

## Letter to H. Norton Shaw, 1 March 1861

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Pioneer - off Rovuma

1<sup>st</sup> March 1861

Private

My Dear Shaw

Very many

and hearty thanks  
for your letter, and the  
packet of journals &c  
which accompanied  
it. this is the first  
scrape of your pen  
I have recieved since  
we came out and  
I confess that I was  
beginning to be im-  
patient with my  
semper idem Friend

[0002]

This however sets all  
to rights and I am  
quite thankful.

I cannot tell you much  
about Rovuma yet  
as we are waiting for  
H.M.S Lyra which  
brings us some coals  
We have no bar.  
And no bottom was  
found with seventeen  
fathoms across the  
mouth. An immense  
body of water rolls  
out a mile broad.  
We went up some  
8 miles yesterday  
in a boat & saw

[0003]

that it is evidently  
in flood. people  
speak same language  
as on Zambesi so  
we shall get on. We

are trying to get an  
entrance exterior to  
the Portuguese claims  
and are not permitted  
to say anything  
publicly, so this is  
all between ourselves.  
but by the way in  
three months we  
shall be able to give  
you a good deal of  
information about

[0004]  
the Rovuma. At present  
we cannot get a syllable  
of information from  
any one but no sooner  
do we publish than  
Macqueen will start  
up and say he knew  
all about it. Why  
not tell you all  
about it during the  
next three months  
or before we do?

I am sure that the  
journal of Silva Porto  
is a literary fraud,  
for I met him at  
the time specified

[0005]  
either 1853 or 4. I  
think the former but  
quote from memory  
alone. He then said  
that he had tried to  
go East but failed  
after going to about  
the Kafue. He tried  
to send a party of his  
people too but, [^] [they] failed  
and he got to the  
West before I did  
and his journal  
was published while  
I was at Loanda.  
His meeting with  
me mentioned

[0006]

and not a word  
about having gone  
to the East Coast!!

If M<sup>r</sup> Gabriel is  
now [^] [as he was lately] in England  
he will corroborate  
the publication. His  
agent is Woodhead  
& co. James S<sup>t</sup>. should  
you think it worth  
while enquiring

Thanking you for  
your kind message  
by M<sup>rs</sup> L.

I am yours ever

David Livingstone

[I do not believe Macqueen guilty but  
he is duped by some one.]