

Letter to John Washington, 31 January 1862

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[0001]

H. M. S. Pioneer, R Zambesi

31st January 1862

Dear Captain Washington

This morning H. M. S. hove in sight off East

Luabo with a brig in tow having portable steamer & M^{rs} L. on . We go out to her tomorrow . Captain Wilson came over a very rough bar on of seeing us here while had come only to wood, being but little to be had at

Kongone. Rae came with him has the tools you mention roadmaking which are sufficient, and 3 casks ale for which accept my thanks

I am very much distressed find by your letter of August you have been led to believe the naval officer selected you for the Pioneer "returned any reason". I from giving you

[0002] derogatory, and left him "give his own explanation" rubbed out the words now at his suggestion likely to convey the idea that like a quarrel between & me had occurred, but never anticipated that there be no reason alledged you. I expected that he would the reason in the most light for himself was quite willing that should be so. He claimed be set over D^r Kirk & not a syllable to support claim. D^r K. offered that no interference take place on his in the management the ship while I was alive after my decease until pleasure of the Foreign should be known "Oh dear no he would play second fiddle to anyone"

[0003]

D^r K. could not reasonably be under May without an to that effect, so it became simple question of justice & play. As far as I was it was Kirk and of the country - people languages - or May without of either, but a assertion of appointment a naval position in the Expedition has no existence. He not manage a wooding of natives, so I had to do that, leaving May to sit on easy chair. His eye was accustomed to river , though he promised to expert, so I had to pilot or see the ship run perpetually in the

Rovuma - and all the claims to a time when I have "kicked the bucket" over seemly from a dawdling whose chances

[0004] life were certainly inferior to . I have never had a serious since my return - Had on foot to Sesheke & spared myself - And as this the man of whom you told in London that "should any set up his back as May had done in the Niger I would justified in landing him on first island" I thought it was to keep Kirk & let him go way quietly. I respectfully that in so doing I was of no disregard to your , and I very earnestly a reconsideration of your against against me. I entreat not to throw us overboard it is a fact that civil & naval officers never will on well together. Continue kindness and if life is me I shall be no to you. I write this in hurry feeling very sorry that conduct which I still think good been disapproved D. Livingstone