

BRITAIN ACROSS THE SEAS

AFRICA

A

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF THE

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AFRICA

BY

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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
54 EAST LAKE STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.

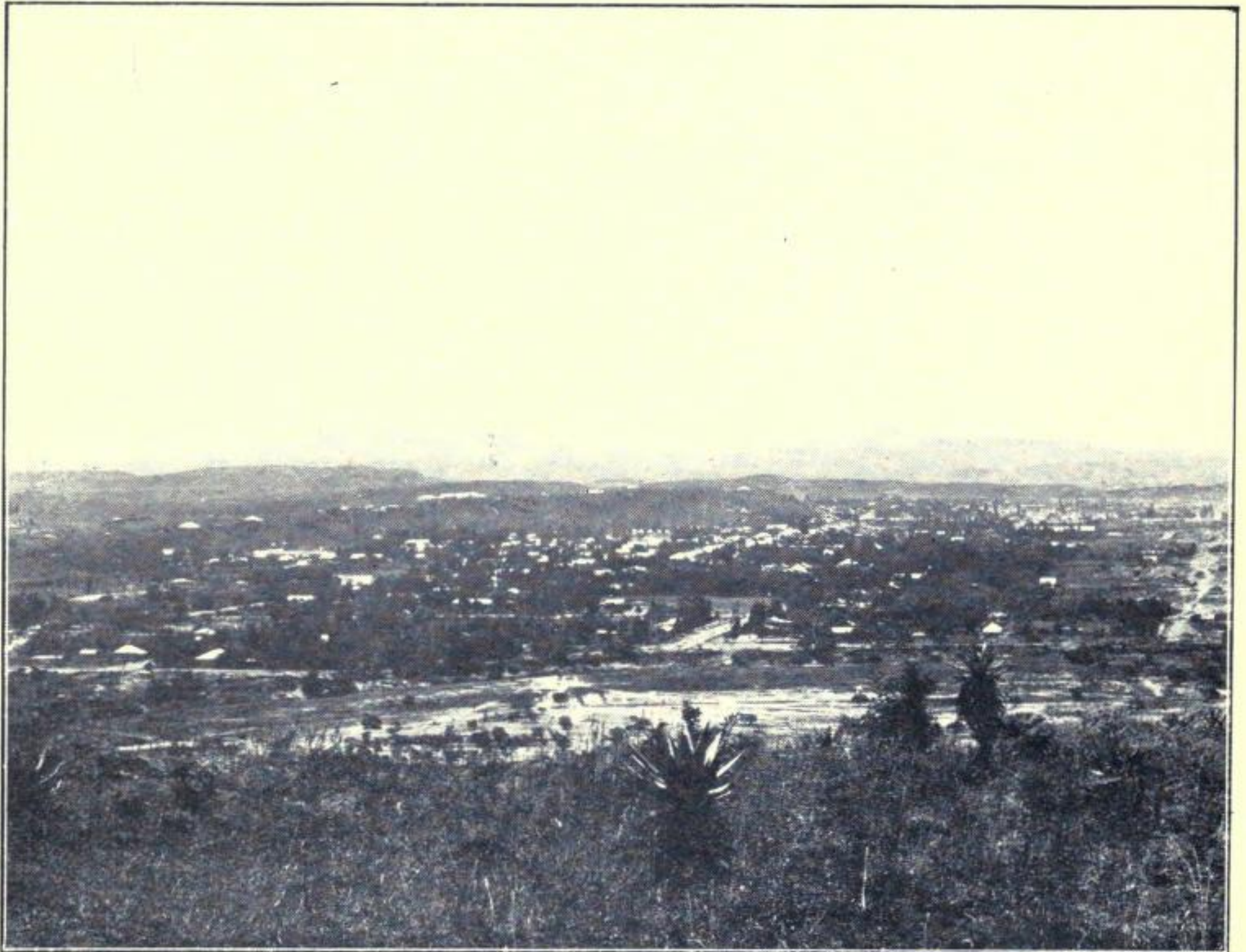
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was involved in an unpleasant case. A German lady of princely rank was accused of offering for acceptance in South Africa bills for several thousand pounds, the signatures to which were declared to be a forgery of Rhodes' name. Mr. Rhodes, though very ill, started for South Africa to appear as a witness in the prosecution of this case. The



*Photo by S. S. Watkinson*

LADYSMITH

effort killed him, and he died of heart disease on the 26th of March, 1902.

