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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

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Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures

Two lectures given by the medical missionary and explorer David Livingstone after his return to England from his travels in Africa (1841–56) form the core of this book, which was originally published in 1858, the year when Livingstone set off on the British Zambezi expedition. The book also contains a biography, a letter from Adam Sedgwick (then Professor of Geology at Cambridge), and a thorough appendix covering the scientific results of the journey, describing the geography, mineralogy, diseases, and the language and cultural aspects of the peoples Livingstone encountered. Finally, Livingstone reports on the needs and prospects for further missionary work in Africa. Although Livingstone himself felt his call was now to pursue purely scientific exploration, he hoped that the lectures and their subsequent publication would encourage other missionaries to continue his work of evangelisation.

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Frontmatter

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Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures

*Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev.
Professor Sedgwick*

DAVID LIVINGSTONE

ADAM SEDGWICK

EDITED BY WILLIAM MONK



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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

DR LIVINGSTONE'S
CAMBRIDGE LECTURES,

TOGETHER WITH

A PREFATORY LETTER

BY THE

REV. PROFESSOR SEDGWICK, M.A., F.R.S., &c.
VICE-MASTER, OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION, LIFE OF DR LIVINGSTONE,
NOTES AND APPENDIX,

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM MONK, M.A. F.R.A.S. &c.
OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, AND CURATE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.

WITH A PORTRAIT AND MAP,

ALSO

A LARGER MAP, BY ARROWSMITH, GRANTED ESPECIALLY FOR THIS WORK BY THE
PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON:

THE WHOLE WORK BEING A COMPENDIUM OF INFORMATION ON THE
CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICAN QUESTION.

Published for the Editor

BY

DEIGHTON, BELL AND Co. CAMBRIDGE.
BELL AND DALDY, LONDON.

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

TO THE
MEMBERS OF OUR UNIVERSITIES IN PARTICULAR,
AND TO THE
YOUNG MEN OF GREAT BRITAIN IN GENERAL,

This Book is dedicated by the Editor,

IN THE PRAYERFUL HOPE THAT THEIR ATTENTION WILL BE TURNED
BY ITS PERUSAL TO THE PRESSING NEED OF
MISSIONARIES
IN THE HEATHEN MISSION FIELD NOW SO MUCH ENLARGED
BY THE LABOURS OF DR LIVINGSTONE.

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."
Matt. ix. 37, 38.

God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." Acts xvii. 26.

"And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." Luke xiii. 29.

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978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a
Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents.



	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	I
LIFE OF DR LIVINGSTONE	XIII
PROFESSOR SEDGWICK'S PREFATORY LETTER	i—xciii
LECTURE I.	I
LECTURE II.	25

APPENDIX.

SECTION I.

DR LIVINGSTONE'S LABOURS, EXPLORATIONS, AND DISCOVERIES CONSIDERED AS TO THEIR EXTENT AND RESULTS IN THEIR HISTORICAL ASPECT	51
--	----

SECTION II.

DR LIVINGSTONE'S LABOURS, EXPLORATIONS, AND DISCOVERIES CONSIDERED AS TO THEIR EXTENT AND RESULTS IN THEIR SCIENTIFIC ASPECT	60
GEOGRAPHY	61
GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY	70

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a
 Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick
 David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
METEOROLOGY	74
BOTANY	78
ZOOLOGY	80
SOME OTHER NATURAL SCIENCES	81

SECTION III.

DR LIVINGSTONE'S LABOURS, EXPLORATIONS, AND DISCOVERIES CONSIDERED AS TO THEIR EXTENT AND RESULTS IN THEIR ETHNOLOGICAL ASPECT	83
UNITY OF OUR RACE	ib.
SOUTH AFRICAN TRIBES	86
The Bechuana family of Tribes	ib.
The Bakalahari	88
The Backwains, or Bechuanas	89
The Kafirs, or Caffres	90
The Makololo	92
The Matebele	93
The Bushmen	94
The Bakoba, or Bayeige	ib.
The Makalala	95
The Barotse	96
The Balonda	ib.
The Mambari	97
The Batoka	99
Traces of the ancient Egyptians	100
IS RACE INFLUENCED BY CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHICAL SITUA- TION?	101
AFRICAN DISEASES AND MEDICAL PRACTICE	104
NATIVE LOVE OF COMMERCE	105
THE SICHUANA LANGUAGE	106
Its Construction	109
Its Importance	121
THE AFRICAN RACES NOT INFERIOR TO OTHERS	124

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*CONTENTS.*

vii

SECTION IV.

