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Sincere feeling, S.

Livingstone

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Class C. The Bravest deed I know in the History of the
Overseas British Empire

Missionary - Explorers.

The ^{bravest} act done for the British Empire, I think, was done by the missionaries who went to unknown lands not knowing what they were to go through and with the only thought of taking Christianity to the heathens, and that of finding out more of the world and exploring it.

Those who went to Africa went with the story of terrific heat that would burn everything and all the tales of the terrors of Central Africa in their minds.

These men went not knowing whether they would return to their wives and children again; the thought of sailing in a ship not worthy of storms and perhaps being drowned before they had done their work.

On arriving, they would have to conquer the hostile tribes, find guides, and find, if they returned from some journey that their supplies and medicines had been stolen and sold to some Arab who was against the civilisation of Africa so he spent his time slave-trading. These men would go through these dangers and return to England for leave and have the face to go back again to their work of stopping slave-trading, teaching the heathens and doing their best against murder.

Dr. David Livingstone was a man who left England to teach the heathens and discover more of Africa and I think he was the bravest I have ever heard of.

David Livingstone was born on March 19th 1813 and was the second son of Neil Livingstone, a dealer in tea who lived in Blantyre. Neil gained but a poor living

but he managed to keep his family going, and his wife also helped by working all day and into the night.

David Livingstone at ten years old was sent to a cotton spinning factory where he worked fourteen hours of the day. When he came home he spent some time working by himself and so in this manner educated himself. Later he qualified as a minister and doctor and then was sent to South Africa. He was now twenty-eight, and he left England on the 8th December 1840.

When he arrived in South Africa he landed at Cape Town and travelled inland by oxwagon to a missionary station of Kuruman in Bechuanaland. Here he stayed with some old friends the Moffats.

In 1847 he married Mary Moffat and she became his most devoted wife. In time they had three sons and a daughter and then Mary left Livingstone and took the children with her back to England.

Soon Livingstone got orders to go to a native settlement Mafikeng, where he preached to the natives and made some friends. After this he travelled to many other places and rescued two natives from an Arab slave-dealer and these, Chuma and Susi became his most faithful friends.

Livingstone had many difficulties as the Arabs were always taking his supplies and his guides often left him taking Livingstone's food, clothing and medicines. The worst thing was fever which always got a good hold of Livingstone and stopped him from doing his work. There were no ways of crossing rivers and lakes as the boats were hidden and the letters and supplies were destroyed and plundered.

In 1856 Livingstone left his work and returned to England for a while, and ^{stayed} there with his wife and children for two and a half years. Here he did his

best to find more missionaries who would go back with him. In March 1859 he returned to Africa with some other missionaries and their wives. Livingstone had been asked many times not to return but he would not leave his work as he had promised to find the sources of Nile for his friends.

Stanley had been with Livingstone for two years and now asked him to return home with him but still Livingstone refused but he returned to Uvunganyembe to find his stores had been plundered. At this Stanley shared all his belongings and in March 1872 wished Livingstone good luck and sailed to England promising to find fifty good bearers on his way.

Livingstone waited some time and when fifty-seven good bearers arrived from Zanzibar he set out on his last journey ^{feeling} ~~(with)~~ a new man. He hoped to find the sources of the Nile by going north to the Lake Lake river. He set out and in six weeks had crossed Tanganyika and early in 1873 he crossed the valley of the Chambezo which runs into Lake Bangweulu. He walked round the south of the lake, but the rains came too soon and brought with them floods and fever. With this Livingstone now an old man broke down with fever and gradually got weaker. His bearers who looked on him as their father carried him on their shoulders through marshes, floods and rivers. If only these faithful men had been with him six years ago all his work would have been done. Day after day they carried him through marshes and swamp land and at one time asked if they could take Livingstone back but he refused and said he must get his work done.

Livingstone got worse and at length they reached some higher ground where a chief Chitambo, lived. Here Susi, Cheung and the other boys built a small

hut and made Livingstone a bed on some straw and blankets and the boys were sent to look for food while Susi watched Livingstone, and then at night Majwara watched. Then one night Susi was called to come to the "Bwana". Susi and the others crept in and found in the flickering light, ^{the "Savans of Central Africa"} Livingstone, dead on his knees with his hands to his face.

Here up in this village David Livingstone's heart was buried and two poles and a cross erected; then Susi, Chuma and the faithful bearers carried Livingstone's body back to the coast where it was shipped to England and buried on April 18th 1873 ^{at} Westminster Abbey.

If it had not been for Livingstone's life of exploration and civilising the acquisition of Rhodesia for the British Empire would not have been.

Livingstone ~~and~~ in his brave life and Rhodesia in his did a terrific amount for the British Empire and so I think missionary-explorers need to be thought ^{of} as in their brave and great lives they did a very brave deed. Livingstone had taught the natives Christianity and stopped some slave-trading as well as a lot of the murder that was continually going on.

Books Consulted:- David Livingstone by C. Silvester Home
Builders of the Empire by J. A. Williamson.