

## Letter to John Washington, 16 February 1859

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Tette 16 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1859

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

Having visited Kebra basa during the period of low water I left with M<sup>r</sup> C. Livingstone & M<sup>r</sup> Baines examine it again when the Zambesi risen twelve feet, and with D<sup>r</sup> Kirk company went up the Shire about hundred miles from its confluence is admirably adapted for steam being deep & without sand . The current is not quite so strong in the Zambesi but unlike that river has no still reaches and is on that scarcely navigable by heavy canoes Portuguese have never ascended more that 20 or 30 from its con-but say that one Governor sent an expedition to explore it progress was stopped by the great of duck weed which blocked up river. As the duck weed disappears 25 miles up we judge of the distance as not very great

[0002]

Marambala placed on the wrong side of the

Shire in my map as M<sup>r</sup> Arrowsmith may is 4000 ft high and would make splendid sanatorium. It is well cultivated the top - has plenty of water and a exceedingly like that of Londa Angola - the climate is quite different that below but our Portuguese friends never availed themselves of it of the hot sulphureous fountain at base (174°) though skin diseases are common among them as red noses ourselves. I thought it would be to the Foreign Secretary to recieve impressions of another observer & D<sup>r</sup> Kirk to write a report which doubt you will see as one of my . I would only add that beyond cataract that stopped our progress up, are five days of rocky country & the river is reported smooth and used by the Moors to come down canoes from Nyanja. The people were suspicious of us that I did not con-it prudent to leave the vessel and farther. We waited three days at the for an observation for latitude vain, and during that time had a on each bank gaurding us. did nothing to make us ashamed

[0003] go back - the people had plenty of cotton, i.e. their own use and sold their yarn , and provisions also, but they expected us to attack & kidnap . When we went ashore they behaved and our wooding parties were molested, so I think we made a beginning of intercourse them. They dont need cotton seed, variety they possess is better than we have to give.

On returning to Tette we found that M<sup>r</sup> C. . & his companion had gone to Kebra basa. they returned next day after

[our arrival and] their reports which I have enclosed the Foreign Secretary coincide with I advanced in my last dispatch. cataracts become obliterated in , but a strong steamer is to stem the current and be drawn into the eddies. this is rather favourable for than otherwise, for the Portuguese not be able to pass without assistance, and a sense of may dispose them be more cordial in co-operating with . At present they have to pay leave to pass untill they get to

[0004]

Zumbo, and think themselves happy they get off by paying 20 pieces of cloth = 320 yards. At the time I came they could not go at all but casts go now.

the Makololo on learning that we had to work down here till we had whither H M Government would a vessel large enough to take us & luggage up, proposed that I should them

my brother to lead a party home. I agreed at once and did my brother but on second they said "that their orders been to come back with me and feared leaving me here would be into disobedience when reached Sekeletu." They have uniformly from intelligent motives - I give rations at the rate of 8 fathoms of cloth weekly or about 10/ in value. the support themselves - one of them a stoker and M<sup>r</sup> Rae says he does work than all the Kroomen together M<sup>r</sup> R's suggestion I have raised his to 1/6 per day. When we go anywhere accompany us as the Krooman to be unable to travel on foot

[0005] remember an order sent out by the Gov<sup>t</sup> to support them at public expense of the Province of

Mosambique. It would do no good let it be publicly known that order came with myself & has been acted on. And here the game law which claims the of the elephant which lies the ground for the Lord of the soil been put into operation by authorities. The commandant our best friend and I dont wish to be known as he would be . He assisted the headmen largely out of his own private and has done everything possibly could for us. Col. took nothing for Bedingfeld's and other Portuguese have liberally so I dont say which might to be con-disparagingly.

We put up a little engine I brought us and the first work it did

[0006] to saw up plank for a boat our Major Secard wishes to build. We can a corn and small sugar mill mean to use them both for our use (meal) and to shew the here what can be done with cane. I was mistaken in saying natives dont make sugar. Here do and we buy it very cheap for Kroomen. We have a turning lathe blast - but these were all intended & hope will be used among the Makololo the way we have three boxes of of which I know nothing I ordered I know they are small and compact but these are . I hope no one has come with bill after I left. When the river I felt strongly inclined to drag half canoe half steamer & whole of a vessel through but we should succeed as she carry no cargo we would soon be destitute. And there Manica which I have a strong desire to examine. We going to Gorongozo

[0007] the Portuguese dissuaded us from attempt now - the grass is now tall as to wet one with the dew obstructs the vision. this is our most unhealthy season we have had slight touches fever Baines Thornton & C. Livingstone

Kirk and I have enjoyed uninterrupted health ever since we . We took quinine in the Shire. The Quarter master and are well and doing well. latter William Rowe not Roe I spelled it has been in the of giving his wife a portion his wages and I have presumed your kindness to see it . This was mentioned in last dispatch - Her present address M<sup>rs</sup> Rowe N<sup>o</sup> 79 Mount St , Devon. By a mistake was marked Discharged, now is not discharged but lent as he has 18 years service shall write the Admiral to change word. He very promptly saved

[0008] lives of several natives whose canoe overturned and shewed an example of imitation to the Portuguese - only morning a woman was taken by an alligator and the brute came the vessel with her in its mouth numbers are taken off annually them yet when I offered a subscription £2 to build a fence as we saw done the Shire the priest at Senna would bring the project forward.

We came back from the Shire on the 2<sup>d</sup> . I think it proper to remain during month under shelter on account the unhealthiness of this season. At

Quilimane this is the fatal period there is illness but no deaths. wish I knew what Burton has at Nyanja. We have had no since we left England except few letters in Nov<sup>r</sup> last from Cape and a note from yourself. suns bearings will come in nicely , and if well you may expect hear that we have done something up Shire or in Manica Gorongozo. Please remember me to your Lady & family. I hear nothing of mine

David Livingstone

Will you let me know how Sabine liked the magnetical observations  
Zambesi is 4 inches less, 15 feet above low water mark of November