	PAGE
DR LIVINGSTONE'S LABOURS, EXPLORATIONS, AND DISCOVERIES CONSIDERED AS TO THEIR EXTENT AND RESULTS IN THEIR MORAL AND RELIGIOUS ASPECT	125
THE PRESENT MORAL CONDITION OF THE NATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA	126
THE PRESENT RELIGIOUS STATE OF THE NATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA	133
MISSIONARY RETROSPECT WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA	149
THE QUALIFICATIONS AND ATTAINMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL MISSIONARY IN SOUTH AFRICA	158
DR LIVINGSTONE'S LETTER WITH RESPECT TO MISSIONARIES	159
The Natural Qualifications of the Christian Missionary	163
The Moral and Spiritual Qualifications needed by the Chris- tian Missionary	165
The Attainments best suited for the Christian Missionary	167
MISSIONARY PROSPECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA	172
THE MISSION FIELD IN SOUTH AFRICA	<i>ib.</i>
MISSIONARIES WANTED MORE THAN MEANS, TO CARRY ON THE WORK	174
THE MEANS APPOINTED FOR THE WORK—THE VICTORY WON	178

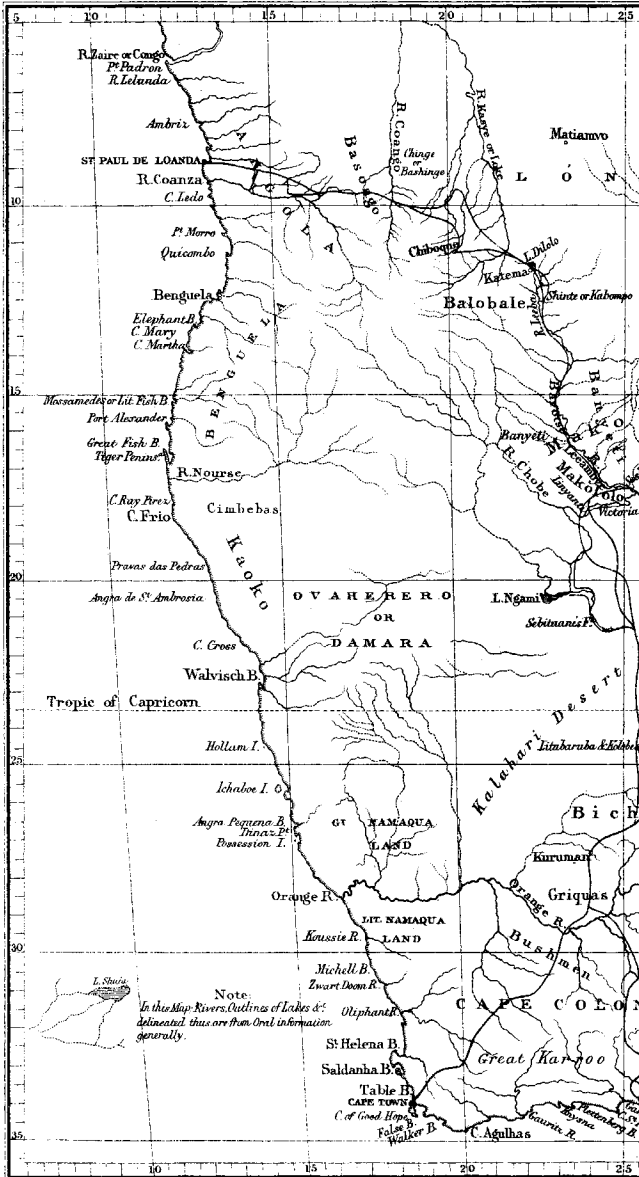
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978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



