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1928 (encl)

2nd Prize,
Class C

Livingstone and the Opening Up of Africa (C.264) (Sheet One.)

Livingstone was born in 1813; like many of our great explorers he was a Scotchman, and like a Scotchman was early interested in religion. His father, Neil Livingstone had been an active member of his little community as the instructor in their Sunday school. Livingstone was eagerly seeking after knowledge, for his parents were poor and he had to work in the mills most of the day. After reading Dick's "Philosophy of a Future State" he wished to be a missionary, and, after strenuous work he qualified for one. He was anxious to go to China, but the Opium War was then at its height and he was sent to Africa. He sailed from England in 1840 and the following year saw him established at Kuruman a station seven hundred miles north of Algoa Bay.

The next two years he spent in pioneering for new stations, one of which he founded in the valley of Mabotsa two hundred miles inland and another at Chonuanne. At the Mabotsa station he had his famous encounter with a lion, and to here he brought his newly married wife Mary Moffat daughter of the famous missionary Dr. Moffat. In 1847 he moved to Kolobeng from Chonuanne, the whole Bakwain tribe moving with him, such was his personality and effectiveness as a missionary. In an attempt to reach Sebituane, a great chief of the Makololo tribe he discovered Lake Ngami, the River Zouga, and gave the first detailed account of the Kalahari Desert. The next year he made another attempt but his children all became ill and he abandoned it. 1851, the next year, was a successful one, and he not only reached Sebituane, but pushing on discovered the Upper Zambesi River at Sesheke, for which he was rewarded by the Royal Geographical Society. Next year he saw his wife and children off to England at Capetown, and then returned to Linyanti the capital of the Makololo, to found a new station, but found the conditions too unfavourable.

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He was here disgusted by the cruelty of the natives and the slave-traders and decided that the only way to combat this cruelty and ignorance, was to let more daylight into the country, thus opening a way for many future missionaries. People at home, however, said that he was 'sinking the missionary in the explorer', which was rather an unjust statement at the time, though it did seem to have more foundation, later in his life. He now made one of his greatest journeys from Linyanti, north-east of Lake 'Ngami, to Saint Paul de Lourenço, on the west coast south of the Congo, then right across the continent, through Linyanti, to Quilimane on the east coast. This journey took him three years to accomplish, he suffered terribly from dysentery and fevers, and everywhere he met with hostile chiefs demanding tribute, yet he pushed on, not blindly but observing and discovering, for which he received the Royal Geographical Society's highest award; the gold medal. On this journey he discovered the 'Victoria' Falls, one of the most popular of his discoveries. From Quilimane he set out for England where ^{he} stayed two years. In London he separated his connection with the London Missionary Society, and was made Consul of Quilimane and Commander of an expedition to explore the East and Central parts of Africa. Accordingly, in 1858 he returned to Africa and set off up the Zambesi in the Ma-Robert (the African name for Mrs. Livingstone), a motor-launch to explore the Shiré a tributary of the Zambesi, and the Zambesi itself. Livingstone spent several years here. In his first journey he roughly mapped out the rivers and made observations as to the flora and fauna. In the second year he went quite far up the Shiré and discovered L. Shirwa a large lake surrounded by tall mountains, at, and round which, he spent a considerable time. The natives in these parts were very simple, and once persuaded of a fact it was hard to assure them to the contrary. Consequently, Livingstone,

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found it hard to make them Christians, indeed, he found it hard to make them believe that they were not slave-traders. In his third voyage he discovered Lake Nyassa. He then spent two years trying to settle a Universities Mission, it was, unfortunately unsuccessful. In 1862, to his great grief, Mrs. Livingstone died of a fever; she was an energetic woman and had accompanied him many times. When he had recovered from this blow he attempted to stop the slave-trade of one, Mariano, a Portuguese, but relations were becoming strained with the Portuguese and Earl Russel recalled the expedition, to Livingstone's intense disappointment. After returning to England, he made his last expedition, most of the money from his own or supporters' means, for the Government would give little.

On this journey he took camels, donkeys, mules, and goats, to see which could withstand the dreadful tsetse fly best, he also took 36 men. By 1868 the expedition was reduced to four or five. He was also attacked by dreadful ulcers and dysentery and his medicine chest stolen. He reached Ujiji and discovered Lake Bangweulu, but returned to Ujiji, because he was so ill and the natives so hostile. There he was discovered by H.M. Stanley a newspaper reporter, who explored Lake Tanganyika with him. Stanley left in 1872 after getting men and food for Livingstone, but he got worse and worse, he had to be carried in a litter and eventually died on May 1st 1873. His faithful servants Musa, and Susi, got his body over to England, where it was buried in Westminster Abbey 1874. Livingstone was a wonderful man, resourceful, determined, infinitely brave, and very kind and thoughtful to the natives. He never used force, and helped to build the Englishman's good reputation in Africa, if it is not marred by those who trod in his footsteps. He travelled over and explored no less than a third of the African Continent. Livingstone and Africa are names welded together too firmly to be parted.

I have consulted the following books:

"The Long Trail", Henry Meade, Three Volumes of the Encyclopaedia, The Dictionary of National Biography, Stanley's "How I found Livingstone", Livingstone's Last Journals, Livingstone's Zambesi, M B Sayer's "Discoverers of the World".