

## Letter to [Joseph B. Braithwaite], 28 September 1858

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour

28<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1858

My Dear Friend

I send you the first of a letter I began for you but not finish by the time the Pearl us just to shew you I was not unmindful of you as might be . the other unfilled sheet of the damage of Krootown by present Governor Hill who was kind to us and the effect the general health. Now I go farther preface into the middle things and say that I have been at Tete with the first cargo - the steamer ever seen there and visited with as much interest the Leviathan. It would be vain attempt ~~to meet~~ were I to to tell you of my my Makololo companions fellows they grasped my and arms with all fervour

[0002] lullilood as a way of shewing joy Portuguese could not get near me they clustered so closely. I never shed but this time as I told them that had no Sekwebu with me the tears ran in spite of me. Thirty have of small pox and six were killed a half caste chief who holds a stockade the confluence of the Luenyathe is that it was done in a fit of . For them our hearts are sore. they have accumulated a stock property in beads fowls & pigs by & other work and many of have taken wives and possibly a may remain altogether But they say the Tette people taunted us often saying your Englishmen will never but we trusted you and now hearts will sleep.

We got the Tette gentlemen to dig coals us, the very first ever taken out the seam in this country. We got a and a half and the engineer reports to be good for steaming purposes what we have is from the and exposed for ages in the

[0003] of a river to the action of floods our if M<sup>r</sup> Thornton our geologist favourably of them too. He will make a full report of the whole thing , quality &c. With, as I believe my own former observations, no of coal and the best iron ore the Great Architect designed grand for the future of this trodden down Africa. As for I will work with might and at this one thing that it be to the gospel of the grace of Almighty. From all I hear Kebra basa it is not a waterfall a number of rocks jutting out the stream which render the through deep tortuous and . If half a years work a good deal of expense in gun and sweat will remove obstacle then dont be sur at my turning quarryman well as consul & "Skipper" but say nought about it till I see I am going up to see directly the river is low

[0004]

The Naval officer who came with me out badly, quarreled with everyone at last from the confident belief we could not move a mile without took on all manner of airs against . I had to intefere for the protection my companions and especially the Captain of the Pearl and Bedingfeld once resigned. I would have sent home at once but thinking it not be doing as I would be done if I did not give him a chance I allowed to with draw the letter. I could not allow to make the cabin of the Launch his private apartment and on seeing turn out the things of my companions I requested him to ask first. Then came resignation second bore with slander, carping, complaining objections and endeavouring excite the Kroomen to mutiny to the limits

of endurance but he on from bad to worse - ran boat aground and said to one of the "do you think they could do me" So I accepted his resignation mounted the paddle box myself quicker passages - carrying heavier than was ever done before

[0005]

28 Sept. 1858 (contined) trip I never once touched the and he never made a trip without so several times and delayed us by in getting her off. D<sup>r</sup> Kirk it too and was equally successful we got two skippers instead of one. we returned from our first trip did lower jaw descend like his we came in "Ease her, stop her, let the anchor " All right. He then tried in ways to secure his pay but though he accused me of cruelty &c &c because I ordered him to Kilimane and thence home. never met a person who had so regard to truth as he. He seemed trust to unlimited assertion and wrote a log after his dismissal which he changes sides making the person who hindered our progress himself the person anxious to get on

[0006]

It was awfully painful to witness all this connection with extra ostentatious . His secret prayers must be done sight of the whole ship. but if you not be offended I enclose some of the copy I have sent home to Foreign All the rest of my companions agreeable. Not a single jar and B. I had no quarrel. What he make a noise about is the following

I consider this Expedition as experimental various respects one of these is health. Now the great Niger Expedition I am rightly informed had prayers three times a day and stopped all . Warned by its fate I resolved lose not a moment in getting my out of the Mangrove swamps worked on that day at what I to be service to Christ Our Lord asking the leave of the men sent the Pearl off without a case

[0007]

28 Sept. 1858 (continued) People may talk against this they talked against the Niger Expedition's loss life. then when we got out of the of Mangrove & mud we found country in a state of war and could not rest all day on Sunday my companions were exposed be plundered. So I never stopped to have a public religious unless we were all together the island. We have had no yet some colds which resemble a little but nothing serious. This a sand river in contrast to the ones of the West. The river is near its lowest point, and it is spread over between from one to three in width we found con-difficulty in getting a deep . but when we got to Lupata difficulties of that kind ended naval officers gave a very report when it was five six feet higher than now. I see it its worst state and a vessel

[0008] three feet would navigate it with ease was led to trust in the report of the naval respecting this Launch the Ma Robert was decieved for instead of as he said little wood being required we spend our time wood cutting and she has badly constructed engine - so weak too canoes pass us in ascending & look at the "Asthmatic" as she ought to called. It is a great shame to M<sup>r</sup> to send such a job from his shop vessel herself is good & a well made - broader & shorter would save our an immense amount of labour but the is a wretched thing but here we & will make the best of it. Bedingfeld's began in England. He led me reject the Ban a fine vessel drawing 3 but I find now it was because he have been required to navigate her out he could not from sea sickness

the war is finished. It was nothing to us for we from one side to the other perpetually as friends both. We sometimes raised an alarm in the camp by coming near their sentinels by night when we called out "English" (Maingleze) was right. Several influential Portuguese wished accept my mediation but the Governor refused love to Robert and you all in Kendal M<sup>rs</sup> L is away to Kuruman David Livingstone

Two Dutch clergymen whom I met in the house of a rebel have fastened on a footnote in

book and make a great row because £400 or £500 is mentioned instead of £200 or 300

[0009] say nothing of my mention of them. They wish by this slight mistake to discredit on the whole