

were spread about by malicious men of an enormous force advancing for the next day's fight. The members of the Expedition even caught the panic, and prepared in silence to follow the Waganda, as common-sense informed them that, if a force of over 2,000 fighting men did not consider itself strong enough to maintain its position, our Expedition consisting of 180 men could by no means do so.

At 5 p.m. a messenger from Sambuzi called me to a council, at which all of his chief men were present, to discuss what advantages we possessed for offence and defence, for meeting the danger, or for flight. Sambuzi asked me to speak. Wrath almost choked my speech. However, I summoned up my patience, and said: "I do not see much use in my saying anything, because I know you will act against all advice I can give. As your friend, I advise you to stay here two days, while I fix the boat and canoe. At the end of two days I will write a letter to Mtesa, which will absolve you from all blame. There is no great danger in staying a couple of days, but in returning to Uganda without my letter you go to certain death. I have spoken."

After a little pause, Sambuzi said: "Stamlee, you are my friend, the Emperor's friend, and I want to do my duty towards you as well as I am able to; but you must hear the truth. We cannot do what you want us to do. We cannot wait here two days, nor one day. We will fight to-morrow at sunrise, and we must cut our way through to Uganda. The only chance for our lives is to pack up to-night, and to-morrow morning at sunrise to march and fight our way through them."

On arriving at camp, I saw looks of dismay on each face. I called Pocock and the captains of the Expedition, and then asked them to give their own opinion of the matter freely. After a long hesitation and silence the gallant and ever faithful Kachéché spoke, and said: "Master, I will tell you one thing: when Sambuzi beats the drum to-morrow to march, more than half of this Expedition will follow him, and you cannot prevent it."

"Well," I replied, "this is my decision. I was sent to explore this lake. The force I relied on now fails me, and the people are hostile; it therefore only remains for me to return with Sambuzi, and to try the lake by another road." At dawn we mustered our forces, and with more form prepared to quit our camp. A