

## Letter to John Washington, 19, 28 April 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))  
[0001]

Captain Duncan has draw  
£130 on the Ceylon Government

Steamer Pearl, at sea  
19<sup>th</sup> April 1858

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

I am happy to inform  
you that we are now so far  
on our way as to have the  
prospect of reaching the  
Cape by tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup>) evening  
We left Sierra Leone on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> and sighted the coast  
near Cape Negro, and  
considering that we have  
had head winds nearly all  
the way and a current  
against us as well we  
have done fairly.

My companions are all  
in good health and spirits  
but M<sup>rs</sup> L. has been sick

[0002]

28<sup>th</sup> April We found M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Moffat here from Kuruman - my men  
still at Tete - Skead is going with us - so is the Hermes - Duncan  
is supplied with money by Sir George Grey to be repaid by the

continuously ever since we  
left Sierra Leone and as it  
seems to be the sea sickness  
plus 'the nine months com-  
plaint to which ladies are  
subject I have decided to  
leave her at the Cape and  
let her proceed with her brother  
M<sup>r</sup> Moffat to Kuruman, there  
to await her confinement  
and then come up overland  
to the Makololo country. this  
arrangement is a great dis-  
appointment to me and will

be still more so to the Makololo  
who looked forward to her coming  
with more interest than [to] mine.  
She would have been a comfort  
to any who might be sick.  
the expense is considerable, £200  
at least, and to make matters  
worse I actually gave away  
my waggon now standing at  
Cape Town a few days before  
I left England, and a new  
one costs £75 in this dear labour country

[0003]

Ceylon Government - Maclear is well & hearty - Captain  
Saunders of the Buffalo sailed with you and would do anything for us  
for your sake - we sail on 30<sup>th</sup> Captain Lister is thoroughly obliging  
the Admiral not having returned yet. I am &c David Livingstone

I have written out instructions  
for all my companions and  
regular observations will be  
begun as soon as we leave the  
Cape in order to get their hands  
in. I have thought that the  
following deviation from the  
plan drawn out will meet  
your approbation. After the  
Bar is sounded we take the  
Pearl into smooth water, put  
the Launch together as that can  
be done in a few hours and  
then make her pilot the Pearl  
up the river. Then from  
whatever point it may be  
determined on to send the Pearl  
back, send the Ma Robert to  
pilot her back to the sea.  
She will sound both ways  
and the risk of grounding the  
larger vessel will be reduced  
to the minimum.

It may be well to examine  
both the Luabo branches - i.e.  
The Eastern & Western or Hoskins

[0004]

as it may be called as he thinks  
the latter the best, and then  
make our choice but this will

be left to Bedingfeld's judgment,  
and the state of the river when  
we get there. Captain Duncan  
is a very careful navigator.  
By the way M<sup>r</sup> Duncan the  
Colonial Office agent neglected  
to give him any money to purchase  
fresh provisions for his crew,  
and he needed planks [fresh water] & besides  
Oldfield from whom he got what  
he needed seemed unwilling  
to take his bill on the Colonial  
Office so to settle the difficulty  
I wrote "approved" on the bills  
and as we were just sailing  
I could [not] write you to tell you that  
these expenses are not those of  
the Expedition but of the Colonial  
vessel. The senior Naval  
officer was absent and the  
commissariat could not give  
us men to coal so Captain D.  
was obliged to incur expenses  
which were not provided for  
by the Colonial agent. It will  
be so here again I suppose.