The history of the Nyasaland Protectorate and the two Rhodesian Provinces to the north of the Zambezi and Chobe-Kwando Rivers—that extensive region between the Zambezi and the Congo basin for some time styled 'British Central Africa'—has until recently been rather separated from the history of South Africa, although it was the British landing at the Cape of Good Hope in 1795 which started the movement towards the discovery and conquest of 'Northern Zambezia.' In the year following this event



the Portuguese Government, represented by Dr. José Lacerda (a native of Brazil), commenced the exploration of the unknown country which is now the Province of North-eastern Rhodesia, with the view of forestalling the British advance from the Cape to Cairo.



*Photo by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway*

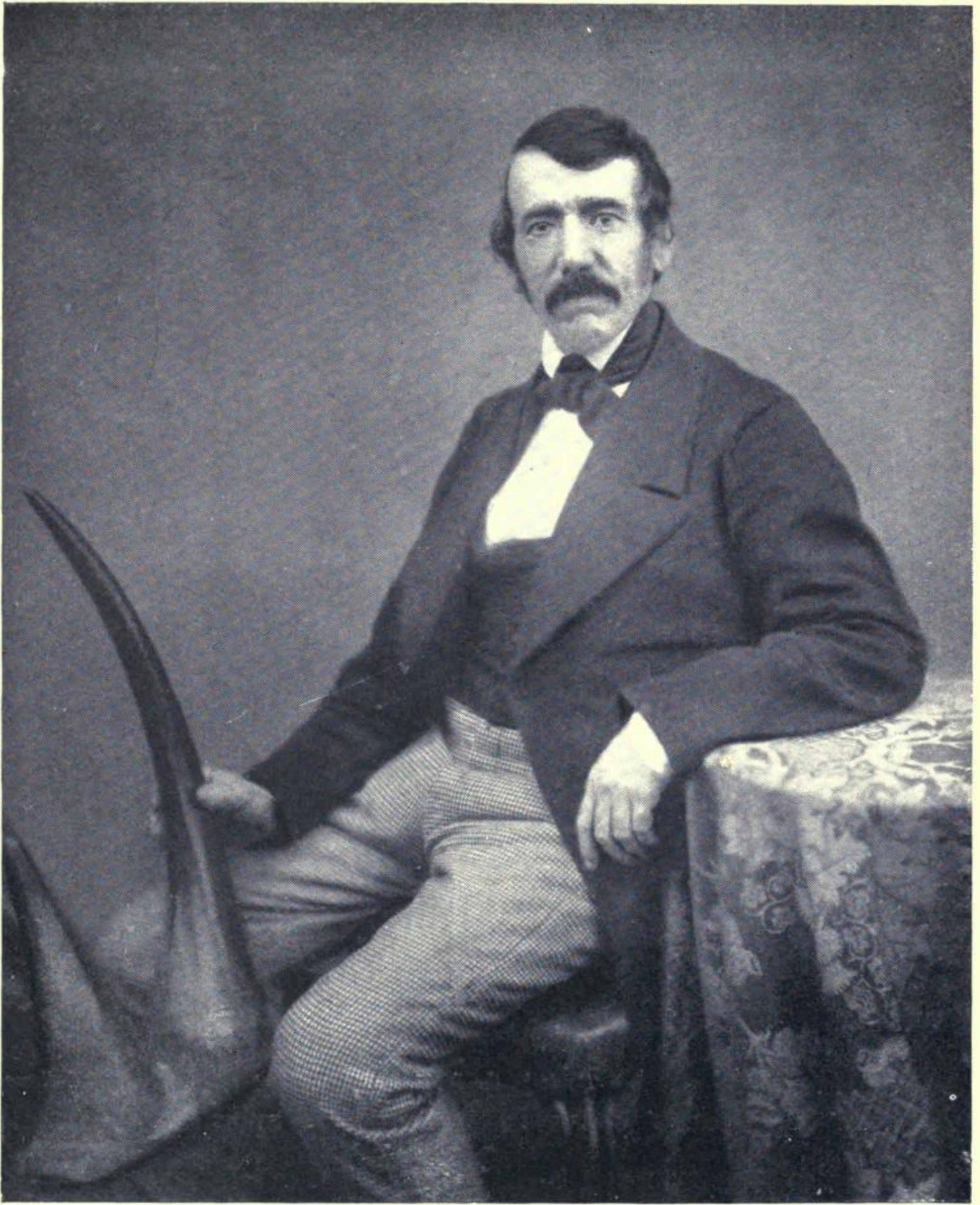
RHODES' GRAVE IN THE MATOPPO HILLS

But the Portuguese efforts soon relaxed, owing to the troubles of the Napoleonic wars, the declaration of Brazilian independence, and the civil wars in Portugal itself.

Meantime British missionaries travelling northwards in Bechuanaland heard of a region of flowing waters and great trees beyond the desert, from those adventurous Bechuana raiders who had already made a conquest of Upper Zambezia. Dr. Livingstone determined to seek for this great lake or river, and interested the big game hunter—



William Cotton Oswell—in the research. Oswell, in fact, financed the expedition. On the 29th of June, 1851,



DR. DAVID LIVINGSTONE

THIS IS A VERY INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT TAKEN EARLY IN 1857.  
THE EXPLORER IS HOLDING THE HORNS OF A WHITE RHINOCEROS

