

Letter to Andrew Drew, 27 September 1858

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour

27th Sept^r 1858

My Dear Captain Drew

I beg leave to tender
you and Mrs Drew my
hearty thanks for your
kindness to me while with
you and if possible
heartier ones for your
generous kindness to
my wife after my
departure, I shall ever
retain a grateful sense
of your sympathy &
may the Almighty abundantly
reward you.

[0002]

I had just been up at Tete
with my first cargo for I
have been compelled to turn
skipper myself. There we were
the first steamer that ever
appeared among them and
were visited with as much
interest as you would do
the Leviathan. We got a
ton and a half of coals
the very first ever digged in
this region. they were from
the surface where they have
been washed by the floods
of the rivulet in which they
appear for ages and yet
they gave pretty good steam
better the engineer says than
the American which he used
to get at New York. We are

[0003]

rather glad of this for we have

a great abundance of both coal
and iron and with these two
there is hope of civilization
We see the river at its lowest
nearly and though it has
fallen many feet since
Captains Bedingfeld and
Gordon thought so favourably
of it there is not much
difference in its general
appearance. I had a good
deal of difficulty at one
spot where it is about
four miles wide. Indeed
I spent five days seeking
a channel but having
found it we came down
from Tete to Senna in
four days. Above Supata
it was all easy as it runs
one or two channels only
[0004]

This vessel draws 2 ft 6. when loaded
and is very weak in her engine being
but ten horse power. The canoes take
the shine out of us except when we are
coming down stream. Going up, they
pass us and look back at the
"Asthmatic" as she ought to be called
slowly panting along.

My men recieved me with
unbounded joy at Tete. 36 have
fallen victims to fev small pox
and six were murdered by a chief
in a drunken fit. for these our
hearts are very sore. By direction
of the admiralthe Lynx has offered
us any assistance in her power
and I have come down to recieve
what we need. The Furnace has
been of service but as she draws
when loaded more than the Launch
and the latter is very slow, swinging
round if furnace touches the least
sand, she has not done all we
expected. She is up at Tete now
The Admiral and indeed all the naval
authorities including of course yourself
have been remarkably kind & obliging

Kindest salutations to Miss Drew