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Good. Answer to the question

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My favourite hero amongst the pioneers of the British Empire Commonwealth.

What is a pioneer? The Oxford Dictionary defines it as "one of an advance party, an explorer." "Explorer" — it is a magical word which takes the imagination ^{along} of hazardous trails made for the great purpose of opening up a country.

An explorer-pioneer does not have an easy time; he has all the troubles of an ordinary man and more; he has his financial worries, and he goes into places where danger lurks, where he knows not what may live, where from the native inhabitants of the country he may encounter a hostile or friendly reception. With those he has to take his chance.

The city clerk sits at his desk all day, poring over accounts with a "Yes, Mr. Smith" or "No, Mr. Smith" every now and again, in answer to his superior.

But a pioneer — though he may be hampered in some ways, perhaps monetarily, delves into a new venture — it may be a new industry, though pioneers are most remembered for opening a country — with glorious freedom, setting out to give mankind something new to benefit it.

Africa has its pioneers as every other country, but there are five who stand out in history. I refer to Dr. Moffat, the pioneer of the Church in Africa, Dr. Livingstone, his successor and famous explorer, Mungo Park, the Scottish explorer, Sir Samuel Baker, the liberator of the slaves, and Cecil Rhodes, who has ^{done} without particular heroism, a great deal for Africa.

David Livingstone has largely overshadowed Dr. Moffat;

as an explorer he has won greater renown than Park. Sir Samuel Baker has benefitted Africa greatly, as has Rhodes. But could Cecil Rhodes be called a hero? I am asked to write about my favourite hero amongst pioneers — so I am left with two men who are both heroes. By the process of elimination I have set out above, I think that Dr. Livingstone could safely be called the pioneer of Africa.

Livingstone discovered some now well-known places, as an instance, Lake Nyasa; he journeyed up the Zambesi and blazed the trails of Africa through almost ~~to~~ impenetrable jungle growth to carry out his good work — preaching the word of God to the heathen natives who dwelt in the bushland.

Thrice he was stricken with fever which, in Africa, makes the victim, who does not easily rid himself of it, very weak. Still, however, he carried on with his good work. Twice he returned to England, where he received an enthusiastic welcome, but each time he returned to his Africa where he finally died.

Once he was "murdered" (according to the newspapers); once they thought he was lost, and the "New York Herald" organised a search for him, sending H. M. Stanley on the journey which has won him world-wide repute. He had almost miraculous escapes from death, but all the time he carried on as a missionary.

I now propose to give a brief life story, to expound the nature of his travels, and explain just why he is a true pioneer.

David Livingstone was born in 1813, in a little village near Glasgow. He was the son of poor parents who were not able to give him a good education. He went to work at spinning at an early age, and from his first week's wages bought "The Rudiments of Latin" which he studied intensely. He work^{ed} nine hours a day, and studied seven, sleeping at most eight.

For a mere lad, this shows his determination to study, and educate himself.

David Livingstone journeyed to Africa in 1841 as a missionary. When he landed, he proceeded to Kuruman, Dr. Moffat's headquarters, with 500 copies of the New Testament, translated by Moffat himself into one of the many native languages.

Kuruman was the most northerly mission station, but Livingstone translated this as "the most southern point of the real mission field." He was eager for his work, determined to carry the word of God as far as he could, in all directions.

When he was at the height of his fame as an explorer, he remembered he was still a missionary. It was not until late in 1843 that Livingstone was moved north to Mafetsa.

It was here that he was almost killed by a lion. He escaped, but had he not, Africa might be a great deal more unknown and heathen than it is today, and the world would have lost one of its finest explorers.

He had not been there long before he married Mary, eldest daughter of Dr. Moffat, and the two settled down to their work.

A colleague's jealousy, however, caused Livingstone to trek northward. He realised that instead of staying at the one place, he could do more good by moving on. This he did, starting on the journeys of exploration which have won him such great fame, preaching the while.

