

SCIENCE

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LIVINGSTONE AS AN EXPLORER¹

DAVID LIVINGSTONE, it is scarcely necessary to remind you, was of Highland descent, his grandfather having been a crofter on the little island of Ulva, off the west coast of the larger island, Mull. In appearance he showed clearly that the predominant strain in his ancestry was what we call Iberian for want of a more definite word. That is to say, that he was of that very old racial strain still existing in western Scotland, western Ireland, Wales and Cornwall, which has apparently some kinship in origin with the peoples of the Mediterranean, and especially of Spain and Portugal. Indeed, according to such descriptions as we have of him, and such portraits as illustrate his appearance, he was not unlike a Spaniard, especially in youth and early middle age. His height scarcely reached to 5 feet 7 inches, his hair and moustache, until they were whitened with premature old age, were black, his eyes hazel, his complexion much tanned by the African sun, but at all times inclining to sallow. He possessed a natural dignity of aspect, however, which never failed to make the requisite impressions on Africans and Europeans alike. Bubbling over with sly humor, with world-wide sympathies, and entirely free from any narrowness of outlook, he possessed a very strong measure of self-respect, coupled with a quiet, intense obstinacy of purpose.

¹ From the address to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Livingstone given before the Royal Geographical Society, London, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and printed in the journals of these societies.