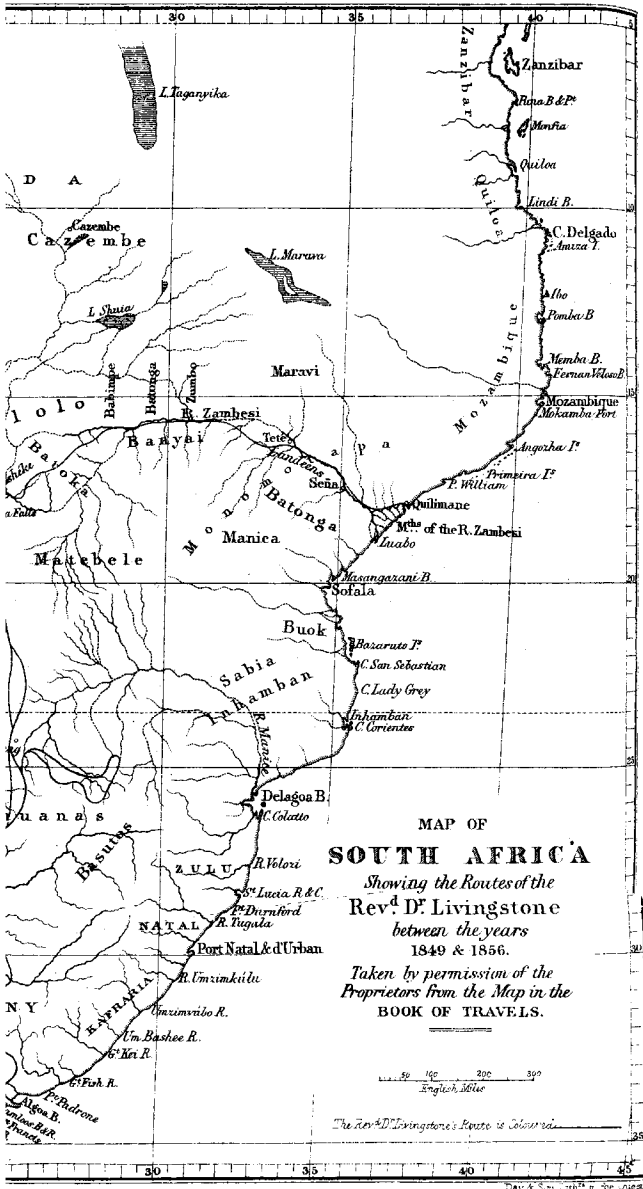
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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

—◆—

MANY friends on whom I can well rely have urged the publication of Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures; which on comparison with his large work¹, will be found to be, in reality, a valuable epitome of its most striking features and details; but such an one as rather increases than lessens the desire for reading that book.

Several points of great interest belong to these addresses, as well as to their publication and perusal; these chiefly being, the value and newness of their contents, the simple earnestness of their style, and especially the devoted Missionary tone pervading them. True piety dictated their delivery, and brightens their permanent embodiment in printed words. Moreover, many persons who saw, heard, and conversed with the lecturer himself, will like to possess such a memorial of a visit, which, regarded in all its bearings, we may hope will be productive of lasting good.

The cordial reception given by the University to such

¹ *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa.* John Murray, Albemarle Street, London.

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

a man proves to the world at large that she is as ready as ever to recognize merit, advance science, encourage philanthropy, and promote religion. In this place of learning he has left a track behind him; and has sown seed which will, in the end, produce good fruits in Africa. He came here with the avowed purpose of striving to awaken a deeper interest in Christian Missions to the heathen; and spoke with the authority of the greatest of modern travellers, among the men and in the place where a Missionary spirit ought pre-eminently to prevail. We may conclude that a corresponding good effect was produced by his visit to Oxford, where he pronounced like burning words of truth with equal power and grace.

The Senate-House scene was worthy of the most graphic painting which pen or pencil could portray. There was a solemn majesty about it which all present must have felt. It was an uncommon occasion. Cambridge elevation and culture came suddenly into contact with the mighty questions of African degradation and progress. Professor Sedgwick, in his farewell speech¹ to Dr Livingstone, delivered in the Combination-room at Trinity College, declared it to be the most enthusiastic reception which he had ever witnessed there during the last half century. Amid the past and present intellectual glories of that place, this Livingstone reception marks one of its best æras. Extremes there meet. Africa is ap-

¹ This speech, to a great extent, is reproduced at p. iv. of his Prefatory Letter.

