

## Letter to Philip Saumarez, 30 July 1859

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

You will oblige me much if you could conveniently come ashore & look at us. You will be able to do more than I could by coming on board.

Kongone Harbour

30<sup>th</sup> July 1859

Commander P Saumarez. R N.

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure in acknowledging your favour of 28<sup>th</sup> and regret that you have so little to spare now that we have the pleasure of meeting a Man of War. We have a wretched little craft put together in the flimsiest contract style and as we are very anxious for her to last long enough for us to examine

[0002]

a route which we think opens up a very large portion of the Highlands of Eastern Africa. On this point I beg to submit the letter which we had deposited on the island off this harbour the vessel was only 1/16 of an inch thick in the beginning and is now no thicker than this paper. if we can have some sheet iron to tinker the worst parts, and some [^] [one or two] thin planks to mend our whalers both of which are leaky with copper nails, and white [ned] lead [with paint oil]. these will enable us to hold out till we have

[0003]

gone up Shire & back again and  
all the good will have been  
got out of her (and a great  
deal more) than was ever  
put in her by the builders

You will favour us  
much if you spare us  
some salt provisions,  
whatever it be, it will be  
acceptable. Shoes, good  
blankets, socks or stockings  
blue check shirts, a piece  
of blue cloth [^] [& serge] enough to  
make a jacket or two,  
a piece of sheet lead

We have ten Kroomen  
shipped at Sierra [^] [Leone] for two  
years. Our work will  
in all probability be on  
land for the next six  
months. We have 46  
Makololo who are useful

[0004]

on land where  
Kroomen are  
useless. Will you be able  
to ship them so that they  
may be useful on board  
men of war and the  
contract not be broken.  
Our Quarter master  
J. Walker, an excellent  
hand has been ill, and  
wishes to go to hospital.  
His absence and that  
of the Kroomen would  
be well supplied by two  
good [steady] volunteer seamen.  
We give double full pay.  
Excuse this troublesome  
business. I shall make  
a proper requisition when  
I know what you can spare

I am Dear Sir

Most Truly Yours

David Livingstone