

## Letter to John Washington, 15 October 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Rovuma 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

1862

Dear Admiral

We beached the  
Pioneer about a mile  
inside this river and  
found that the damage  
done by the coral  
at Pomony, which  
I reported in my  
last was very slight -  
five points had ripped  
about 1 1/2 inches  
square each. In one  
there was according to  
the carpenter a dent  
of 1/4 inch in the wood  
[0002]

In the others the felt was  
rubbed to one side -  
1 1/2 sheets of copper  
covered the whole  
no leakage whatever  
had occurred there,  
though believing it  
might have been  
more than from the  
shaking of the engines  
I thought it right  
to report it to you at  
once. She has been  
caulked all over  
which has done a  
world of good, and  
[0003]  
does not leak an  
inch in a week.

While we were  
away I ordered M<sup>r</sup>

Young in writing  
not to leave the  
anchorage. A heavy  
swell came in &  
he removed to the  
mouth of the river  
close to the right bank  
point. By dragging  
or otherwise she  
was allowed to  
get on a sand bank  
there, and a heavy  
[0004]  
swell gave her according  
to Rae a terrible bumping.  
The only white sailor  
with him was sick  
& he says he could  
not get out an  
anchor to haul her  
off with the new  
Johanna crew. I  
found about 20 feet  
of the edge of one  
streak of copper  
bent down & put  
it right. If she had  
not been capitally  
put together damage  
[0005]  
would have been done.  
Young works hard  
but has an awfully  
bad temper and has  
not the knack of  
managing the men  
either black or white  
except in a hectoring  
bullying manner.  
I have just to pass  
by this disobedience  
of orders.

We exchanged two  
men Goldsmith &  
Whitehead with the  
Orestes. Invalided  
[0006]  
Charles Neale - all  
three very well  
behaved men but

frequently sick. We  
parted with David  
Gwilliam with  
regret, but Young  
& he could not  
get on together. Gwilliam  
was the cleverer  
man and knew it  
He had £5 of advance  
but all advances  
slops &c are sent  
to the Flagship.  
[0007]

Instead of these four  
we recieved two  
from the Orestes -  
Collier & Newell  
who have good  
characters and I  
hope they may  
get on with M<sup>r</sup>  
Young= We were  
towed over her by  
theOrestes, Captain  
Gardner and will  
sail for Johanna  
on 17<sup>th</sup> For an  
account of our  
Rovuma trip  
[0008]  
see the larger sheet

David Livingstone

Admiral Washington

Johanna 24[7]<sup>t</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

A dhow going off to  
Mayolta has been bribed  
to wait only till I have  
finished my despatch  
that will give you  
what I intended above

D. L.