

Letter to John Washington, 9 December 1857

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[0001]

With the
questions

Admiralty

9th Dec^r

1857

Dear Captain Washington

While waiting at
the Admiralty I shall
try & answer your
questions

1st the unhealthy
region extends
about 200 [miles] from
the coast
[0002]
or untill you get
through the gorge
of Lupata

2^d 3 3/4 miles per hour
in some parts a
little more say 4.

3^d No. the steam launch
spoken of
would be used above
the rapid.

4th I suppose that
they are formed
[0003]
by certain dykes of
basalt which I saw
lying in the direction
in which the rapid
occurs - there is no

great fall of the
country there I am
certain so it is not
"a water fall"

5. M^r Hoskins now
commands a
gun boat in China
I do not know any
of the "Grecian" men
[0004]

M^r Swaine was
serving at the same
time with Hoskins
and he was 2^d master
of the Pluto steamer
when I was at Loanda. There are
probably others who
were there on
board the Castor
with Captain Parker who was killed at
the Danube
[0005]

6th the good con-
templated by a larger
vessel would be
getting quickly through
the unhealthy part
before being any
time on shore
putting the launch
together. It is
beyond the Portuguese
territory where my
work is chiefly
to be done
[0006]

7 I understood that
M^r Lairds vessel
would draw
5 feet only in
the river but
could be loaded
up to 8 ft for
the sea voyage.
8 ft seems too
much for the
first voyage up
[0007]

as it is desirable to
have the first attempt
successful. Any
blundering, getting
on to banks &c
would be excused
in subsequent
voyages. If it
does not draw
less than 8 ft that
seems too deep
for the purpose till
the river is known
[0008]

but if we should
get out in May
I think that such
a vessel would go up easily to
Tett or Nyungwe
~~but~~ for prudence
sake the less she
draws the better

Thanks for the
note from the Foreign
Office I am Dear Sir
truly yours D. Livingstone