

## Fragment of 1870 Field Diary (LXXVIII-LXXXVII), 24 January-19 February 1871

*David Livingstone*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[LXXVIII]

LXXVIII 24<sup>th</sup> January 1871 - Muhamad mentioned [27] this morning that Moenemokaia & Moeneghere his brother brought about thirty slaves from Katanga to Ujiji affected with swelled Thyroid glands or Goitre and that drinking the water of Tanganyika proved a perfect cure to all in a very few days. Sometimes the swelling went down in two days after they began to use the water in their ordinary way of cooking washing and drinking - Possibly some ingredient of the hot fountain that flows into it - for the people on the Lofubu in Isana's country had the swelling - Shut in bays were decidedly brackish while the body of Tanganyika was quite fresh -

The odour of putrid elephant's meat in a house kills parrots - The Manyema keep it till quite rotten but know its fatal effects on their favorite birds

[LXXIX]

LXXIX. 28<sup>th</sup> January 1871 - a safari under Hassani and Ebed arrived with news of great mortality by cholera (Towny) at Zanzibar - and my "brother" who I conjecture to be D<sup>r</sup> Kirk has fallen - The men I wrote for have come to Ujiji but did not know my whereabouts - When told by Katomba's men they will come here - and bring my much longed for letters & goods - 70,000 thousand victims in Zanzibar alone! and it spread inland to the Masai and Ugogo - cattle shivered and fell dead the fishes in the sea died in great numbers. Here the fowls were first seized and died and then men - thirty perished in our small camp made still smaller by all the able men being off trading at the Metamba and how many Manyema died we dont know - The survivors became afraid of eating the dead - Formerly the pest kept along the sea shore now it goes far inland and will spread all over Africa - This we get from Mecca filth - nothing was done to prevent the place being

made a perfect cesspool of animals guts & ordure of men

[LXXX]

[LXXX –] a piece of skin bound round chest of an arm & half of [28]  
it hanging down prevents waste of his strength and he  
forgets and fattens —

Abed's party bring 200 Frasilahs of all sorts of beads &  
They will cross Lualaba & open a new field in the  
other or Young's Lualaba - all central Africa [Weight calculation at the end of this line.]  
will soon be known - The evils inflicted by  
these Arabs are enormous but probably not greater  
than the people inflict on each other —

Merere has turned against the Arabs and killed one  
robbing several others of all they had though he has  
ivory sufficient to send down 7000 lbs of ivory to the  
coast and receive loads of goods for 500 men - He  
looks as if insane & probably is so - He will soon be  
killed - His insanity may be the effect of Pombe of  
which he drinks largely - and his people may have  
told him that the Arabs were plotting with Goambari  
He restored Muhamad's ivory and slaves and sent for  
the other traders who had fled - said his people had  
spoken badly and he would repay all losses -

[LXXXI]

LXXXI Two young elephants were sent by Mteza to  
Seyed Majid by way of the Lewale - Watuta came stealing  
Banyamwezi cattle & Mteza's men went out to them  
and twenty two were killed The Lewale's people did nothing  
The Governor's sole anxiety is to obtain ivory and no  
aid is rendered to the traders Seyed Suleiman the wanzeer  
is the author of the do nothing policy - Sent away all the  
Sepoys as too expensive an old man & avaricious  
The [...] Bagogo plunder traders unchecked = one of the  
young elephants died in the way to the coast - It is  
reported that Egyptian turks came up & attacked  
Mteza but lost many people and fled - A Moslem  
mission to Mteza was a falsehood though the  
details given were circumstantial - Falsehood  
is so common one can believe nothing the Arabs  
say unless confirmed of other evidence - They are  
followers of the Prince of lies Muhamad- His cool  
appropriation of the knowledge gained at Damascus  
and from the Jews is perfectly disgusting - All his  
deeds were done when unseen by any witnesses

[LXXXII]

LXXXII. It is worth noticing that all admit the decadence [29]  
of the Moslem power and they ask how it is fallen -  
they seem sincere in their devotions & reading the Koran

but its meaning is comparatively hid from most of the  
Suaheli - the Persian Arabs are said to be gross  
idolators and awfully impure - Earth from a grave  
at Kurbelosi[']s] put in the turban and worshipped - some of the  
sects wont say "Amen"!

Moenyegumbe never drank more than a mouthful  
of pombe - He said the wisdom of a chief is dangerous  
He kills people and it ought never to be excited by beer -  
When young he could make his spear pass right through  
[...] n elephant and stick in the ground on the other side -  
He was a large man and all his members were largely  
developed - hands fingers all in proportion to his great  
height - lived to old age with strength unimpaired -  
Goambari inherits his white colour and sharp nose =  
but not his wisdom or courage - Merere killed five of his  
own people for exciting him "against the Arabs -" the  
half caste is the murderer of many of charura's  
descendants - His father got a [...] [^][daughter] of Moenyegumbe  
for courage in fighting the Babena of Ubena

[LXXXIII]

