

Letter to John Washington, 6 January 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

River Shire

6th January

1862

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

We have lost at least months by the Pioneer being too and too long for these East African . I am not disposed to find with her as a ship for she is an , strong, and well furnished . She is besides a comfortable for us when we are on board, but her as we may, she touches at feet. I saw enough of her in the

Rovuma to make me believe that will not do there except in running in flood and remaining till next . In the Shire we have abundance water for her the whole year, up to the Elephant marsh. Above that it is 4 1/2 . We warped her through this for sake of the Missionaries, and to a healthy spot for those who remain in her while we were , but we could not come down till the water rose, for a bank at once on our lee as soon as touches. If it were possible for you sell her to those Australians to whom wrote respecting a steamer for , and give us another [an iron one] with

[0002] price drawing when loaded not more three feet we should be able to all the rivers on this coast is not of much consequence but draught most certainly is. I mention not by way of grumbling but in the if you can do anything to make more efficient, you will continue goodness to us. She leaks not a . Engines perfect except a little damage the paddle wheels, and you could recommend for strength, in hulk & machinery.

We shall warp her up again to the cataracts, keep there till we launch the other on on Nyassa. A letter from Col^l Rigby to Sir Grey says that "if it should ever be possible to put a steamer on Lake it will cut off the chief supply of to the East Coast." To effect this I pray that the Almighty may spare life. In view of having succeeded wishing for an outlet for the cotton from the Portuguese a steamer of draught would be an immense . I lay the matter before you I know that you will not put as if I did not know what I would at next. If it cannot be done we do the best we can with the Pioneer.

I see that M. Chaillu has brought some sixty new birds and that they be bought by the British Museum

[0003]

M^r C Livingstone & D^r Kirk have made of birds, insects, and plants - are sent home to be kept at the Museum till they arrive themselves. know that the British Museum the choice of all, for not taking of the collections [myself] I always said these were Government property - to first offer must be made the Museum. It occurs to me that of our birds may be new & be substituted for those to be if the Museum authorities only examine, and take what wished - the plants are registered D^r Hooker and I suppose that may be left with him till the of the collector whose knowledge the plants will be most advantageous classification.

the Portuguese have got a small steamer to the Ma Robert for the Zambesi is to secure "all merchandise for the to be under the national flag", as she look after the big canoes the necessity securing our own outlet by Rovuma every day more decided. If you of any disaster befalling

us please your judgment till you hear us. I shall give you the earliest possible. I say this because

[0004] Portuguese continually get up unfavour-reports - such as that one or two of us been killed by the natives or we are floundered a rock - lately a report was rife at

Mozambique that we were aground in the

Zambesi - and again that we were sticking two rocks in the Shire - the only thing is that delay I have mentioned in 1st of this. We have lost time by till the river rose in a part to which may be said we ought not to have gone.

Thanks for M^r Petherick's speech = our will be more of a stationary nature some time to come. Will you send us

Maury's work? and anything African Viscount de Sáda Bandeira has all that the Portuguese minister muster of geography "ancient & modern" this region. It is all from our maps the Loangua (of Zumbo - Zambesi Arroangoa by the Portuguese) which made to come out of the North end of

Nyassa! While Shire arises N.W. of the ! I have only seen a tracing from map.

M^r Hardisty valued the carpenter's tools £4-10. and we keep them for use.

the river is up and we go down fast as we can cut wood - never saw Shire bringing down so much rubbish & discoloured before David Livingstone