

Letter to James Young, 8 December 1858

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I want you to make inquiries as to whether the Bann or any other vessel is to be sent out. She must have speed. If so all right if not then I must buy one for myself for I have no notion of sticking fast here. You must appropriate at least £2,000 of the money you have in charge for the purpose But we must have her and that quickly too at whatever cost I shall pay all myself rather than not succeed ...
... Our present opinion is that the difficulty may be overcome during about 8 months annually but the steamer must be of sufficient power to cross from side to side according as the smooth reaches indicate now I expect my Dear Young if the Government dont mean to send out a steamer of sufficient power to go 12 or 14 Knots I must have one at my own expense, I think this the pathway into the interior I hope the interior region will by the energy and industry of our countrymen become
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an extensive producer of the raw material ...
... Let Washington know that I shall buy one myself ... Tell him I desired you to tell him frankly that it is a case of Government or no Government the steamer must be got.