LXXXIII. my long detention in Manyema leads me to  
believe that they are truly a bloody people - cold blooded  
murders are frightfully common and they say that but for  
our presence they would [^] [be] still more frequent - They have no  
fear of spears and shields - guns alone frighten them - they  
tell us frankly and quite truly that but for our firearms not  
one of us should even return to his country - some kill  
in order to be allowed to wear the red tail feathers of a  
parrot in their hair - and they are not ugly like the West  
coast negroes many men have as finely formed heads as  
would be found in London - We English if naked would  
make but a poor figure beside the strapping forms and  
finely shaped limbs of Manyema men & women - their  
cannibalism is doubtful but my observations raise  
grave suspicions a Scotch jury would say "not proven"  
The women are not guilty -

The cholera came along the seashore from Mecca but  
this year it came inland and made great havoc - Goats  
and fowls died not by the pest but by its companion  
[...] cattle shivered and fell dead - about 30 people died in  
our small camp and how many Manyema we dont know  
Letters from Mecca told of its coming from that focus  
of filth but ta[h]e rest of the world must do nothing for  
political economy says we must not interfere

[LXXXIV]

LXXXIV - 4<sup>th</sup> February 1871 - Ten of my men from [30] the  
coast have come near to Bambarre and will arrive today  
I am extremely thankful to hear it for it assures me  
that my packet of letters was not destroyed - they know

at home by this time what has detained me and the  
end to which I strain

D<sup>o</sup> only one letter reached and 40 are missing - James  
was killed today by an arrow - the assassin was hid  
in the forest till my men going to buy food came  
up - I propose to leave on the 12<sup>th</sup> I have  
sent D<sup>r</sup> Kirk a cheque for Rs 4000 Four thous-  
-and - Great havoc was made by cholera and  
in the midst of it my friend exerted himself  
greatly to get men off to me with goods - First  
gang of porters all died. When they came to Ujiji  
Sherreef the head man stopped wth four and  
is now feasting & drinking on my goods though  
he knows me to be here -

8<sup>th</sup> The ten men refusing to go North influenced  
probably be Shereef & my two ringleaders who  
[] try this means to compel me to take them

[LXXXV]  
LXXXV 9<sup>th</sup> February 1871 - the man who contrived the  
murder of James came here drawn by the pretence that he  
was needed to lead a party against the villages which he  
led to commit the outrage - His thirst for blood is awful  
He was bound & word sent to bring the actual murders within  
3 days or he suffers death - He brought 5 goats think that would  
smooth the matter over

11<sup>th</sup> Men struck work for higher wages - I consented  
to give them 6 six dollars a month if they be-  
-haved well - If ill, I diminish it - so we hope  
to start tomorrow - another mutiny quelled by M & me

12<sup>th</sup> the men sent are all slaves of the Banians &  
came with a lie in their mouths - They were lascars  
or soldiers - they objected to going today so I wait  
till tomorrow = orders given today not attended to  
so I had to treat them as slaves and promised  
on the word of an Englishman that I would shoot  
the ringleader against my orders - Muhamad  
swore that he would kill them if they contended with  
me and they gave in and but for Mabruki sick  
we should go [...] tomorrow

Unyembe 6 six dotis each  
to Ujiji 3 three each of the Pagazi  
three pagasi 4 four [...] each Ghamees Sudi Salem  
from 12<sup>th</sup> February onwards

[LXXXVI]

LXXXVI 13<sup>th</sup> Feby 1871 - Mabruki seized with [31]  
choleraic purging detains us today - gave Muhamad  
5 Pieces amerikano 5 D° Kanike & 2 frasilahs samsam  
He gives me a note to Hassani for 20 thick copper bracelets  
Yesterday crowds came to eat the meat of the man who  
misled James to his death spot - We want the man  
who set the Mbanga men to shoot him - They were much  
disappointed when they found that no one was killed  
and are undoubtedly cannibals

1[...] <sup>th</sup> Friday - started today Mabruki making himself  
very ill as all who have been at Nassick coddling school  
do Muhamad roused him out by telling how I travelled  
when much worse - chief gave me a goat & Muhamad an  
go[other] but in coming through the forest on the neck of the  
mountain the men lost three & have to go back for them  
and return tomorrow - Simon & Ibram were bundled  
[...] camp and imprudently followed me when they ca[...]  
up I told them to be off or I would certainly shoot them

[LXXXVII]

LXXXVII. 17<sup>th</sup> waiting at a village on the Western slope  
for the men to come up with their goats if they have  
gone back to the camp - Muhamad would not allow  
the deserters to remain among his people nor would  
it would only be to imbue the minds of my slav[...] s  
with their want of respect for all English and total  
disregard of honesty & honour - They came after me  
with inimitable effrontery believing that though I said  
that I would not take them - they were so valuable I  
was only saying what I knew to be false - I warned  
them off and they went away among Manyema -

The goats were brought by a Manyema man who  
found one fallen in a pitfall & dead - He ate it & brought  
one of his own in lieu of it - I gave him 10 strings of  
beads & he presented a fowl in token of good will -

18<sup>th</sup> went on to a village on the Lulwa and on the  
19<sup>th</sup> reached Moenemgoi who dissuaded me so  
earnestly against going to Moenekurumbo for the  
canoe of Molembalemba that I agreed not to venture

20<sup>th</sup> to ford only one canoe now as 2 men of  
Katomba were swept away in the other & drowned  
They would not sell the remaining canoe so I go  
N W on foot to Moene Lualaba where five large  
canoes are abundant - grass & mud grievous but  
my men lift me over [...] waters 21<sup>st</sup> Moenendebas

M<sup>r</sup> and so twill be  
When I am gone