

## Letter to John Washington, 20 December 1861

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[0001]

H.M.S. Pioneer 20 Dec<sup>r</sup>

1861

Captain Washington R N.

Sir

I am very sorry to have to report the death of Robert Fayers, carpenter of the Pioneer on the 17<sup>th</sup> Curr. After a fortnights illness. We have been detained since the 16<sup>th</sup> November in a most unhealthy part of the river having a large marsh on each side of us. this is the only reason we know for the greater virulence of the Fever for the ship has been kept scrupulously clean above, below and in the bilges. We did not expect a fatal issue and feel the loss very much it being the [0002] only death in the Expedition during three and a half years in these rivers

I have written to the young mans parents and advised them to apply to you about arrears of wages, and any money that may arise from the sale of his tools and clothes and an account of which will be sent as soon as possible. Their address is M<sup>rs</sup> Fayers

Near the Coventry Cross

St Leonard's

Bromley

Middlesex

I am &c

David Livingstone

H.M.Consul.

[0003]

He was attended by D<sup>r</sup> Meller during  
most of his illness & latterly  
had the assistance of D<sup>r</sup> Kirk  
D<sup>r</sup> Mellers report & post  
mortem examination is  
enclosed

I close this letter and will  
send an account of the  
effects of the carpenter in  
another letter as soon  
as the sale takes place