PART 2

David Livingstone in Tropical Africa
Introduction to Part 2

The following two chapters give a sketch of David Livingstone, based on the books *Missionary Travels and Researches* (1857) and *Narrative of an Expedition to the Zambesi* (1865). These chapters are intended as a sketch; they are purposely not a review of his life for it was the intention to judge the usability of his information, and that demanded an approach different from the biographic. What he wrote in these books is ‘selectively’ paraphrased, often in his own words, and both paraphrases are followed by ‘reflections’, in which certain aspects of the book are examined with reference to Livingstone’s diaries and letters, sometimes with unexpected results.

While reading one realizes that Livingstone seldom stayed long in one place; this was also true during his time as missionary in South Africa. His reports are those of a passing traveller, albeit a remarkable one—being a man with many interests. One wonders if it is possible for one man to give reliable information on such diverse subjects, now all covered by specialists, and also whether he was capable of making a clear judgement as he—in order to see an end to slavery—coupled the future of the continent with Christianity and (Western) civilization and trade.

The first book is undeniably the most enthralling and interesting, especially due to the description of his travels from South Africa to Linyanti, in the present Caprivi Strip, from there to Luanda in Angola and back, and from Linyanti to Quelimane in Mozambique (1853–56). Chapter 2 deals specifically with the period between 1841 and 1856.

Chapter 3 deals with Livingstone’s Zambezi expedition in what is now Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia, between 1858 and 1864. This story caused

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1 Livingstone (hereafter DL) paid only ‘a slight sketch’ to the first word in the title (*LMT*, vi), which is understandable as he only converted one person whom he suspended after a short time.

2 Actually the third, because Livingstone’s book on the language of the Tswana (*DL Bechuana*; Murdock [1959], 386ff) appeared in 1858. This is less important for our subject. The title page of *Narrative of an Expedition* names Charles Livingstone (1821–73) as co-author (*LAl* 1, 127, 191: ‘DL’s younger brother’, ‘a clergyman at Plympton, near Boston, Mass.’).

3 Livingstone’s spelling is sometimes characteristically different. He wrote, for example, ‘conceive’, ‘receive’, ‘decieve’, ‘dispair’.

4 Linyanti—‘In the modern orthography, Dinyanti’ (*LFL.2*, 214n; *LPJ*, 22: ‘The site has long been abandoned’). It was the southern capital of the Kololo. The ‘land of the Kololo’ lay in present Zambia and the Caprivi strip. The former (small) Portuguese colonies are meant by Angola and Mozambique. For the term ‘Western’ see chapter 1.