

## Letter to John Washington, 21 May 1862

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[0001]

Shupanga 21<sup>st</sup> May 1862

My Dear Captain Washington

I wrote you before of the late attempts of the Governor of Mozambique to extend their boundary to the Rovuma - but feel so anxious that you should know about it that in case my previous letter may have miscarried I trouble you again.

the Governor [G.C.] said to M<sup>r</sup> Rae that he was not very well recieved up at Zanzibar when we went up to "extend their territories" the ipsissima verba he employed. He wished the

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the Sultan to agree to Rovuma being called the boundary instead of Cape Delgado but Col Rigby's influence prevailed to prevent the weak Sultan from agreeing to what is evidently intended to forestall us. the word "extend" shews what the best informed Portuguese think of our friends Arrowsmith & Macqueen's dicta on the Portuguese boundary The Governor General did not believe that Rovuma belonged even nominally to his nation. Captain Wilson had the very same version as M<sup>r</sup> Rae and indeed I got it first from the captain. Now dont omit

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to tell me whether I am to take possession of our discoveries

formally in the Queen's name.  
Our flag was the first that ever  
floated on Lake Nyassa.  
I have asked Lord John Russell  
the question but possibly it  
may not be deemed expedient  
to authorize me though no  
fault will be found if I do  
it, as if spontaneously.

Not a word has been said  
about our freeing the captives.  
All the Portuguese are as civil  
as ever. Ten slaves whom  
I employed in the belief that they  
were free men & did not discover  
the mistake till we were up the  
Shire entered into the work of freeing  
[0004]  
the captives with great zest. I paid  
them handsomely and as they had the  
muskets of the Tette people from whom  
we took the Manganja captives I feared  
that they might suffer but nothing  
was done and their master M<sup>r</sup> Ferrão  
of Senna whose people they were wrote  
to say that he was glad his people had  
been useful. His people can scarcely  
be called slaves for he always pays  
them for any work they do.

But the Portuguese have got a hair  
in our neck. The Gorgon's people  
on returning from this mis-behaved  
when drunk at Vianna's. I apologized  
most amply and so did Captain  
Wilson and Vianna would scarcely  
recieve an explanation. "It was only  
a little wine" &c. But the Governor of  
Quillimane wrote me an official letter  
from the report of another than Vianna  
but trusts that the Portuguese officials  
and I will continue in the same friendly  
terms as we have always been. I have  
to explain to the Foreign office in case he sends  
the affair home. I am &c David Livingstone