

Letter to John Washington

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

20 Bedford Square

9th January

1858

My Dear Captain Washington

I called at your office
at 12 1/2 this morning &
again at 2 o'clock but
finding that you were at
the war office I concluded
that you would be
detained some time and
therefore came home to
write to you.

[0002]

I called to shew the plan
of the expedition which
I had sketched out for
the consideration of Lord
Clarendon but failing
to find you I may mention
that I give the names
of Commander Bedingfeld
M^r Richard Thornton, D^r
John Kirk, M^r Charles
Livingstone, M^r T. Baines
(Engineer (not named) and
ten kroomen which
according to your very

[0003]

excellent suggestion ought to be
written for that the Admiral on
visiting Sierra Leone may take
them down the Cape with him .
The persons mentioned by
name are thus, the naval
officer, the mining geologist

the botanist - the general
assistant and the artist
& storekeeper.

Supposing the expedition
to be so organized and put
down at the mouth of the
Zambesi I propose to ascend
as quickly as possible
we get through the gorge of
Lupata then stop at

[0004]

Tete to deposit some of the
heavier luggage - visit
certain chiefs who have
power in the vicinity and
enable the botanist and
geologist to get a general
idea of the resources of that
part of the country .

Next proceed to the rapid Kebra-basa and see
about passing it, (and by
the way it may be proper
to have some contrivance
for conveying it by land
if it is dangerous to attempt
to force it up the rapid)
that obstacle being sur-

[0005]

mounted we proceed to visit
certain chiefs on the banks
and ascend to the healthy
high-lands near the Kafue .
Erect an iron house with
the consent of the inhabitants
and make excursions .

These plans are made on the supposition that
my old companions the
Makololo are gone back
to their own country. If
they have remained all
the operations of expedition
will be very much facili-
tated. At the end of the first
year it is proposed to

[0006]

return to Kebrabasa in the launch
and send home a full report
to the Foreign Office. Then
~~rela~~ communications having
been established with the
Makololo chief the expedition
turns its attention to the north
examining whether the net
work of waters reported
there is correct or not
and if it seems feasible
after examining the
information to be derived
from native travellers
proceed to the sources of
the Zambesi .

[0007]

During the whole time the iron
house will serve as a depot
for the convenience of depositing
collections and religious instruction
will be given to the natives
who will probably congregate
around. I think the moral
influence of a permanent
location of this kind will
very materially tend to the success of the expedition .

At the end of the second
year we return again to
Kebra-basa to instruction
from home. The members
then having the option of
returning to England .

[0008]

I could have wished to have
had your judgement on the plan but
I have delayed so long with it that
seeing you were so fully occupied
I at last sent it in to Lord
Clarendon. It will probably come
to you yet and I hope to have
your suggestions thereon.

A boat built in three
compartments each of which
is water tight and when the middle portion is taken out

is about the size of a ship 's
dingy would be a useful
article for the smaller rivers .
Might we have one?

I am yours most truly

David Livingstone