

# Letter to John Washington, 9 December 1857

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[0001]

With the  
questions

Admiralty

9<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

1857

Dear Captain Washington

While waiting at  
the Admiralty I shall  
try & answer your  
questions

1<sup>st</sup> the unhealthy  
region extends  
about 200 [miles] from  
the coast  
[0002]  
or untill you get  
through the gorge  
of Lupata

2<sup>d</sup> 3 3/4 miles per hour  
in some parts a  
little more say 4.

3<sup>d</sup> No. the steam launch  
spoken of  
would be used above  
the rapid.

4<sup>th</sup> I suppose that  
they are formed  
[0003]  
by certain dykes of  
basalt which I saw  
lying in the direction  
in which the rapid  
occurs - there is no  
great fall of the

country there I am  
certain so it is not  
"a water fall"

5. M<sup>r</sup> Hoskins now  
commands a  
gun boat in China  
I do not know any  
of the "Grecian" men  
[0004]

M<sup>r</sup> Swaine was  
serving at the same  
time with Hoskins  
and he was 2<sup>d</sup> master  
of the Pluto steamer  
when I was at Loanda. There are  
probably others who  
were there on  
board the Castor  
with Captain Parker who was killed at  
the Danube  
[0005]  
6<sup>th</sup> the good con-  
templated by a larger  
vessel would be  
getting quickly through  
the unhealthy part  
before being any  
time on shore  
putting the launch  
together. It is  
beyond the Portuguese  
territory where my  
work is chiefly  
to be done  
[0006]

7 I understood that  
M<sup>r</sup> Lairds vessel  
would draw  
5 feet only in  
the river but  
could be loaded  
up to 8 ft for  
the sea voyage.  
8 ft seems too  
much for the  
first voyage up  
[0007]  
as it is desirable to

have the first attempt  
successful. Any  
blundering, getting  
on to banks &c  
would be excused  
in subsequent  
voyages. If it  
does not draw  
less than 8 ft that  
seems too deep  
for the purpose till  
the river is known  
[0008]

but if we should  
get out in May  
I think that such  
a vessel would go up easily to  
Tett or Nyungwe  
~~but~~ for prudence  
sake the less she  
draws the better

Thanks for the  
note from the Foreign  
Office I am Dear Sir  
truly yours D. Livingstone