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978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*INTRODUCTION.*

III

pealing by the mouth of her warm-hearted advocate in one of the greatest centres of civilization and evangelization in the world, for help in her feebleness, light in her darkness, truth wherewith to battle her own error, and redress against her cruel wrongs of centuries. Help, light and redress, however tardy their approach, are perhaps effectually nigh at hand. These tones of witching mastery will not let her plead in vain. The laugh may now be raised, and the burst of applause alternate with the cheerful approval of that throng, still in those thrilling moments of silence, now so breathless, does that sun-burnt, care and travel-worn, yet happy man, give utterance to feelings and sentiments which melt the heart, subdue the being, and enchain the soul. The union of mankind, into one common brotherhood of feeling, interest, sentiment and love, despite all differences of race, colour, clime, speech, condition, and nationality, seems to be actually brought about. The attention is kept up until the end; and furthermore, this interest is not dissipated by those final bursts of applause.

The period of the visit of the Doctor here was opportune. Various circumstances at that time kept our academic body, and especially the chief authorities, in residence. Yet he did not intentionally choose this occasion for his visit; on the contrary he had previously arranged to go to Lisbon at the same time; but this plan was frustrated by the malaria then prevailing there. The Council promptly granted the Senate-House. Dr Whewell,

1—2

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Master of Trinity College, Professor Sedgwick, The Astronomer Royal, Professor Selwyn, and Dr Bateson, Master of St John's College, paid him the most marked attention, while all received him kindly, and heard him gladly.

It is desirable to state that I have the full concurrence of Dr Livingstone and of Mr Murray, the publisher of the book of travels, in editing these Lectures. Both have given me liberty to make such discretionary use of that book as I may find necessary, in striving to make this volume as useful as possible. Both approve of my project and have expressed a desire to forward it. I thank them for their kindness and confidence; and for the small map, life, notes, and appendix, I am mainly indebted to that work. With the same noble generosity which has characterized Dr Livingstone's life, he presented me with the copyright of the lectures revised by himself, and left me to dispose of any proceeds as I may think best. Due consideration has led me to decide on devoting the entire proceeds of the work as follows:—In purchasing—

1. Sechuana Bibles for Central South Africa.
2. Books for the Library of the "CAMBRIDGE CHURCH MISSIONARY UNION¹."

¹ This is a Society established among the junior members of the University for the purpose of increasing and sustaining a missionary spirit among them. It attempts this by means of occasional prayer and other meetings, a library, and reading-room open daily, and by promoting Christian and friendly intercourse among its members. I

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

v

3. Books for Dr Livingstone's "CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY¹."

The following extracts from his book will give the key to this attempt at presenting him with a library. It appears that the Dutch Boers were his active bitter enemies, for reasons stated at p. vi.

"The Boers, encouraged by the accession of Mr Pretorius, determined at last to put a stop to English traders going past Kolobeng, by dispersing the tribe of Bakwains, and expelling all the missionaries. Sir George Cathcart proclaimed the independence of the Boers, the best thing that could have been done had they been between us and the Caffres. A treaty was entered into with these Boers; an article for the free passage of Englishmen to the country beyond, and also another, that no slavery should be allowed in the independent territory, were duly inserted, as expressive of the views of Her Majesty's government at home. 'But what about the

shall be pleased to receive presents of books for both libraries: works referring to Missions, Missionaries, &c. for the one, and books of general interest for the other.

