

Letter to John Laird, 21 June 1858

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[0001]

Ma Robert, Zambesi

21st June 1858

John Laird Esq^{re}

My dear Sir,

As you will no doubt feel to hear how we get on with the I am happy to be able to inform that we entered what has been called West Luabo (properly Luave) on the 13th May and finding a fine, safe harbour proceeded at once to take out the three of the Ma Robert from the Pearl. first day was sufficient for getting her the water and putting her together the admirable and simple contrivance your invented. We had only to stand on a in sufficient numbers to sink it and drawing it to the middle section, bolts slipped in with the greatest ease - on evening of the third day, she was ready

[0002] act as Pilot to the larger vessel and has doing admirable service ever since - She puffing away on this great Zambesi , to the infinite disgust of the Hippopotami herds of which rush off pell mell as as we approach them, and the crustiest Bachelor among them, dares not to do her .

It would be an immense boon if Government would send out such Vessels run up Creeks and rivers and chase Slavers of taking it out on the poor Sailors at the oars - but you would require make them broader than this, and not as long - the length might be borne if they were four or feet broader no objection could be taken to this as the of War could carry them with ease between . Allow me also to suggest as an two plates near the bottom each compartment with plugs which when compartments were once put together be taken out and both inserted, I mention this because our after shews some symptoms the bottom bolts or dowels becoming

[0003] I venture also to suggest the greater as we cant carry luggage at present, four feet additional with perhaps a little power would make her perfect. She done exceedingly well and tows a large far better than we expected. Now I am done with criticism which you think sufficiently presumptuous I to be most kindly remembered to M^{rs} L and all your family.

M^{rs} L was obliged to leave me at Cape and go with her Parents to [...] hope to meet again after confinement. We are all in good health leaves us with this

David Livingstone

Our bolts shew signs of decay - altho' to say more I must add make plates 1/8 they bend so underfoot.

A sketch of our getting the Launch out sent at this time to the Foreign Office.