Longitude of Nkata Bay, Lake Nyasa

Author(s): C. F. Close

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Sir Rawson Rawson entered public life in 1841 as private secretary to Mr. Gladstone on the appointment of the latter as Vice-President of the Board of Trade. During the greater part of his public career, however, he was connected in one way or another with colonial administration, being appointed Chief Secretary for Canada in 1842, and shortly afterwards Treasurer of Mauritius, which office he held for a considerable period. In 1854 he became Colonial Secretary at the Cape, and ten years later was promoted to be Governor of the Bahamas, whence he was transferred to the same post in the Windward islands in 1869. In 1875 he retired, being created K.C.M.G. in acknowledgment of his services. During the remainder of his life, Sir Rawson was well known as a zealous statistician, paying special attention to the trade of the British Empire, of which, among other writings, he published a useful synopsis in 1888. While governor of the Windward islands he had dealt, in a report published in 1874, with the rainfall of Barbadoes and its influence upon the sugar crops. After his return to this country, when the "scramble for Africa" began to attract general attention, he contributed to our *Proceedings* for 1884 a valuable summary of the claims of the several European nations on the coasts of that continent, supplementing the paper the following year with a more detailed discussion of European territorial claims on the Red sea coasts.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Longitude of Nkata Bay, Lake Nyasa.

December 17, 1899.

I THINK that the difficulty mentioned in this month's *Journal* (p. 667) as to the longitude of Nkata bay on Lake Nyasa can be explained. After we had determined the longitude, I sent our value to H.M. acting Consul-General at Zomba for his information. In the next copy of the *B.C.A. Gazette* he printed it, with the remark that the previously accepted longitude was 6 miles in error. I believe that Dr. Gill's statement is quite correct, and based on this. No doubt the best map available was used for the comparison. This was *before* the value of Lieuts. Rhoades and Phillips was published (or rather had reached Central Africa). Lieut. Rhoades's value does not depend on Blantyre, but, as I understand, is an independent chronometer value brought up from the coast. Such an accordance with the telegraphic value as actually occurred, is remarkable.

As regards the error in the longitude of Blantyre, that still remains unknown. We were unexpectedly prevented from determining this telegraphically. My own view is that, as the value of Blantyre is the mean of eighty-one absolute determinations, it should not be more than half a mile in error.

Perhaps the B.C.A. Survey Department might be moved to settle this in conjunction with Dr. Gill, H.M. astronomer at the Cape, when the war is over.

C. F. CLOSE,
Capt. R.E.

The Mansarowar and Rakastal Lakes.*

1st Batt. 3rd Gurkhas, Almora, N.W.P., October 12, 1899.

Mr. Walter Savage Landor, whose introductory letter I enclose, was very anxious that I should write to you to state that in August, 1895, when up

* This letter is addressed to the President.