¹ This library at present comprises about sixty volumes, which have been presented or promised, by Dr Whewell; Professor Sedgwick; Professor Selwyn; Professor Jeremie; Professor Browne; Professor Miller; Dr Lee, Hartwell Park; Dr Bateson; Rev. R. A. F. Barrett, Fellow of King's College; Rev. C. Babington, Fellow of St John's College; Rev. C. Clayton, Fellow and Tutor of Caius College; Rev. J. E. B. Mayor, Fellow of St John's College; Rev. T. Field, Fellow of St John's College; R. Potts, Esq., Trinity College; Rev. W. Emery, Fellow of Corpus Christi College; Rev. S. B. Sealy; H. Monk, Esq., Jesus College; J. A. Scholefield, Esq.; A Lady, &c., &c.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

missionaries?' inquired the Boers. '*You may do as you please with them,*' is said to have been the answer of the 'Commissioner.' This remark, if uttered at all, was probably made in joke: designing men, however, circulated it, and caused the general belief in its accuracy which now prevails all over the country, and doubtless led to the destruction of three mission stations immediately after. The Boers, four hundred in number, were sent by the late Mr Pretorius to attack the Bakwains in 1852. Boasting that the English had given up all the blacks into their power, and had agreed to aid them in their subjugation by preventing all supplies of ammunition from coming into the Bechuana country, they assaulted the Bakwains, and, besides killing a considerable number of adults, carried off two hundred of our school-children into slavery. The natives under Sechele defended themselves till the approach of night enabled them to flee to the mountains; and having in that defence killed a number of the enemy, the very first ever slain in this country, by Bechuanas, I received the credit of having taught the tribe to kill Boers! My house, which had stood perfectly secure for years under the protection of the natives, was plundered in revenge. English gentlemen, who had come in the footsteps of Mr Cumming to hunt in the country beyond, and had deposited large quantities of stores in the same keeping, and upwards of eighty head of cattle as relays for the return journeys, were robbed of all; and when they came back to Kolobeng found the skele-

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

vii

tons of the guardians strewed all over the place. The books of a good library—my solace in our solitude—were not taken away, but handfuls of the leaves were torn out and scattered over the place. My stock of medicines was smashed; and all our furniture and clothing carried off and sold at public auction to pay the expenses of the foray.

“I do not mention these things by way of making a pitiful wail over my losses, nor in order to excite commiseration; for though I do feel sorry for the loss of lexicons, dictionaries, &c., which had been the companions of my boyhood, yet, after all, the plundering only set me entirely free for my expedition to the north, and I have never since had a moment's concern for anything I left behind.”

The following letter, written by the Chief Sechele¹, to Mr Moffat, describes the above transactions, and is a touching specimen of native eloquence:

“Friend of my heart's love, and of all the confidence of my heart, I am Sechele; I am undone by the Boers, who attacked me, though I had no guilt with them. They demanded that I should be in their kingdom, and I refused; they demanded that I should prevent the English and Griquas from passing (northwards). I replied, These are my friends, and I can prevent no one (of them). They came on Saturday, and I besought them not to fight on Sunday, and they assented. They

¹ For an account of this chief, see note, p. 4.

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

VIII

INTRODUCTION.

began on Monday morning at twilight, and fired with all their might, and burned the town with fire, and scattered us. They killed sixty of my people, and captured women, and children, and men. And the mother of Baleriling (a former wife of Sechele) they also took prisoner. They took all the cattle and all the goods of the Bakwains; and the house of Livingstone they plundered, taking away all his goods. The number of waggons they had was eighty-five, and a cannon; and after they had stolen my own waggon and that of Macabe, then the number of their waggons (counting the cannon as one) was eighty-eight. All the goods of the hunters (certain English gentlemen hunting and exploring in the north) were burned in the town; and of the Boers were killed twenty-eight. Yes, my beloved friend, now my wife goes to see the children, and Kobus Hae will convey her to you.

“ I am, SECHELE,

“ The Son of Mochoasele.”

A strong reason for giving publicity to this design for trying to obtain Bibles and the two libraries, is in order that I might hereby possibly forward objects so desirable. In the one case the advocates and helpers of Christian missions to the heathen, and in the other the friends and admirers of Dr Livingstone, may be the more induced to circulate this book. It must, however, be kept in mind, that the lectures themselves possess enough intrinsic merit to ensure and deserve a wide circulation. Giving as they do an outline of the main features of the

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978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

IX

large work, they are well adapted for Parochial, School and Cottagers' Libraries, as well as for circulation through the medium of Free Libraries, Mechanic Institutions, Book-Hawking Societies, &c. The affluent, who have both opportunity and leisure for reading the book of travels, can, at a small price, gratify and inform the poor on one of the most interesting and important topics of the day, by placing this little book in their hands. In truth, many persons whose time and energies are too much occupied for reading large books in general, can hence gain an outline of our traveller's great achievements, and, in the main, hear him tell his own story.

