

Letter to John Washington, 6 June 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

6th June 1862. Kongone

We must go up & launch
the vessel and come down
again when a ship arrives
with our Johanna crew
and provisions. I am sorry
for this grievous delay but
no vessel has been able to
call between 20th May & 1st June

We beached the Pioneer &
recoppered her stern which
had been torn by the anchor
& by touching the ground -
the boilers were emptied but
it strained her somewhat
We are sadly in want of
caulking & paint.

A note from D^r Kirk at
Shupanga to which he came
from Tette on 26th ult. says
that the Governor of Tette

[0002]

was remarkably kind and
hospitable keeping open
house for him while there
one evening he touched on
our liberating captives from
his slave hunters on the
Manganja and said that
he had corresponded with
his brother the Governor
General of Mosambique
on the subject & that the
Governor General said
"the Portuguese law allowed
it and when far beyond
Portuguese power the
slave hunters must repel
force by force & in so
doing they would only be
defending themselves from
robbery." this is the man
who tells all our officers

[0003]

how much he hates slavery
and all except Lyons
Macleod believe him.
It is virtually authorizing
his brother at Tette to
do as much slavehunting
on our footsteps as
possible & he will screen
him through it all.

We understand that
the Governor of Lisbon
has decreed that all children
born of slaves are free
& slavery is to cease in nine
or ten years. The Governors
here work with great
duplicity and as I suspected
wish to work us out
All however is fair
outside.

A private called Belshore

[0004]

was seen by the D^r at Shigogo
with a horde of armed negroes.
He has driven Chibisa away
and depopulated the country
where Chibisa was opposite
Chiramba - Zambesi. He is
now going to the mission on
pretence of asking Dickenson
to cure him of blindness
the effects of venereal disease
He will destroy all the villages
on the right bank of the Shire
and pay himself in slaves
then the Governor of Tette will
come in - disallow it all -
and claim the country as
Portuguese by conquest.

I am glad to hear from
Rae that you knew & had
taken precautions about the
Rovuma before I knew -
the change at court is in our
favour. We shall go to Rovuma
as soon as we launch
on the Lake

[D^r Livingstone]

[0005]

While beginning a trade
in cotton on the Lake we
think no time need be
lost as to commencing
one in wood on Rovuma
the Ebony close to the
bank was as thick
as a man's body &
other woods suitable
for shipbuilding
seemed abundant
We saw no Lignum
vitae in the first 30
miles but good dye
wood - this seems to
be feasible if we have
our health. We hope
to take Pioneer round
next flood

[0006]

I hope you will excuse
my troubling you with
the watch I sent home
Gedye owes me £20
and Hardisty £6 of
private money - from
these sums the price
will be taken and
if repaired I shall feel
obliged if you give
it to my daughter
Agnes. Possibly
the
maker will be able
to put it to rights better
than any other or give
another instead.

Excuse my troubling
you this

David Livingstone