He plunged into the interior, to the Kalahari desert, the river Zouga, Lake Ngami, Linyanti, the Zambesi river and Loanda. So the great missionary went on, ~~the~~ healing the body and educating the mind of the pagan natives. The natives with whom he had stayed never molested him, so great was his influence with them.

He travelled through the Kalahari desert, and discovered Lake Ngami.

Of course, Livingstone had partners on the expeditions, but he was the leader of the party. On his occasion he had with him two men named Murray & Oswell, both adventurers ^{since he had arrived in Africa.} By now, eight years had gone by, and Livingstone, in 1849, was awarded a gold chronometer by the Royal Geographical Society for his discoveries, and twenty five guineas by the Queen for discovering Lake Ngami.

This was the first official recognition Livingstone had received for his work. He was already blossoming out as an explorer rather than a missionary. Nevertheless he always kept his basic duty — preaching — well in mind.

Next Livingstone visited the Matabele tribe, the chief of which was named Sebitwane. Livingstone stayed with the tribe, preaching and healing, generally civilising the tribe. At the moment when he commanded the greatest respect from the tribe, Sebitwane, who had throughout helped Livingstone all he could, died. The new chief co-operated with Livingstone, so he left the Matabele in their new found religion.

He continued his travels northward, ~~encountering~~ encountering the slave trade and writing repeated letters, mentioning this trade, and asking if something could not be done. It needed more than his efforts to rid the country of this pestilence. Nothing was done, however, and Livingstone left on the greatest journey he had yet undertaken. It extended from the South Coast to St. Paul de Loanda, the capital of Angola on the west coast.

The party set out on Friday, November 11, 1853 from Limyanti and reached Loanda on the coast on ~~May~~ Wednesday, May 31, 1854, the journey occupying more than six months, during which period nothing was heard of him. It was thought ~~was~~ that he had fallen victim to one of

J. C.
Robertson's
"Life of
David
Livingstone,
LL. D."

the many dangers of the unknown. "But instead, he had achieved his purpose, the mystery of Africa was solved. Instead of being a vast barren desert he had found it to be a populous and fertile region, watered by splendid streams, navigable for hundreds of miles, abounding in animal life of all kinds, and inhabited by tribes capable of benefitting from the civilising and humanising influences of honest commerce and the teaching of the Gospel.

What are the triumphs of arms compared with the great work this man had achieved?"

From this quotation it can be seen that David Livingstone had opened up a great part of Africa so that the tribes of the interior could benefit from civilisation's advantages. That, indeed, was a noble achievement.

At last, the world knew something about Africa's interior.

But Livingstone's health was suffering. He had a severe bout of fever, so he stayed at Loanda while he recuperated. He started on his return journey on Wednesday, September 20, 1854 having remained at Loanda nearly four months. On this return journey Livingstone was again stricken with fever. When back at Linyanti he determined to travel to the East Coast, and set out on Monday, November 5, 1855.

On his way to the east coast he came to the falls of Mosioatunya, which he named the Victoria Falls. He followed the Zambesi to the East Coast, arriving at Kiliman on Tuesday, May 20, 1856.

From here he sailed to England where he was received enthusiastically. Funds were quickly raised to make testimonials and presentations. Various societies honoured him with public receptions, and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge conferred the degrees of C. D. L. and LL. D. on him respectively. He separated himself from the

Missionary Society, finding it hampered his freedom of action as an explorer. He was supported after that by the Government.

Livingstone wrote his book "Missionary Travels in South Africa" while he was in England, setting out on his second voyage to Africa on Wednesday, March 10, 1858.

At this time he was forty-five years of age. He took with him his brother and a party of geologists, botanists, and zoologists. Once in Africa, the party set out, travelling up the Zambesi by water, until stopped at the Kebra-basa rapids, which they could not cross in their steamer.

