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Longitude of Lake Nyassa

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Burmah in 1867, he devoted himself chiefly to the promotion and development of commerce. It is stated that he has left behind him many valuable maps and plans of Upper Burmah, some of which were but recently executed. While on his way home, our Associate died, on June 26, at Castagnolo, near Florence, of typhoid fever, contracted at Naples.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Longitude of Lake Nyassa.

STANFORD'S GEOGRAPHICAL ESTABLISHMENT,
13, Long Acre, July 19th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—As the question of the longitude of the north end of Nyassa is somewhat interesting just now, from the fact that the Expedition under Mr. Keith Johnston is on its way there, and an allowance of at least twelve days' march must be made for every degree of longitude, attention may be drawn to a few points in its geographical history.

On Livingstone's first autograph map of the lake, the longitude of the point known as Mankambira's was given as 35° , but in subsequently re-plotting the compass bearings, Dr. Kirk made it $34^{\circ} 47'$. In the map prepared for "Zambesi and its Tributaries," the former longitude, viz. 35° , was adopted in the drawing, but it was altered to $34^{\circ} 21'$ in the engraving, although the longitude at the south end was retained, thus giving the lake an incorrect north-west and south-east trend. That Livingstone did not accept this correction may be inferred from the fact that on the autograph map brought home with his last journals and made by him certainly later than 1870, the lake is still shown as lying on the 35th meridian.

After a careful comparison of the observations and dead reckoning made by Dr. Livingstone on his last journey, with the autograph maps above referred to, the longitude of Mankambira's was reduced to $34^{\circ} 41'$, and was thus engraved on the map accompanying the 'Last Journals.' Mr. Young accepted this longitude in making his map in 1876. And it must be gratifying to all admirers of Livingstone to find that the only authority since his time, Mr. Cotterill, places it in $34^{\circ} 28'$, stating at the same time that he finds Livingstone's outline of the western coast accurate in all its chief features. Adding the northern extension of the lake as given by Mr. Cotterill to the map in the 'Last Journals,' the mouth of the Ruambadzi falls on $34^{\circ} 50'$, and if we take the observation at Mazoti's Pass favoured by Mr. Cotterill— $34^{\circ} 25'$ —and add $15'$, the meridional difference between it and the mouth of the Ruambadzi, the result will only necessitate a reduction of $10'$ in the longitude. This is all the westing that can at present be fairly allowed.

In several maps recently issued, and which have been prepared with a disregard for authority which seems hardly justified, the mouth of the Ruambadzi is given fully a degree too far west, and the lake is made to lie in a north-west and south-east direction instead of nearly due north and south.

It follows from the above that the distance from Dar-es-Salaam to the north end of the lake is considerably less than from London to Edinburgh, and we may fairly hope that Mr. Keith Johnston will reach it in from eighty to ninety days. The steamer from Livingstonia should run up to the head of the lake to make inquiries and bring back the news of his success; but as the Expedition left the coast on the 19th May, and it will probably take the steamer at least a week to run up from the settlement, no time should be lost if our Scotch friends desire to be useful in this matter.

I have, &c.,
J. BOLTON.