At all risk of compromising the desirable character of being regarded as a judicious editor, I have designedly kept prominent the important object of meeting a great public want by making this book a complete manual of the central South African question in all its bearings. An attentive perusal of this volume will give the ordinary reader a concise but entire view of this interesting topic.

I have been encouraged to take this course in having my own judgement fortified by the advice of literary friends. If I have erred, I have knowingly sacrificed myself for the good of others.

Although our traveller actually speaks verbally in but a small part of this book, still in fact and substance it is mainly as essentially his as though he had dictated or written its pages.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

I return my thanks to the President (Sir R. I. Murchison) and Council of the Royal Geographical Society, for the kind interest which they have taken in this book: especially for allowing me to quote Dr Livingstone's unpublished letters, addressed to Sir R. I. Murchison from Africa during the progress of his journeys; and for the great favour shewn in granting copies of Mr Arrowsmith's valuable map of the route across the continent, for this publication.

To Dr Norton Shaw, Secretary to the above Society, I express my thanks both for the interest taken in, and the information contributed for, this work.

To the Rev. Professor Sedgwick I express my deep obligations, for labouring so successfully beneath a weight of years, and despite continued sickness, in writing the accompanying prefatory letter, the completeness and value of which can only really be appreciated by those persons who have carefully studied the book of *Travels*. This eloquent letter is a complete digest of the narrative of the two great journeys; it will be observed to contain a few parallelisms with some passages in the lectures, life, and appendix—resulting from writing entirely independently—but it is thought better to let them remain.

To Dr Lee, of Hartwell Park, Buckinghamshire; and to the Rev. Professor Browne, for revising the whole proofs;—to the Rev. F. Gell, B.D. Fellow of Christ's College, and other friends for reviewing the MSS.; and to the Secretaries of the Society for the Propagation of the

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

XI

Gospel in Foreign Parts,—of the Church and London Missionary Societies for information given,—I return my most grateful thanks.

I herein also acknowledge the kind courtesy of the editor and reporters of the *Cambridge Chronicle*, for the trouble and interest which they have taken in order to secure accurate and extended reports of these lectures, which have been further corrected and enlarged by Dr Livingstone himself, and by reference to the report of the *Independent Press*, as well as by comparison with the corresponding passages in the book of travels. To the editor and reporters of the latter paper I have also to return thanks for readily endeavouring to secure careful reports.

The portrait and small map are the production of Mr Vinter, of London, an artist eminent in his profession; the portrait¹ is based on the photograph taken by Mr Monson, of Cambridge, modified by a sitting given to Mr Vinter by Dr Livingstone.

In explanation of the long delay which has occurred in publishing this book, I have to state that this has been somewhat caused by the every day interruptions inseparable from a clergyman's life in a large parish in a populous town; and by the close perusal of several books, and of the

¹ Copies of this portrait, published by Mr Wallis, Sidney Street, Cambridge, can be obtained on India paper, 4to imperial, for framing, at a small price; the profits of this also will be devoted to the before-mentioned objects.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00827-3 - Dr Livingstone's Cambridge Lectures: Together with a Prefatory Letter by the Rev. Professor Sedgwick

David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

INTRODUCTION.

book of travels three times over, in order to obtain these materials; but chiefly through the illnesses before referred to, of Professor Sedgwick. Surely real interest in matters so absorbing and vitally important in most respects, cannot have in the mean time waned. This delay has been very beneficial, since I have hereby gained some valuable contributions to the work, of various kinds. It is obvious, on comparing the excellency of the type, &c. in this book, with its small price, that a large circulation alone will help forward the two libraries. This smallness of price is intended to meet the wants and means of the many.

For my own part, whatever trouble or anxiety may have fallen to my lot, in connection with these deeply interesting matters, will be amply repaid by any small amount of good thereby produced. This matter I prayerfully leave in the hands of our gracious Lord, who doeth, giveth, and receiveth that which seemeth him best; resting content with that command generally given, "IN THE MORNING SOW THY SEED, AND IN THE EVENING WITHHOLD NOT THINE HAND; FOR THOU KNOWEST NOT WHICH SHALL PROSPER, WHETHER THIS OR THAT."

