

Letter to John Washington, 10 November 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Private (II)

Kongone Harbour 10 Nov^r

1859

My Dear Captain Washington

We recieved our first mail leaving England eight days ago, and it your kind favours of 5th July, 5 Dec^r

5th Nov^r 6 Dec^r /58 4 & 5 Jan^y /59 and I my sincere and hearty thanks for tokens of your kind remembrance. have replied to M^r Lairds assertions a letter accompanying this; and will in this that the letter copied was addressed you but I have not made use of your in the matter. [The island at his village is called

Dakanamoio Lat 16° 2 S. Long 35° 1 E.]

When we returned from Nyassa to

Chibisa's M^r C. Livingstone had to make Observations there. As the launch unfit to go up to Tette, M^r Rae her a new funnel from copper supplied by H. M. S. Persian, then D^r Kirk marched overland to

Tette for the materials to patch up the bottom this beach. I waited till the observations made, then descended Shire to its with the Zambesi. Rowe the and Hutchins our seaman went the whaler thence up to Senna & brought our long longed for mail. During time we kept her dry by pumping of four times a day, and I thought

[0002] we could with ease wait at Shupanga Kirk & Rae returned from Tette, but the water being very low we touched the twice and the sand seemed to have off the rust formed as she lay the Shire for she became honey combed over. Our pumps - (a common small pump exactly such as are used for spirits!) could not keep her afloat all the compartments leaked. I had to ground her every night and the rose up to the level outside before . this rubbed still more of the rust so I had to run down from Shupanga to this, and beach her without waiting Kirk & Rae. So here we are and we intend make the best of our bad bargain with planks (part of the iron house) white lead & canvas.

The conduct of the steel plates we observe this - a species of rust forms - not brown rust but on the inner side black & brittle, and this scales off the plate quite smooth and exactly if it had come out of the fire on rollers hour before. These scales form both out-and inside. I tried to get a bit of the inside enclose for you, but it crumbles into . [(Piece enclosed)] the scaling goes on till the plates absolutely as thin as wafers and you bend them backwards & forwards as do the very thinnest of tin plates - our at first 1/16 of an inch thick are honey through all over & when we beached her weight on the sand burst many fresh holes

[0003] plates were well painted both inside & out with Peacock's patent on our voyage . When I first saw the scaling with clean black smooth surface left I thought steel plates were answering well but experience says unless they are thick they are not the thing for rivers. The iron [or steel] bolts in them dont rust.

I turn now to a more pleasant subject one in which I know you will . I am becoming every day and more convinced that the from which we have come admirably adapted for European , and that a small English with its religious and mercantile will do more to forward the of

African elevation than anything . We have a high cool healthy region.

C. Livingstone, Kirk & Rae never saw a well watered tract in all their , and they have all seen a good deal the world. There is no tsetse, and it is a corner of the rich lands which I saw to the West. the people unlike the Caffres, no cattle except a few goats & sheep, are great agriculturalists, cotton is now very extensively. In many parts the contains a good deal of salt & raises of long staple almost spontaneously trade could easily be developed by Europeans - and as all the slave

[0004] other trade must cross Shire to along the partition between the Lakes Tamándua & Nyassa, and thence diverge Mosambique, Angoxia River & other parts, quiet & effectual blow could be struck a most important section of the slave . I have no doubt but a great could be done by the natives themselves, long time is required to gain their con-and this will be done [soonest and] most effectually a missionary & mercantile establishment. believe we could open the way for this by small steamer made to be unscrewed at foot of the cataracts into pieces of 200 or

300 cwt each, & carried past in 2 scotch [with mules]. A few sappers & miners [assisted by natives] would make road of 33 miles in three months. Rae is an excellent Engineer says a steamer this kind could be arranged without difficulty.

Tod & Macgregor of Glasgow have made for Australian rivers drawing 30 only, and they have sailed out. I would got a vessel from M^r Tod for nothing he not supposed that M^r Laird was something very superior.

I must take the Makololo home in the of 1860 though I do it on foot. I wish knew whether the Government would coun-my plan of a road past the cataracts which now submit to them. I could then arrange the natives for the sale of a station & visit the chiefs on returning from Sekeletu's do seriously believe that an English colony a cotton field is the remedy for Africa her slave trade. D Livingstone

The wine for the passage out was abundant but only three cases of 2 dozen were the supply for the Expedition afterwards. We had all the Pearls on our stock & some of the "Hermes".

[0005] when the Kroomen got fever we put them on it - and even used

[0006] mixture of brandy & water instead. We got a quantity of Cape brandy & wine the purpose but at last gave it all up. I ordered a glass of wine to each midday on returning lately knocked up from Nyassa.