Letter to Andrew Drew, 27 September 1858

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour 27th (Sept<u>r</u>) 1858 My Dear Captain Drew

I beg leave to tender and Mrs Drew my thanks for your to me while with and if possible ones for your kindness to wife after my , I shall ever a grateful sense your sympathy & the Almighty abundantly you.

[0002]

I had just been up at Tete my first cargo for I been compelled to turn myself. There we were first steamer that ever among them and visited with as much as you would do Leviathan. We got a and a half of coals very first ever digged in region. they were from surface where they have washed by the floods the rivulet in which they for ages and yet gave pretty good steam the engineer says than American which he used get at New York. We are

[0003] glad of this for we have great abundance of both coal iron and with these two is hope of civilization[.] see the river at its lowest and though it has many feet since Captains Bedingfeld and

Gordon thought so favourably it there is not much in its general. I had a good of difficulty at one where it is about miles wide. Indeed spent five days seeking channel but having it we came down Tete to Senna in days. Above Supata was all easy as it runs or two channels only[.]

[0004]

This vessel draws 2 ft 6. when loaded is very weak in her engine being ten horse power. The canoes take shine out of us except when we are down stream. Going up, they us and look back at the

"Asthmatic" as she ought to be called panting along.

My men recieved me with joy at Tete. 36 have victims to fev small pox six were murdered by a chief a drunken fit. for these our are very sore. By direction the admiralthe Lynx has offered any assistance in her power I have come down to recieve we need. The Furnace has of service but as she draws loaded more than the Launch the latter is very slow, swinging if furnace touches the least, she has not done all we. She is up at Tete now[.]

The Admiral and indeed all the naval including of course yourself been remarkably kind & obliging

Kindest salutations to Miss Drew