

held next day, at which it was resolved to send out that night 200 men to capture a few prisoners, through whom we could communicate our intentions to Ruigi. As the lake was only four miles distant, it became necessary to know how we were regarded by the natives, and whether we might expect peaceful possession of a camp for a month or so. Some ten prisoners were captured, and, after receiving gifts of cloth and beads, were released, to convey the news to their respective chiefs that the Waganda had brought a white man, who wished to see the lake, and who asked permission to reside in peace in the country a few days; that the white man intended to pay for all food consumed by the strangers; that he would occupy no village, and injure no property, but would build his camp separate from the villages, into which the natives having food to sell were requested to bring it, and to receive payment in cloth, beads, brass, or copper, assured that, so long as they offered no cause of offence, and kept the peace, they should receive no annoyance. An answer, we said, was expected within two days.

On the 12th, an answer was brought that the inhabitants were not accustomed to strangers, and did not like our coming into their country; that our words were good, but our purposes, they were assured, were not the less wicked; and that we must, therefore, expect war on the morrow. This answer was brought by about 300 natives, who, while they delivered their message, were observed to have taken precautions not to be caught at a disadvantage. Having announced their object, they withdrew. This declaration of war unsettled the nerves of the Waganda chiefs, principally the inferior chiefs and the bodyguard of Mtesa, and a stormy meeting was the result.

The danger of a panic was imminent, when I begged that Sambuzi would listen to a few words from me. I explained to him that, though we were only a bullet's flight from the Nyanza, we had not yet seen the lake, and that Mtesa had ordered him to take me to the Nyanza; that, before we had even looked for a strong camp, we were talking of returning; that, if they were all resolved to return, I required them to give me two days only, at the end of which I would give them a letter to Mtesa, which would absolve them from all blame. Large numbers of natives, posted on the summit of every hill around us, added to the fear which took possession of the minds of the Waganda, and rumours