WILLIAM MONK.

AUBREY VILLA,

Cambridge, 1st June, 1858.

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIFE OF DR LIVINGSTONE.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE is a Scotchman, and one whom his nation may well delight to honour. He is one of God's true nobility, as is shewn by high resolve, energetic and successful action, Christian character, and unselfish aim.

The Scottish nation stands out boldly in the history of great achievement; especially in Travel. Here is a golden chain of names eminent in exploration: Mungo Park, Bruce, Buchanan, Moffat, Livingstone. The last the greatest of all. It appears from his own statement, that his great grandfather fought at Culloden, and that his grandfather was a small farmer at Ulva, one of the cluster of the Hebrides. Like Sir Walter Scott, Burns, and others, his mind, in childhood and youth, was much influenced by the Gaelic and Scottish legends of years bye-gone. His grandfather could recount the lives of his forefathers for six generations, who it appears were remarkable for uprightness of character. One of them, on his death-bed, charged his family with a remembrance of this fact, and left them the motto for practical application, "BE HONEST." This motto has doubtless influenced Dr

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Livingstone's own character ; for he is ever desirous to appear himself, and to place all else with which he has to do, in a truthful unadorned light. His grandfather removed from his farm at Ulva to the Blantyre Cotton Works, near Glasgow, where he and his sons found employment. Dr Livingstone's father alone remained at home, and gained an honest livelihood as a small tea-dealer ; the others all became either soldiers or sailors in His Majesty's Service during the late French war. All parents may well learn wisdom by the example and influences exercised by those of the Doctor on himself. Hear what he says of his father especially :—" He deserved my lasting gratitude and homage for presenting me from infancy with a continuously consistent pious example, such as that the ideal of which is so beautifully and truthfully portrayed in Burns' 'Cotter's Saturday Night.' He died in February 1856, in peaceful hope of that mercy which we all expect through the death of our Lord and Saviour : I was at the time on my way below Zumbo, expecting no greater pleasure in this country than sitting by our cottage-fire, and telling him my travels. I revere his memory."

Dr Livingstone became a "piecer" in the factory at the age of 10. Now notice an instance of "the boy being the father of the man." With part of his first week's wages he bought Ruddiman's "Rudiments of Latin," and studied this language afterwards at night for a long time. In this disadvantageous manner he made steady progress. Surely hereby many a poor aspiring student, who is perchance engaged in "the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties," may take courage, and keep in mind the end achieved by this

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

EARLY STUDIES.

xv

truly great man. On the other hand, the idle unprincipled student, who for years may have wasted his precious intellectual substance in riotous living; who deserves not the *name of Student*, but who has spurned the high gifts of talent, teaching, and opportunity, as being of nothing worth; and who, as a consequence, begins when too late to feel within himself the degrading impotency of a blighted mind, together with the dark forebodings of a soul unblest—such an one must feel miserable and condemned, in pondering the noble issue of an early struggle such as this—an issue which compresses the ordinary doings of an age isolated by long periods before, and possibly by wider æras, after its dawn, into the short life of one self-denying, self-dependent, God-fearing man.

The dictionary part of his labours he pursued till 12 or later at night, returning to the factory at 6 a. m., and staying till 8 p. m.

Like many others of his mould, he was a great reader in his youthful days. Scientific works and books of travel were his especial delight. After much anxious inquiry he found comfort in ascertaining the fact that *true Science and philosophy are not the foes, but the handmaids of religion*. We have now to dwell on the greatest personal event which can happen in his, and in every other man's life, viz. *The true conversion of the soul to God*. What this is, we are told in that memorable conversation held at night by Christ with Nicodemus. By it we have new hearts, new desires and affections, and renewed souls, given us. The Holy Ghost makes us new creatures; old things have passed away, and behold all things have become new. Although

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xvi

LIFE OF DR LIVINGSTONE.