While waiting for another boat the party journeyed up the Shire. They were warned that the tribes on the river were bloodthirsty, but they pushed on, their determination undamped. Some distance up the river, they encountered five hundred armed men, who ordered them to stop. Livingstone boldly went ashore and explained his purpose. The chief, learning that they were not slave-traders as he had feared, allowed them to go on unhindered. They proceeded upstream, discovered Lake Shirwa, and, on Friday, September 16, 1859, discovered Lake Nyassa.

After this Livingstone and his party, continued up the Zambesi on his way to Linyanti, encountering again his friends of the Matabele. Livingstone then proceeded to travel down the Zambesi to Kongone at the mouth of the great river.

On the way he came up against the slave-trade, liberating nearly one hundred slaves. From their stories of what they had undergone, Livingstone revealed the horrors of this practice.

At the mouth of the Zambesi, Livingstone stopped, and he was joined here by his wife, whom he had

left him in England. She died of fever a few months after she had arrived, on Sunday, April 27, 1862.

Livingstone continued exploring until early 1864, and then determined to travel north-west, returning to England to obtain the money necessary to finance the expedition. He returned in the March of 1866, and set about exploring the Rovuma river, thence travelling northward towards Lake Tanganyika which he first sighted on April 1, 1867. Then tragedy came - two of his native bearers deserted with his medicine-chest, which contained quinine. This left him in central Africa without medicine to ward off the fever which struck at him again and again, finally causing his death.

He discovered Lake Moos in early November, 1867, and eight months later Lake Bangweulu, one of the largest lakes in central Africa. Having discovered this lake he decided to press on to Ujiji, but suffered greatly from fever, and for the first time in nearly thirty years of exploring, was carried on the march. He reached Ujiji ⁱⁿ March, 1869, and moved on to Manyema, where he was forced to return to Ujiji by the hostile natives. On the 10th November, 1871, Stanley entered Ujiji to carry on Livingstone's fine work.

Livingstone was by now a sick man. Stanley went back to the coast, promising to send men to Ujiji, and Livingstone shook hands ~~with~~ for the last time with the only white man he had seen in the past six years, and the last he was to see on his earth. When the men arrived, Livingstone started his journey back to the coast. He travelled wearily till at Chitambos just before dawn on May 1, 1873, he was found kneeling, as in prayer, at his bedside, dead. His death had claimed Africa's greatest explorer.

Now a summary of the result of his work is needed. As has been said, putting into ^{sixteen} ~~seventeen~~ words, what Livingstone had accomplished :- "Wherever David Livingstone's

Prof. Drummond
"Tropical
Africa"

footsteps are crossed in Africa, the fragrance of his memory seems to remain. "What finer tribute could be paid to a pioneer in so few words!"

Livingstone brought civilisation, religion and trade to Central Africa. When explorers journeyed into the heart of Africa, they traversed the early stages easily because Livingstone had passed that way, and the natives were now willing to help. Two years after Livingstone's death, a steamer was placed on Lake Nyassa. Already the progress of civilisation was evident.

Explorers coming after Livingstone found that the natives now kept the graves of their comrades clean. So these can be epitomised as the benefits obtained from Livingstone's civilising and humanising of the natives.

J. S. F.
A. Montefiore-Brice: David Livingstone

The other thing that Livingstone left to us was the eradication of the slave trade. When he returned from Lake Nyassa he found that "the river banks which had formerly been so populous were now silent; all the villages had been burnt, and their inhabitants killed, or carried away in captivity - the population was either dead or gone." That is an example of the horrors of the slave trade. Once he saw three hundred women and children mercilessly shot down, and wrote to England, his words arousing action.

So we see the amazing work that Dr. Livingstone has done; it is work that causes us, without hesitation, to class him as a true pioneer of the British Empire.

Books consulted:—

J. S. Robertson: The Life of David Livingstone, LL.D.

A. Montefiore-Brice, F.R.C.S.: David Livingstone; His labours and his legacy.