

Extract from Diary, [November 1873-February 1874]

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The Character of Wabisa Tribe -

The Wabisas are one of the bow & arrow tribes. Some of them use spears without shields. They are deficient in courage, cleanliness, and honest. [...] In some part of the country industrious people are to be found in agriculturing. The principal corn are meze or Indian corn, millet, Ulazi (a kind of corn with small round seed). Numerous beans of different sorts are to be found; but rice is not to be found in any part. Cucumber, pumpkin, in some parts bannanas, sweet potatoes & some esculent roots. They generally never build permanent habitations like other nations, in two years or four the houses are abandoned to inhabit another place. When they salute their Chief, they kneel or roll - down, clasping hands, their garments are skins & prepared bark of trees. Every sort of beads are useful on this region - lead, & even shells are both used for exchange. The people are so ignorant that they take the tins' pieces for lead. When they, their sultan dies, [they] never bury him in the same day. After 15 or some days passes away and in the meantime a large or deep sounded drums is beating at interval of every minute and when the appointed time comes, when everyone gather to attend the ceremony of burying. When a common person dies the body is made into a bundle, after that is made to bury in the grave.

Two months had passed away in crossing the country of Marungoo, & Fippa. The rivers are more or less important, their banks are covered with im[-]

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impenetrable thick wood, in which the natives themselves stores their whole provisions; which in the time of war are useful to them. Some dig wells & bury their corn in it. The country of Fipa is very

mountainous. The rivers & productions are same as in Maronigoo. Rice is unknown except where there are residences of caravan from the coast. In the center of the region, there are very large fertile districts of immense level and almost uncovered with wood commanding tiresome & gloominess to the eyes. On the 8th day of October we arrived in the country called Unkonongs or Unyawezi. When we had reached in the town of Sultan Mboura, hearing the interesting news, about the arrival of Oswell Livingston, the son of great explorer we wrote him a letter for Unyamweembe. After some days when the messenger returned to us informed us, that he was not D^r Livingston's son but other different gentleman by name of Lieut Cameron. When we heard this our hearts sunk within us, or we rather were in despair. But Lieut Cameron had rescued us by sending a bale of cloth and two tins of gun-powder. Nearly at the beginning we at Unyamweembe Lieut Cameron had accompanied two gentlemen M^r Moffie & D^r Dillon the later died or killed himself with a gun, when he was suffering with [a] painful disease in his lungs & was buried Nov^r 24th 1873. We had spent half a month or more in Unyamweembe for the sake of business, or

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The account of the country of Unyamwezi

The country of Unyamwezi is well cultivated and the deserts are covered with peculiar trees (called Majombo) these trees are very useful to the inhabitants, it affords them not only timber for building houses; but the most durable bark which they strip from them are made into immense bound baskets to preserve corn which answered the purpose of barns. And again the bark can be turned into round smaller boxes, strong ropes, prepared garments which the inhabitants wear, and may be also turned into many other things. Zebra, antelope, buffaloes, giraffe, and many other animals are found. The houses are low and flat roofed covered with mud. The streams and rivers in this country are but few, the language is difficult to understand.

The account of Ugogo

The country of Ugogo is open, level and extensive country and the people are bold and very proud in their own country[.] They scarcely travel from one country to another. They only stick to their own country. The tribute of the country to

the strangers is heavy; the country is most peopled if not densely. They are very fond of cattle, same as brahmins in India who call the cows as their mother. The soil is of reddish sand, and if more care be taken to the cultivation it will afford abundant production[.] In every city belonging to different - or distinct - administration, the strangers pay tribute or custom

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As to our march when we first entered in country of Ugogo on the ending of the month of February we came to the frontiers of Ugogo the name of the chief of the place is - Chiwiye, his city is situated on the river Mdabooro. Here the tribute was paid. January 1st[.] Early in the morning we started to a city called Koho, here the tribute paid, in the night when we were asleep, a she bear attacked or caught by the head one of the dogs of the people in our caravan, and when the screaming of the dog was heard the bear was shot dead in the spot, but the dog had received a very severe wound by the bite. 2nd January To a town called Seke, the third tribute or custom. here we met a very large caravan from Zanzibar. 4th January arrived to a town called Kanyenye in the centre of Ugogo here the 4th tribute was paid. This King or sultan said that he is the greatest in Ugogo. This may we had received a very heavy rain in the centre of Ugogo[.] It was about 6 o'clock in the evening, hails also fell accompanied with the rain, some of which were so large as compared to [a] hen's egg. the violence of the wind came from N.E. directions but it was much inferior to what is called hurricane. 7th Jan. to the Magomba's son 8th Jan Started morning early and went encamped in the desert. 14th Jan we had a mind to travel as far as to the other frontier but we were interrupted and made to halt by the people of an inferior chief to pay them some custom

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which we did with great willingness, and on the day following Early in the morning we started, and scarcely marched about an hour we again made to halt for the same purpose of tribute to which we did. On the same day we resumed our march to the King

Mawala the most thorny part of the country. some clothes and also two guns, gunpowder, shots, gun-flint and bullets were sent to the king according to his de[-]mand, generally in this country (country) the proper[-]ties of the tributes or custom is sent as much as the king wants; Sometimes it has so happen that the king refuses to take the tribute properties and the caravan or the poor strangers are to cultivate, carry wood or any work of that sort instead. 18th January - Slept in the dese rt, in the dry seasons the water is by no means found in this dese rt. 19th Jan arrived in a small town call Chunyu, but the inhabitants live in the hills[.] 20th Jan Started early in the morning and about 5 hours march arrived in town called Mpwapwa, we took our lodging under the shady tree, here we met a European residing in Mpwapwa he seems to be [a] good and kind gentlemen for he made good reception to Mr Moffie. the next day we sent some of our men to Zanzibar with letters to the consul to give him the news of our coming. Jan 22nd arrived in a town a town – Toohugwe, on which famine prevales[.] 23rd Jan started early and crossed a flat plain on which which we found many animals, as mules, Zebra

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and large herds of other animals: after 5 hours march we halted to have a dinner only for a time and at one o'clock we resumed our march. about 5 o'clock we arrived in a halting place, on which we we slept but the water was very far to a great distance. 24th Jan. Early started and after crossing a very rugged mountainous road arrived in a town called Kitangay were found a large trading caravan waiting the arrival of others from Zanzibar, when had approached the town, they came and meet us with usual drum and a trumpet or horn in the dead of night when we were quiet asleep in our huts a bear entered and wanted to take hold of one of our soldiers leg but the man had recived a very little injury; Jan 25th started early but the road were very hilly, we stopped on the way to drink water in one of the brooks were we waited about half an hour for some of us were behind. 30th Jan in a village 31st Jan in a village. February 1st Leaving Usagar arrived to frontiers of Uzigua on the river Mkata or Wame at this time

we found the river swelled or over flowed its banks
and the former bridge were washed away, by the violence
and rapid stream, and now ^ we were obliged to build a new
one across the river, thus with great difficulty some
of the soliders got to the other side, but the bridge
being again broken, the rest remain to pass the (the)
night on the same bank, and to crossed the next
morning, and so we got over safely to the other side.