

## Letter to John Washington, 6 October 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Private

Kongone River 6<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

1858

My Dear Captain Washington

A letter from M<sup>r</sup> Cook  
the master in charge of the Lynx  
which I recieved at Shupanga  
conveys such a different  
idea of Luabo or principal  
mouth of the Zambesi[from ours] that  
I think I would not be doing  
my duty did I not place it in  
your hands. The Lynx remained  
a week we remained only  
three days - this shews what  
a survey might effect  
I went yesterday up a creek  
branching off from the left  
of this harbour & running  
parallel with the coast &  
found that it communicated

[0002]

with the Luabo and today we  
take the launch through it  
in our way back to Tette  
We have got several repairs made  
in her - and I got a quartermaster  
John Walker- and a stoker  
W<sup>m</sup> Roe for her the former  
at double full pay £72 per  
annum - the latter at £50  
The Ban is the vessel for the  
work of if it will be given  
and then a second master  
as surveyor would be quite  
high enough rank for her  
commander. My experience

would lead me to prefer  
being without a naval com  
mander. Kirk & Thornton  
are anxious to go to Manica  
by way of Gorongozo West of  
Senna. The only difficulty  
I see in the way is I cannot

[0003]

very well leave the Launch to  
go with them. I am very  
anxious to see the inscriptions  
on Gorongozo. The river  
in October attains its lowest  
but the Ban would go up  
to Tette easily even now  
after we know which is  
the best channel. This launch  
is decidedly bad as far as the  
engine is concerned a head  
wind holds the paddles & she cant turn the centre

I have drawn on the  
funds of the expedition  
again as I had to give  
the Pearl £30 and some  
stores, and paid advances  
on Kroomen's wages  
besides arrears of two  
whom we leave in Lynx.

[0004]

We had not a drop of wine for  
the quinine though we have used  
our river stock for that alone  
and as medicine - though I am  
not out of money as I expect  
a bill for Bedingfeld's keep at  
Kilimane and we have decided  
not to come down at Christmas  
on account of getting per Lynx  
what we needed then I thought  
it best to be beforehand - I expect  
we shall need no more for  
a twelvemonth. Thanks for your  
two kind notes - We are at present  
all well - this harbour is all exposed  
to the sea breeze and not like Skead's  
surrounded & closed in by Mangrove  
swamps. Next time I shall tell

you all about the Kebrabasa for  
we go now to examine it at low  
water. I am hoping we shall not  
require to take the Launch to pieces  
even there - I have got various supplies  
slops &c from the naval departments  
all being very kind

David Livingstone

I wrote a letter to M<sup>r</sup> John Laird and gave him full particulars  
about his engine but on second thoughts do not send it. On careful  
examination. I think his conduct to us shameful. Numerous articles  
commonly given gratis with engines are to us all charged.

[0005]

The Lynx lost a boat's crew on the Luabo bar before  
we came down having mistaken it for the Kongone. I suggested  
to Captain Berkely to put up a beacon on the island on Kongone

[0006]

mouth and he has done it except supports which are indicated by dotted  
lines. I have decided to ask the Governor of Kilimane to send

our letters to Mozambique rather than allow ship's boats  
call at that dangerous port. We shall try also to get our  
letters kept at a village near this.