Dr Livingstone, and others eminent in various walks of life, have honourably graven their own names on the scroll of time, for earthly observation, still to have the name written in Heaven is an object of unspeakably higher aim. It is far better than the proudest record of earthly deeds, whether preserved on monumental brass, or living rock, or sculptured stone. The obelisk, statue, triumphal arch, or even pyramid, is nothing to it. Hear the account briefly given of his own conversion.

“Great pains had been taken by my parents to instil the doctrines of Christianity into my mind, and I had no difficulty in understanding the theory of our free salvation by the atonement of our Saviour, but it was only about this time that I really began to feel the necessity and value of a personal application of the provisions of that atonement to my own case. The change was like what may be supposed would take place were it possible to cure a case of ‘colour blindness.’ The perfect freeness with which the pardon of all our guilt is offered in God’s book drew forth feelings of affectionate love to Him who bought us with His blood, and a sense of deep obligation to Him for his mercy has influenced, in some small measure, my conduct ever since.”

In the spirit which real Christianity inspires in the soul of the true convert, he dedicated his life henceforth to the alleviation of human misery, like Howard and Wilberforce; but more especially, after the example of the first disciples, he resolved to strive to make known Christ the “Chief Good,” sought but not found by philosophy of old, in regions where the Gospel had not yet been preached. Towards China he turned his thoughts. There was true heroism in this resolve,

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*MISSIONARY PREPARATION.*

xvii

for China of all others was perhaps the most difficult field of missionary enterprise, and is so now. Again do we learn a lesson from his practical mind. He immediately studied and obtained a degree in medicine; a course which helped him much in all respects in Africa¹. He now unwittingly prepared himself for these African journeys, in botany, geology, other natural sciences, and pedestrianism, by making excursions in Scotland. The advantage of this training is obvious in the book of Travels, since his references to these departments of knowledge are so accurate and valuable. Yet there is something striking about this adaptation of means to an end. This preparation was not like that of Mungo Park, made with especial reference to Africa. His views now, as we have seen, were not thither, but China-ward. He was preparing himself for his work, but knew it not. Such was Cranmer's case in making himself "the Scripturist" here at Cambridge. Such has been the case with thousands of others, and possibly is so now with some who read this book. You want to know your work, but as yet do not. Wait! follow, and do not go before the providence of God; make the best of present opportunities. That work will be made

¹ It appears to be commonly agreed among travellers, and especially missionaries, that a knowledge and practice of medicine is invaluable to any one dwelling or travelling among uncivilized people. This is a hint to be taken and acted on by those who contemplate such courses of life. The many evidences given in Dr Livingstone's book of his professional usefulness, and consequent acceptableness, among the heathen, as well as the valuable information afforded to ourselves on medical and botanical topics, confirm this view. These remarks apply to hosts of other travellers and missionaries whose experience in this respect is recorded.

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David Livingstone and Adam Sedgwick

Frontmatter

[More information](#)xviii *LIFE OF DR LIVINGSTONE.*

plain, if you are prayerful and earnest about it. These excursions are amusingly referred to in page 5.

The following traits of character are brought out in the book of Travels:—The valuable power of total abstraction of mind amid surrounding noises; intense independence of character in entirely supporting himself by labour while attending the medical and Greek classes, and divinity lectures at the University of Glasgow; and great endurance, arising from a life of early toil.

The life of Dr Livingstone affords a remarkable illustration of God's superintending providence. If ever the doctrine of a particular providence were clearly proven by the testimony of human experience, as corroborative of Scripture, surely this life completely does this; so much so, that I propose deliberately to be guilty of some anachronisms, by bringing together certain episodes in his experience occurring at different times. It is best to trace God's hand whenever we can; and to shew "chance" and "change" to be only other words for "providence." With general providence we do not now concern ourselves: this is well summed up in that passage, "He maketh the sun to shine on the just and on the unjust." See God's particular providence as set forth in the following occurrences. Just as our traveller is about to proceed to China, the Opium War breaks out: "Man deviseth his way, but God directeth his steps." Had he gone to China, who would have opened up Central Africa? In consequence of this frustration of his Chinese plans, he turns his thoughts to Africa, and in time proceeds thither. Here is one instance: turn attention to another.

While at Kuruman his waggon-wheel breaks, and he is vexatiously detained there a fortnight instead of returning to his