

Letter to John Washington, 1 February 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)
[0001]

Kongone 1st Feb^y 1861

Pioneer got
in on the 5th
all right

My Dear Captain Washington

A barque rigged vessel
appeared on the South East of Flag
Staff island [last night] and answered our
signals at 8 P.M. so we conclude
that our new vessel must be
near and make up our mails. See
a schooner opposite Luabo at midday.

Rowe had worked at the
bottom of the launch so assiduously
during our absence, that we thought
we could bring her down to
Senna, and there take out the engine.
We took the Pinnacle too - an old
teredo eaten one when we got her -
intending to stick to that which
swam longest. The Pinnacle went
first, and we could put the finger
[0002]

through any part of her bottom with ease
when we decided to use her as fuel
New holes burst out every day in
the Launch, sometimes seven in
one afternoon. We puddled & patched
most strenuously, but at last
could not keep two compartments
from being constantly full - went
some days so - but happening
to drift on to a sand bank
scarcely knee deep the weight of
the two full compartments
prevented our getting her off. the
water took away the sand from the
upper side, and she filled all over.
We took our things out and the

river rising next day she was
covered. She lies one day above
Senna. We have taken all the
good out of her that ever was in her
[0003]

I only regret that I did not get a bottom
plate to send to you and you would
see that patent steel is not the thing
for Tropical waters.

I am in want of writing paper
official & other kinds. Baines made
away with our supply. We require
also a fresh supply of Resin of
Jalap and Rhubarb. Also some
phials for insects M^r Young will
select the proper kind when he
gets my letter - I have to beg
your favour in sending our
periodicals by your mail
they come so irregularly & are used
I conjecture at the Cape that I wish
them sent by a man of war
without going to the Post Office
It is a mere conjecture on my
part from my periodicals having
[0004]
been treated in the same way when I was
at Kolobeng

D^r Kirk was going home but when
we heard that the Rovuma was to be
explored I saw [that] the botany there ought to be
examined as well as that of the Zambesi
and that he would like to go. So we
take him. He has done well for this
region. His report is a good one.
It will be sent next mail. Thornton has gone to Mosambique. His salary
will on my recommendation
be restored to him.

I am very much delighted with the
prospect of a mission from the
Universities - and think that great
good will be done. The London Mission-
aries did not let me know of their
movements though the Cape papers
spoke of them as "in connection with
the Zambesi Expedition" - and it was only
at Victoria Falls that we became aware
of their arrival & sad fate. We shall take

care to make the medical man of the Universities
Mission thoroughly aware of the way to treat Fever.
I have ventured to say that you can supply the name
of our Bead merchant M^r Kendal to the secretaries
[0005]

If I add nothing more it will be on finding
our vessel all right a boat is now
[0006]
coming ashore by the wrong passage East of
the Island a mistake she did not come in

Yours Most Truly D. Livingstone

4th both vessels came opposite us yesterday & answered our
signals last night - they want fair weather