh over them.
 I often remind folks that Geography is a secondary
 motive with you. Sir J. Baker we do not think will get
 on to the Lake. He has an immense horde of followers
 with him who will desert and slave to their hearts content.
 The Khedive of Egypt may wish that part of the country
 annexed but as to putting a stop to the slave trade
 I have my doubts as to his sincerity. Sir Bartle Lever
 I often see and we are both going to speak at a very
 large meeting in a few days called together to consider
 the East African slave trade, but again I am bound
 to tell you that this government is much more likely
 to relax its efforts than to increase them in respect to
 stopping it. If you are spared to come back to us it will
 then give an immense impetus to the whole of our action.
 Ah Doctor, how can I tell you the thoughts which run through
 my brain as I see these men going out to look for you! How can
 I tell you what I daily realize viz the strength you have been
 to me ever since we first met and the helper in all ways. To
 have even known you so well seems a passport to all kindly
 feeling amongst people — yet I am obliged to let others do what
 I would fain do myself were I not in such hardworking terms
 and with such a heavy charge upon me! Give my love to Chubb
 if he is still with you; may God's blessing indeed be with you. My wife
 sends her best love to you
 Ever yours my dear Doctor
 Faithfully Noran Mathis