Letter to H. Norton Shaw, 20 January 1857

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57 Sloane St.

Cadogan Place

 20^{th} Jany 1857

Dr Norton Shaw

My Dear Sir

I herewith forward for your perusal a letter from Lieutenant Hoskins R.N. whose acquaintance I made in Loando Angola, and whom [0002]I have reason to remember with gratitude as he furnished me with a copy of "Humbolt's Cosmos" which afforded me pleasant reading half way accross the continent. He was then in com mand of the Pluto a war steamer [0003]stationed on the West coast, and had been in command of a vessel on the East Coast also, hence the mistake of rank to which he alludes.

I understood from the Portuguese authorities in Eastern Africa that the late Captain Parker examined the principal branch of the Zambesi up to [0004]the point where I left that river viz. Mazaro or " mouth of the Mutu" otherwise called the river of Quilimane, and was highly pleased with its capabilities the Portuguese speak highly of him to this day, and their admiration of his [0005]

abilities induced me to nurse a severe tertian I had caught at Mazaro instead of going round and examining the mouths of the Zambesi myself. I had the impression [too] that my examination of a point requiring nautical knowledge [00006]and experience would be like that of a monkey & lookingglass.

As the Lords of the Admiralty are always willing to do anything in their power to forward the interests of science and commerce, would it not be well to beg of them the favour of [0007] any details sent home by Captain Parker during his command on the East coast respecting the mouths of the Zambesi, not because we undervalue the testimony of Lieut^t Hoskins but in order to furnish your society and the public with the fullest information [0008] on the[a] very important point

Believe me Dear Sir

Faithfully yours

David Livingstone [0009]