

Letter to John Washington, 15 December 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

River Zambesi 15th Dec^r

1862

Dear Admiral Washington

We came from Johanna to the Latitude of the Kongone in five days during two which without steam and a light head wind we were carried 60 miles a day. Our coals were expended when we made the land. We could have gone into Namiara or Nyamiara a double mouthed port about 30 miles from Luabo but were afraid to run a risk in a spot we did not know except by Portuguese reports with wind blowing freshly on shore, so we bore away with sails to Quilimaine River - cut wood there, and came round to Kongone. We find the Zambesi very low but the water is rising, and we shall be towing the Lady Nyassa up in about a week. I shall feel immensely relieved when fairly at that work. the oxen & mules are in good condition and promise fairly to facilitate our labours.

Thanks for Captain Maury's work. It is exceedingly interesting. Had we possessed it sooner we should have looked abroad with more intelligent interest - the black indigo colour of the sea tells when we are in the current - we noticed this both in going and coming. In the hollow south of Mosambique & west of 38° E. there seems to be no current except near the shore

[0002]

and there it is towards the North. We have been twice deceived by being too clever - making allowance for a current to the south and finding we made the land just where we steered for North of our

port.

My Chief object in writing at present
is to beg you to transmit (£10) Ten Pounds
from Quarter-master Collyer to M^{rs}
Collyer 13 Bilbury St. Plymouth
to be payable at Devonport Dockyard
this sum is additional to what she has
been regularly drawing

Also to M^{rs} Magrath Ten Pounds
(£10) from Q^r Master Magrath - this too
is additional - her address is M^{rs}
Magrath. Dawlish; Devonshire:

And to Sarah Jane Saunders
from our carpenter to be drawn as
additional to what she now draws
at Portsmouth Dockyard, Five Pounds
(£5) her address is - Sarah Jane
Saunders 16 Plymouth St. Southsea.

Also £5. to M^{rs} Pearce, 46 Albion
Brighton - she is mother of the man
who sends it and does not draw anything
regularly - we recieved him from the
Ariel. All are well behaved men.
[0003]

We hear that Thornton is up at
Senna waiting I suppose for some one
to take him to Gorongoza - mountains
with inscriptions west of that village
We did not take him with us to
the Rovuma because we left
with the intention of going down to
the sea for provisions only and
to send home our Johanna crew
We have eleven new Johanna men
at Kroomen's wages - they promise
to be very useful. They scarcely
ever have fever and dont
fraternize with the natives.

I see Pocket Aneroids mentioned
in the Journal of the Society of Arts,
we were unfortunate enough to
break 2 common barometers - one
by a hawser light dropping down
the skylight and other by two natives
fighting and tumbling down into the

saloon. Will you favour us
with a couple of pocket Aneroids
they are by Mess^{rs} Frankham &
Wilson of Wilson St. Grays inn Road
and are mentioned in the journal
for May 16th 1862. they are said to
be improvements but you will be
able to judge whether there is anything
in this - the mountain Barometer

[0004]

came out smashed & so was one of the
boiling point instruments - M^r May brought
no fowling pieces - my private one is
much too heavy. Indeed it is an elephant
gun as well, I bought another fowling
piece lighter for £10 (private) and it does
not carry well. Both those we brought
from Gov^t were very good but one
is quite used up.

We shall not come down till
January of £1864. Our fresh meats
and groceries will then be quite
done. Please think of this at your
convenience.

The Makololo mission is about
to be renewed. M^r Moffat senior who
established one with Mosilikatze will
probably help and so will his son.
Poor Helmore & his party it turns out
used no medicine except a little
Dover's powder!

Two carpenters - Two masons - one
smith and a headman - an Englishman
(the rest being Scotch) set out from
London to form a settlement near us,
working at their trades the wages going to
a common fund: they bought two waggons
and were proposing to go overland when
the magistrate who testifies to their good
conduct at Ahival North, Cape Colony
laid the case before the Governor. His
Excellency consulted me about sending
them by sea. They seem to be the men who
will suit our plans much better than
those who have been employed by the
mission of the Universities

David Livingstone

Shupanga 18th Dec^r One of the missionaries informs me that the
[0005]
the slaving is going on from Shire to Tette at the rate of 100
[0006]
per week I feel inclined to hang a few of the blackgaurds