

Letter to Samuel M. Peto, 21 June 1858

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[0001]

Sorry I did not get Havelock's life before leaving
My kindest salutations to Lady Peto, Aunt Helen
and M^r Brock.
David Livingstone

Zambesi river 21st June

1858

Dear Sir Morton

We have been for
more than a month exploring the
delta of this river in order to
find a safe entrance, and having
succeeded beyond our expectations
after giving up hopes of entering
by the Lualio as recommended
by Captain Parker we find it
prudent to send away the Pearl
and go up in the steam Launch
Ma Robert. The Pearl draws
[0002]

I have referred to your offer in my dispatch &
told Lord Malmesbury that a copy is with Washington

9^{ft} 7. and though at this time
of a falling river we could get a
channel never less than 12 ft [*xWe have long reaches of four or six miles
of from 5 to 7 fathoms then a crossing of 12 ft.
but it has to be searched for*]
as we were specially charged not
to risk her detention in the river
we have set up the iron house
on an island about 40 miles
from the sea and when all our
goods are in it the Pearl will
be sent off to Ceylon. We shall
take them up to Tete by successive
trips and the iron house last
of all. Now if we had a ship, (paddle)
of four or five feet such as

you offered to build we could
even now go with ease up to
Tete. I gave you estimate to
[0003]

Captain Washington and he took a copy
and desired me to apply to the Foreign
Office for such a vessel and he
will I am sure second the application.
But these matters are generally put into
Macgregor Laird's hands in this
way. He writes to Washington an
official letter telling what kind of
vessel he thinks best for such an
expedition and it saves the great
folks the trouble of thinking the
job is at once handed over to
him. By this mail I apply for
the vessel described by you and
I earnestly hope it will be put
into your hands for I am sure
you do the work efficiently and
con amore. I dont know whether
you are acquainted with Washington
[0004]

if so you would hear how my proposition
is viewed and might assist me other-
wise by your influence with the higher
officials.

the first news we got of the Portuguese
was that they had been expelled the
country by the natives. this alters
the aspect of affairs in the river for
me - but as it happened before we
came we cannot be blamed for
what the Portuguese call rebellion
I visited a party of the rebels at Mazaro
and though about 200 appeared well
armed ready to dispute our progress
on my calling out that we were
English they raised a shout of joy
and at once ran off to bring
bananas & fowls for sale. We have
had no fever. M^{rs} L was obliged to
leave us at the Cape but fortunately
met M^r & M^{rs} Moffat there and will after
her confinement join us by coming overland