Livingstone and Oswell discovered the Upper Zambezi at Sesheke. Between 1852 and 1856 Livingstone, alone, traced the mighty river to near its sources, travelled thence to the Angola coast; after a brief rest explored the south-west basin of the Congo, and retraced the



general course of the Zambezi from Lake Dilolo to the Indian Ocean.

The British Government sent him back to Zambezia as consul, at the head of a great expedition which was to explore, and perhaps to annex. Dr. John Kirk (who had served in the Crimea) went with him as doctor and botanist, and there were also Charles Livingstone, the brother of the explorer-missionary, Thomas Baines (see p. 181), and Richard Thornton. Livingstone's second Zambezi expedition discovered the Shire River, Lake Nyasa, the Luangwa, and a hint of the rivers flowing north-west to the Congo. The Universities' Mission was installed in southern Nyasaland<sup>1</sup>; but the whole scheme ended in temporary failure and disappointment. The Arabs and their Negro allies, the Yao, had started ravaging the country for the slave trade, and neither Livingstone's expedition nor the Mission possessed the necessary force or authority to put them down. The worst obstacle of all, however, lay in the unfriendly attitude of the Portuguese—not so much towards Dr. Livingstone, to whom they were always kindly and hospitable, as to any idea of a British settlement in these regions which could then only be approached with ease across Portuguese territory or along Portuguese waterways. (No one had then discovered a mouth of the Zambezi with sufficient depth of water to be entered by a large ocean-going ship. The Chinde mouth of the Zambezi, now utilized by so many steamers, was first revealed by Mr. Daniel Rankin in January, 1889.)

