

Letter Inclosure No. 1, 13 November 1859

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[0001]

(IV.)

Statement

respecting a turning lathe furnished by
M^r John Laird to the Zambesi Expedition

The Engineer of the Expedition been ordered to see that every tool was supplied mentioned turning lathe as part of the usual - and as he understood was ordered from Whitworth's Manchester at a cost of £53 - some delay occurring in the at Birkenhead, M^r Laird to substitute an old one his shop, and the naval in charge professed willing-to accede to this proposal. M^r Rae refused his consent that "as a new article to be paid for, it would be well for us to get the new ." We left under the that the new lathe supplied, as the new (£53) was paid; but opening the box at Tette, had never been disturbed our leaving Liverpool found that the bolts inside

[0002] held the machine had been unscrewed furnished with double nuts. Some parts of a turning lathe substituted new ones - and not a single left in the box. Important parts the machine were also abstracted &

M^r Rae has been obliged to make them N^o on the old parts substituted "56" from an old established , is proof of the swindling; and a cue which might be traced the proposal made & agreed to Commander Bedingfeld & refused M^r Rae not sufficient to point delinquent.

I make this statement not from wish to injure M^r Laird, but from natural desire to prevent the Govern-, with which I have the honour be connected, being again stultified - ~~and~~ its operations retarded - and possibly blame attached, by similar .

David Livingstone

13 Nov^r

1859

Captain Washington R. N. &c.

Admiralty

[0003]

The cylinder is unquestionably low pressure one applied to high purposes. The projecting in the middle of the cylinder which I shall endeavour send you a photograph proceed at a glance - and a corresponding inside cannot be explained any other idea It is quite evident we were furnished at an exorbitant with the sweepings of the shop.

For a considerable time after fire is lighted the water on one remains cold - and by opening cock on that side the hand may held in it while the other side too hot to be endured. Until is generated one side remains cold.

the vessel is altogether an ill affair. She drew more than 18 inches at her first trial in the . We shall make the most a bad & shabby bargain, but is mortifying to be obliged to spend time which otherwise

[0004] have been devoted to the exploration

& civilisation of Africa, in tinkering vessel - a mere punt - for which paid such an enormous price -

£1200 (extras all paid for besides) pretty fair for 12 months very work with-out any whine "doing it all for the good of the ." If I ever hear the phrase this, I shall ask if the "cause" the bankers is meant or what.

It occurs to me that it will be well to add irrelevant sentence I left out in another It is.

"I have not seen Baikie's official report Lord Clarendon, but in his letter to me the accident to the Dayspring seems have arised from the Bow in one current and the Stern in another consequence the vessel would not answer helm - she was in fact ascending a rapid a steadying line to the shore - which the Nile - Indus - & Euphrates has always found necessary" - With this sentence have the entire note of 16 Jan^y 58

The compartments joined by Laird's plan force pumps as soon as the pins wear a little The

motion of the vessel the comp^{ts} together below with a jerk & the is forced out on all sides & above. No caulking prevent it. This is the reason of our being always wet

M^r Rae shewed Bedingfeld that she was then drawing 19 inches when weight equal to that of the house was put in she drew 25 inches Bedingfeld reported her to be " just the thing we required."