

## Letter to John Washington, 1 February 1861

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Kongone 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1861

Pioneer got  
in on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
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<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> 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

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