

Letter to John Washington, 19, 28 April 1858

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[0001]

Steamer Pearl, at sea

19th April 1858

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

I am happy to inform
you that we are now so far
on our way as to have the
prospect of reaching the
Cape by tomorrow (20th) evening
We left Sierra Leone on
the 10th and sighted the coast
near Cape Negro, and
considering that we have
had head winds nearly all
the way and a current
against us as well we
have done fairly.

My companions are all
in good health and spirits
but M^{rs} L. has been sick
[0002]
continuously ever since we
left Sierra Leone and as it
seems to be the sea sickness
plus 'the nine months com-
plaint to which ladies are
subject I have decided to
leave her at the Cape and
let her proceed with her brother
M^r Moffat to Kuruman, there
to await her confinement
and then come up overland
to the Makololo country. this
arrangement is a great dis-
appointment to me and will
be still more so to the Makololo
who looked forward to her coming
with more interest than [to] mine.

She would have been a comfort
to any who might be sick.
the expense is considerable, £200
at least, and to make matters
worse I actually gave away
my waggon now standing at
Cape Town a few days before
I left England, and a new
one costs £75 in this dear labour country
[0003]

I have written out instructions
for all my companions and
regular observations will be
begun as soon as we leave the
Cape in order to get their hands
in. I have thought that the
following deviation from the
plan drawn out will meet
your approbation. After the
Bar is sounded we take the
Pearl into smooth water, put
the Launch together as that can
be done in a few hours and
then make her pilot the Pearl
up the river. Then from
whatever point it may be
determined on to send the Pearl
back, send the Ma Robert to
pilot her back to the sea.
She will sound both ways
and the risk of grounding the
larger vessel will be reduced
to the minimum.

It may be well to examine
both the Luabo branches - i.e.
The Eastern & Western or Hoskins
[0004]
as it may be called as he thinks
the latter the best, and then
make our choice but this will
be left to Bedingfeld's judgment,
and the state of the river when
we get there. Captain Duncan
is a very careful navigator.
By the way M^r Duncan the
Colonial Office agent neglected
to give him any money to purchase
fresh provisions for his crew,
and he needed planks [fresh water] & besides
Oldfield from whom he got what

he needed seemed unwilling
to take his bill on the Colonial
Office so to settle the difficulty
I wrote "approved" on the bills
and as we were just sailing
I could [not] write you to tell you that these expenses are not those of
the Expedition but of the Colonial
vessel. The senior Naval
officer was absent and the
commissariat could not give
us men to coal so Captain D.
was obliged to incur expenses
which were not provided for
by the Colonial agent. It will
be so here again I suppose.

Captain Duncan has draw
£130 on the Ceylon Government

28th April We found M^r and M^{rs} Moffat here from Kuruman - my men
still at Tete - Skead is going with us - so is the Hermes - Duncan
is supplied with money by Sir George Grey to be repaid by the
[0005]
Ceylon Government - Maclear is well & hearty - Captain
Saunders of the Buffalo sailed with you and would do anything for us
for your sake - we sail on 30th Captain Lister is thoroughly obliging
the Admiral not having returned yet. I am &c David Livingstone