

Letter to Philip Saumarez, 30 July 1859

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour

30th July 1859

Commander P Saumarez. R N.

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure
in acknowledging your
favour of 28th 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

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.