

## Letter to John Washington, 20 February 1860

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[0001]

Shupanga 20<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>

1860

My Dear Captain Washington

I take the liberty of enclosing a list of articles said by Baines to have been furnished by Windsor & Newton. He had stowed away a very large quantity of artists' materials in his private boxes and on D<sup>r</sup> Kirk asking where he got them, replied, that Windsor & Newton had made him a present of them. Then, that he got them out of the Australian expedition. It might easily be ascertained whether Windsor & Newton (Spring gardens) really made him a present of those materials - paints of all kinds - canvas &c. I suspect the Australian Expedition was a droll one and the Colonial office [0002]

unwittingly gave him a good character. He has a large parcel of brass rings in his boxes at Tette stolen from my private property.

Thornton seemed to turn over a new leaf when cut off from us. We could not previously get a bit of work out of him. He tried to get D<sup>r</sup> Kirk to invalid him in vain. He went up to Zumbo with a half cast trader but has only confounded my published opinion of the extension of the coal field thither. I offered him a passage home but the Portuguese have induced him to examine the upper part of Kebrabasa for a silver mine said to have been once worked by the Jesuits. He says he has no animus against me. "It was

a lethargy he could not shake off.”, and  
he is now fat & well. He wished  
me to sell him our theodolite and  
[0003]  
a sextant but I could not see Gov<sup>t</sup>  
property. He has the use of all the  
instruments he brought out

By the way our craft has nearly  
ruined most of the magnetic  
instruments besides provisions &  
private property. We can take only  
what barely serves for a trip  
she is so leaky and wet. Could  
you send us some magnetic  
instruments that may have been  
returned from other Expeditions  
i.e. if we get a new ship  
like the Bann. With incredible  
labour and repeated dryings  
my worthy associate D<sup>r</sup> Kirk has at least got his collection  
down so far to the sea. I feel  
sure that Sir William Hooker  
will be pleased and I am  
[0004]  
his choice does him great credit  
there are many new plants and  
I hope you will make the valuable  
woods & cottons known. We have  
sent seeds of Buaze to Natal, the  
Cape and India.

I hope you will lend your  
aid in getting freedom of navigation  
on the Zambesi. While the Portuguese  
have the exclusive use of it no  
good can be done. They are few  
in number and of the convict class  
chiefly. The immorality is frightful  
and any one who does no do as  
they do is hated - they hate us  
bitterly, but we have had no quarrel.  
We keep aloof and seem to be  
regarded as standing protests  
against their ways. According to  
them the fine young men of  
Commodore Owen's party  
[0005]  
were killed by indulgences with  
Donna Pascoa & other women  
at this place. Bedingfeld

had been exhibiting his bougies  
here and I was taken aback  
by the superintendant of the  
estate once asking me something  
about him and asking specifying  
him as "the officer with  
thirty Bougies." I am not so  
much discouraged by the defections  
that have taken place as you  
may be for I have seen a  
good many occur even among  
missionaries. It is only by  
patient perseverance that  
success is ultimately obtained  
and should I get the vessels  
[0006]

I have applied for I feel confident  
that with the Divine blessing  
a large amount of good will  
result. We have overcome the  
fever, and know that any  
European living morally need  
not fear it more than a  
common cold. A curious  
point has of late shewed itself  
a very greatly decreased dose  
of the remedy serves better  
than a large one did at first  
1/2 a grain of the pill produces  
as much effect as 10 or 12  
did formerly. Good living  
is essential i.e. if compelled  
to live on salt meat or maize meal  
we are more liable to fever. We  
[0007]

must have flour and fresh meat  
and I think that after any specially  
hard work ale would be beneficial  
for when we returned from  
Nyassa after forty days tramp  
we all took a sore longing for  
a glass of beer though on ordinary  
occasions and at home we  
dont care for it.

I have been obliged to buy  
calico to pay current expenses  
this is very much dearer than  
what I got from M<sup>r</sup> Turner of Manchester. Our Makololo  
crew of 12 did well for six  
months but got so tired by

perpetual wood cutting in  
[0008]  
ascending up the river that they  
begged me to take others. I took  
24 the wood cutting required is really  
heart breaking. I beg you to  
examine M<sup>r</sup> Rae all about the  
vessel and everything else. I dont wish to hide an iota from you.

I come down now though the  
bottom is all patched and continually  
breaking out afresh in order to  
get M<sup>r</sup> Rae safely off and D<sup>r</sup>  
Kirk's specimens with him. I would have gone up the Makololo  
Country at once - but felt perplexed  
as to whether you will send us another  
steamer - the loss of the mail bag  
leaving us in the dark. We heard  
at Senna that the mail bag had  
been found & taken by a native  
to Quilimane & passed us on the way  
down from Tette Ever yours

David Livingstone