

Letter to John Washington, 15 December 1862

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[0001]

Shupanga 18th Dec^r One of the missionaries informs me that the
River Zambesi 15th Dec^r
1862

Dear Admiral Washington

We came from Johanna to the
Latitude of the Kongone in five days during
two which without steam and a light head
wind we were carried 60 miles a day.
Our coals were expended when we made the
land. We could have gone into Namiara
or Nyamiara a double mouthed port about
30 miles from Luabo but were afraid to run
a risk in a spot we did not know except
by Portuguese reports with wind blowing
freshly on shore, so we bore away with
sails to Quilimaine River - cut wood
there, and came round to Kongone. We
find the Zambesi very low but the water
is rising, and we shall be towing the Lady
Nyassa up in about a week. I shall feel
immensely relieved when fairly at that
work. the oxen & mules are in good con-
dition and promise fairly to facilitate
our labours.

Thanks for Captain Maury's work.

It is exceedingly interesting. Had we possessed
it sooner we should have looked abroad
with more intelligent interest - the black
indigo colour of the sea tells when we are
in the current - we noticed this both in
going and coming. In the hollow south of
Mosambique & west of 38° E. there seems to
be no current except near the shore

[0002]

the slaving is going on from Shire to Tette at the rate of 100

and there it is towards the North. We have
been twice decieved by being too clever -
making allowance for a current to the

south and finding we made the land
just where we steered for North of our
port.

My Chief object in writing at present
is to beg you to transmit (£10) Ten Pounds
from Quarter-master Collyer to M^{rs}
Collyer 13 Bilbury St. Plymouth
to be payable at Devonport Dockyard
this sum is additional to what she has
been regularly drawing

Also to M^{rs} Magrath Ten Pounds
(£10) from Q^r Master Magrath - this too
is additional - her address is M^{rs}
Magrath. Dawlish; Devonshire:

And to Sarah Jane Saunders
from our carpenter to be drawn as
additional to what she now draws
at Portsmouth Dockyard, Five Pounds
(£5) her address is - Sarah Jane
Saunders 16 Plymouth St. Southsea.

Also £5. to M^{rs} Pearce, 46 Albion
Brighton - she is mother of the man
who sends it and does not draw anything
regularly - we recieved him from the
Ariel. All are well behaved men.

[0003]

per week I feel inclined to hang a few of the blackgaurds

We hear that Thornton is up at
Senna waiting I suppose for some one
to take him to Gorongoza - mountains
with inscriptions west of that village
We did not take him with us to
the Rovuma because we left
with the intention of going down to
the sea for provisions only and
to send home our Johanna crew
We have eleven new Johanna men
at Kroomen's wages - they promise
to be very useful. They scarcely
ever have fever and dont
fraternize with the natives.

I see Pocket Aneroids mentioned
in the Journal of the Society of Arts,
we were unfortunate enough to
break 2 common barometers - one
by a hawser light dropping down
the skylight and other by two natives
fighting and tumbling down into the
saloon. Will you favour us

with a couple of pocket Aneroids
they are by Mess^{rs} Frankham &
Wilson of Wilson St. Grays inn Road
and are mentioned in the journal
for May 16th 1862. they are said to
be improvements but you will be
able to judge whether there is anything
in this - the mountain Barometer

[0004]

came out smashed & so was one of the
boiling point instruments - M^r May brought
no fowling pieces - my private one is
much too heavy. Indeed it is an elephant
gun as well, I bought another fowling
piece lighter for £10 (private) and it does
not carry well. Both those we brought
from Gov^t were very good but one
is quite used up.

We shall not come down till
January of £1864. Our fresh meats
and groceries will then be quite
done. Please think of this at your
convenience.

The Makololo mission is about
to be renewed. M^r Moffat senior who
established one with Mosilikatze will
probably help and so will his son.
Poor Helmore & his party it turns out
used no medicine except a little
Dover's powder!

Two carpenters - Two masons - one
smith and a headman - an Englishman
(the rest being Scotch) set out from
London to form a settlement near us,
working at their trades the wages going to
a common fund: they bought two waggons
and were proposing to go overland when
the magistrate who testifies to their good
conduct at Ahival North, Cape Colony
laid the case before the Governor. His
Excellency consulted me about sending
them by sea. They seem to be the men who
will suit our plans much better than
those who have been employed by the
mission of the Universities

David Livingstone