

Letter to Philip Saumarez, 30 July 1859

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[0001]

You will oblige me much if you could conveniently come ashore & look at us. You will be able to do more than I could by coming on board.

Kongone Harbour

30th July 1859

Commander P Saumarez. R N.

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure in acknowledging your favour of 28th and regret that you have so little to spare now that we have the pleasure of meeting a Man of War. We have a wretched little craft put together in the flimsiest contract style and as we are very anxious for her to last long enough for us to examine

[0002]

a route which we think opens up a very large portion of the Highlands of Eastern Africa. On this point I beg to submit the letter which we had deposited on the island off this harbour the vessel was only 1/16 of an inch thick in the beginning and is now no thicker than this paper. if we can have some sheet iron to tinker the worst parts, and some [^] [one or two] thin planks to mend our whalers both of which are leaky with copper nails, and white [ned] lead [with paint oil]. these will enable us to hold out till we have

[0003]

gone up Shire & back again and
all the good will have been
got out of her (and a great
deal more) than was ever
put in her by the builders

You will favour us
much if you spare us
some salt provisions,
whatever it be, it will be
acceptable. Shoes, good
blankets, socks or stockings
blue check shirts, a piece
of blue cloth [^] [& serge] enough to
make a jacket or two,
a piece of sheet lead

We have ten Kroomen
shipped at Sierra [^] [Leone] for two
years. Our work will
in all probability be on
land for the next six
months. We have 46
Makololo who are useful

[0004]

on land where
Kroomen are
useless. Will you be able
to ship them so that they
may be useful on board
men of war and the
contract not be broken.
Our Quarter master
J. Walker, an excellent
hand has been ill, and
wishes to go to hospital.
His absence and that
of the Kroomen would
be well supplied by two
good [steady] volunteer seamen.
We give double full pay.
Excuse this troublesome
business. I shall make
a proper requisition when
I know what you can spare

I am Dear Sir

Most Truly Yours

David Livingstone