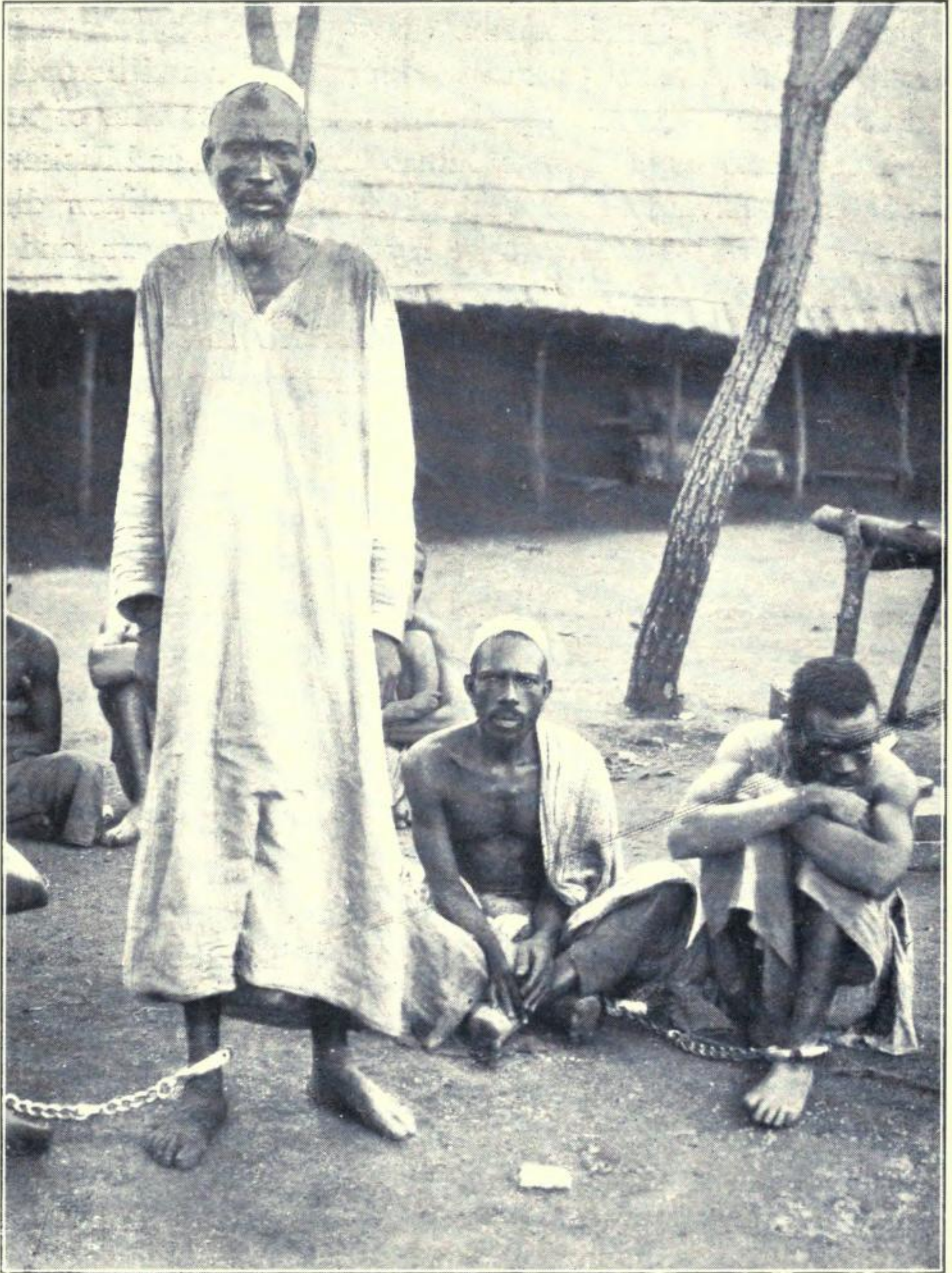
Dr. Livingstone's Government expedition was recalled in 1864; but in 1866 the indefatigable explorer was back again in Nyasaland, bent on searching for the great rivers and lakes of the far interior which were, he thought, the sources of the Nile. He had left behind on the River Shire some of his faithful Makololo headmen borrowed from Sekeletu,<sup>2</sup> the chief of Barotseland. These became

<sup>1</sup> After the death of Bishop Mackenzie in 1862, the Universities' Mission was withdrawn to Zanzibar, and not re-established in Nyasaland until 1881.

<sup>2</sup> The son of Sebituane (see p. 104).



minor chiefs on their own account and assisted the indigenous Mañanja people to defend themselves against the slave-raiding Arabs, Yaos, and half-caste Portuguese.



