

Letter to John Washington, 6 October 1858

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[0001]

I wrote a letter to M^r John Laird and gave him full particulars about his engine but on second thoughts do not send it. On careful examination. I think his conduct to us shameful. Numerous articles commonly given gratis with engines are to us all charged.

Private

Kongone River 6th Oct^r
1858

My Dear Captain Washington

A letter from M^r Cook
the master in charge of the Lynx
which I recieved at Shupanga
conveys such a different
idea of Luabo or principal
mouth of the Zambesi [from ours] that
I think I would not be doing
my duty did I not place it in
your hands. The Lynx remained
a week we remained only
three days - this shews what
a survey might effect
I went yesterday up a creek
branching off from the left
of this harbour & running
parallel with the coast &
found that it communicated

[0002]

The Lynx lost a boat's crew on the Luabo bar before
we came down having mistaken it for the Kongone. I suggested
to Captain Berkely to put up a beacon on the island on Kongone

with the Luabo and today we
take the launch through it
in our way back to Tette
We have got several repairs made
in her - and I got a quartermaster
John Walker- and a stoker
W^m Roe for her the former
at double full pay £72 per
annum - the latter at £50

The Ban is the vessel for the
work of if it will be given
and then a second master
as surveyor would be quite
high enough rank for her
commander. My experience
would lead me to prefer
being without a naval com
mander. Kirk & Thornton
are anxious to go to Manica
by way of Gorongozo West of
Senna. The only difficulty
I see in the way is I cannot

[0003]

mouth and he has done it except supports which are indicated by dotted
lines. I have decided to ask the Governor of Kilimane to send

our letters to Mozambique rather than allow ship's boats
call at that dangerous port. We shall try also to get our
letters kept at a village near this.

very well leave the Launch to
go with them. I am very
anxious to see the inscriptions
on Gorongozo. The river
in October attains its lowest
but the Ban would go up
to Tette easily even now
after we know which is
the best channel. This launch
is decidedly bad as far as the
engine is concerned a head
wind holds the paddles &
she cant turn the centre

I have drawn on the
funds of the expedition
again as I had to give
the Pearl £30 and some
stores, and paid advances
on Kroomen's wages
besides arrears of two
whom we leave in Lynx.

[0004]

We had not a drop of wine for
the quinine though we have used
our river stock for that alone
and as medicine - though I am
not out of money as I expect

a bill for Bedingfeld's keep at
Kilimane and we have decided
not to come down at Christmas
on account of getting per Lynx
what we needed then I thought
it best to be beforehand - I expect
we shall need no more for
a twelvemonth. Thanks for your
two kind notes - We are at present
all well - this harbour is all exposed
to the sea breeze and not like Skead's
surrounded & closed in by Mangrove
swamps. Next time I shall tell
you all about the Kebrabasa for
we go now to examine it at low
water. I am hoping we shall not
require to take the Launch to pieces
even there - I have got various supplies
slops &c from the naval departments
all being very kind

David Livingstone