

## Letter to John Washington, 1 May 1861

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour

1<sup>st</sup> May 1861

Dear Captain Washington

M<sup>r</sup>Hardesty informs me the brasses or bushes of paddle shafts are cracked a strain put on them aground in the Rovuma. thinks that they were too originally - some sand got in and worn them good deal thinner. As

M<sup>r</sup> Penn has the patterns think it well to send new ones and as soon

[0002] we have an opportunity M<sup>r</sup> H. will make a drawing of with buttresses on them which M<sup>r</sup> Penn will able to send us thicker stronger ones.

18 May Shamo in R. Shire.

After spending some days in & going round by the 's canal to the mouth of Luabo we steamed up the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> to Mazaro taking 16 hours from the sea to point. the last time we over the same ground in famous "Despatch boat" it took ten days. We did not touch ground once - though the channel a little altered by the late very flood. At Shupanga

[0003] went over to the shoal side of the in order to get young mango & pineapple plants for the and unfortunately on a shoal and had as Rovuma the engines filled sand. They are splendid and a credit to their but there is a defect few would think of, pipe which draws in the is placed so as to draw sand whenever we come shoal water - there seems to no rose to them pebbles the

size marbles were taken the bottom of the air pump. If addition to those [pipes] already in had others as marked by the lines & a cock to shut off set one could be used

[0004] a sea way the others in the - a few yards of copper & cocks would not cost and M<sup>r</sup> Penn would doubt take the trouble to fit according to his model the roses of the new pipes 3 1/2 feet from the bottom harm would ever come the engines either by sand or . As it is now the when we need the engines they are of the least use our bilges are so shallow cannot draw water from .

We spent some days repairing are now waiting for our and cotton gins from Senna, Shire is all deep except one or small spots. We have a good of fever yet. We are very crowded - 52 souls aboard and a deck cargo - but for wood cutting

[0005] should be at Murchison's cataracts in

2 days from this. We came from Johanna

[0006] eight days & waited one night only for a bar am &c David Livingstone