

## Letter to John Washington, 6 June 1862

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[0001]

6<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Kirk at  
Shupanga to which he came  
from Tette on 26<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>e</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> 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