*Photo by Sir Harry Johnston*

ARAB AND YAO SLAVE TRADERS OF NYASALAND

Livingstone reached the south end of Lake Nyasa from the east coast (via the Ruvuma River) in 1866, and then turned north-west to make those great discoveries which led to the



revelation of the Congo system. But meantime a false rumour of his death had been spread abroad, and the Royal Geographical Society of London sent an expedition to the south end of Lake Nyasa under Lieutenant Edward Young R.N.<sup>1</sup> 'The Livingstone Search Expedition' was one of the most brilliant feats ever recorded in African travel. Lieutenant Young left England in the middle of May, 1867; reached the mouth of the Zambezi on 25th July, and Lake Nyasa in September; halted a month at the south end of the lake, making inquiries and collecting evidence, which proved the reports of Livingstone's death at the hands of Angoni Zulus to be absolutely false; and then returned to England in January, 1868, after an absence of only eight months.

Livingstone's Makololo had helped Young to carry his boat past the Shire Falls. His visit to the Shire and Lake Nyasa strengthened British influence there.

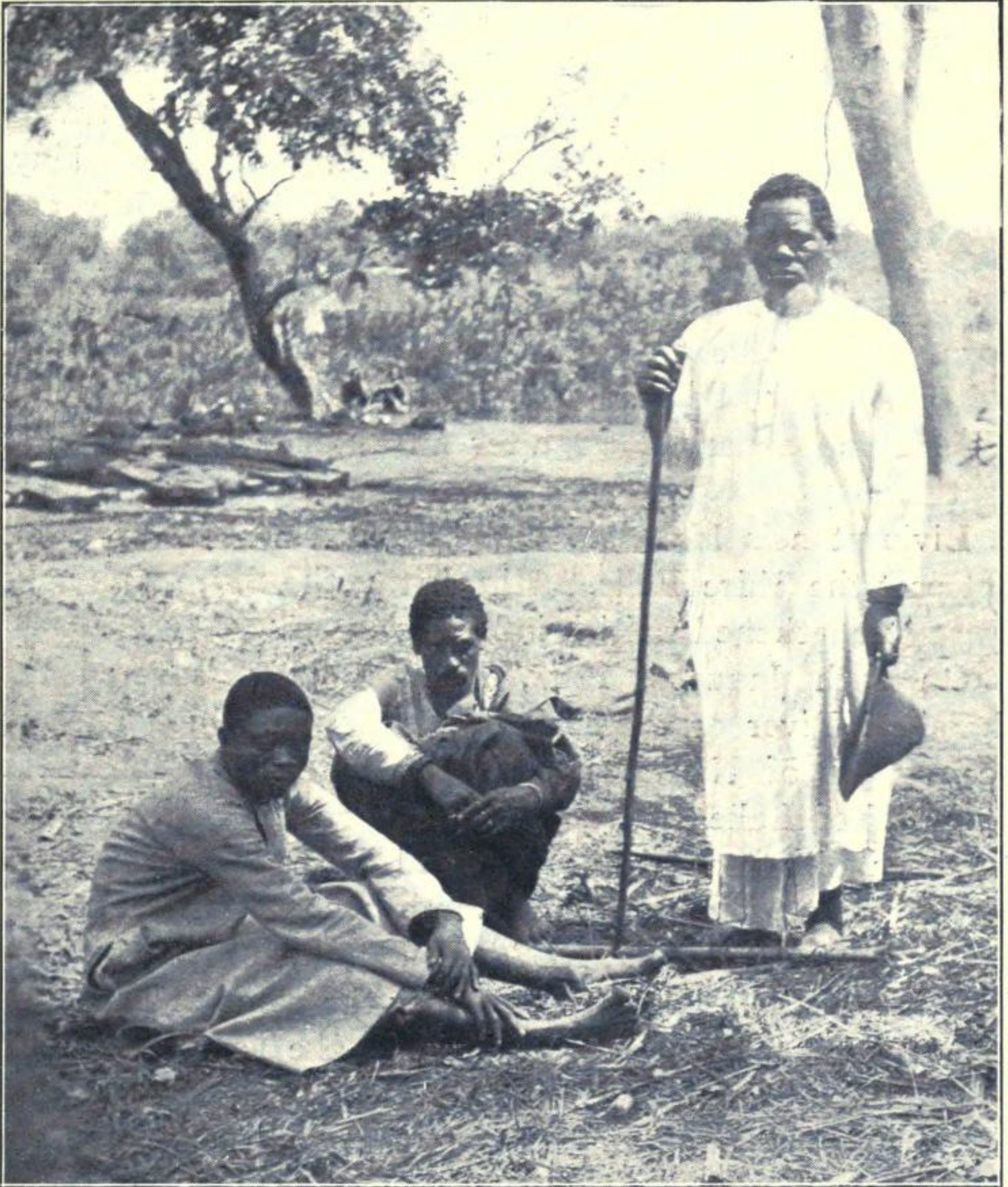
On 28th January, 1867, Livingstone discovered the Chambezi River or extreme Upper Congo, which rises on the confines of Nyasaland; on 1st April he reached the south end of Lake Tanganyika (the northern half of which had been discovered by Burton and Speke in 1857); Lake Mweru was revealed on 8th November in the same year, and Bangweulu on 18th July, 1868. In March, 1871, he reached the banks of the Upper Congo (under the name of Lualaba); in 1872 he surveyed the north end of Lake Tanganyika with H. M. Stanley; and on 1st May, 1873, Livingstone died at the village of Chitambo, near the south end of Lake Bangweulu, in what is now the heart of that 'British Central Africa' which he practically created by the glamour of his achievements and the strength of his appeals.

