

## Letter to John Washington, 15 December 1862

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[0001]

Shupanga 18<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> One of the missionaries informs me that the  
River Zambesi 15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>  
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<sup>rs</sup>  
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<sup>rs</sup> Magrath Ten Pounds  
(£10) from Q<sup>r</sup> Master Magrath - this too  
is additional - her address is M<sup>rs</sup>  
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<sup>rs</sup> 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<sup>rs</sup> Frankham &

Wilson of Wilson St. Grays inn Road  
and are mentioned in the journal  
for May 16<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>t</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> 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