

## 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 -

[0002]

and the Bakoba catch them with nets - they are darker in complexion than Bechuana and paddle along the Lake & rivers ajacent 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

[0003]

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

$g^{00}$  [...]