For, immediately his death was known, the Livingstonia Free Church Mission was founded in Scotland, and sent out its first party of missionaries to Lake Nyasa in 1875. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the Shire Highlands as the

<sup>1</sup> Young had been a warrant officer on H.M.S. *Pioneer*, which had assisted Livingstone's expedition on the Zambezi-Shire in 1859-63.



sphere of their work, and founded the present commercial capital of Nyasaland—Blantyre<sup>1</sup>—in 1877. As it was not



*Photo by Sir Harry Johnston*

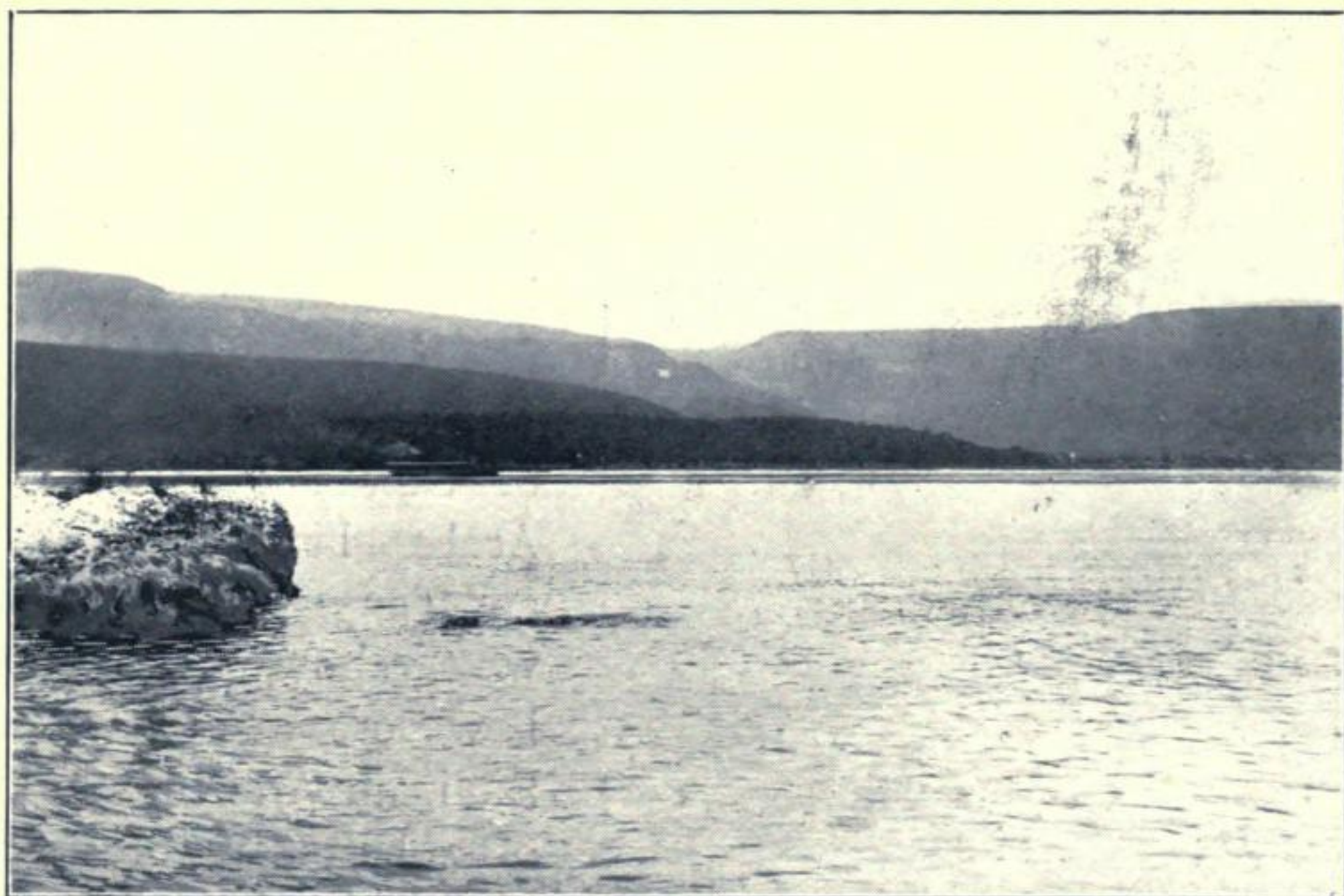
MASEA (STANDING UP) AND MWITU (SITTING DOWN NEXT TO MASEA) :  
THE LAST TWO SURVIVORS OF LIVINGSTONE'S MAKOLOLO ON  
THE RIVER SHIRE, 1893

possible to carry on mission work without the use of trade goods (as cash was unknown in the country, and as there was much transport work to be done), it was resolved in Scotland to supplement the work of the missionary societies by the creation of a small company for trade and transport,

<sup>1</sup> Named after Livingstone's birthplace in Lanarkshire.



which was subsequently called the 'African Lakes Company.' Two brothers, John William Moir and Frederick Moir, were sent to Nyasaland to manage this concern. By 1885 these energetic men, aided by other Scottish pioneers, had opened a route across the Nyasa-Tanganyika plateau and had launched a small steamer on the waters of Tanganyika on behalf of the London Missionary Society. They had also



THE SOUTH END OF LAKE TANGANYIKA AND THE LITTLE STEAMER  
'GOOD NEWS,' PUT ON THE LAKE IN 1886

established trading stations at the north end of Lake Nyasa, under John Lowe Nicoll and Monteith Fotheringham; and these agents could scarcely avoid interfering to protect the hapless and helpless Nkonde, Henga, and Mambwe natives from the slave raids of the Zanzibar Arabs and their Baluchi<sup>1</sup> allies. Thus by 1887 the African Lakes Company found itself at war with the Muhammadan slave traders, whose iniquities had first been blazoned abroad by Livingstone. Volunteers came to their assistance—notably (Sir) Alfred Sharpe, (Sir) Frederick Lugard, and Captain Richard

<sup>1</sup> Many Baluchi men from the regions west of British India were imported into Zanzibar as the guards or soldiery of the Sultan. Some of these in time took to slave-trading in the interior.