Letter to John Washington, 9 January 1858

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

20 Bedford Square

9th January

1858

My Dear Captain Washington

I called at your office
at 12 1/2 this morning &
again at 2 oclock but
finding that you were at
the war office I concluded
that you would be
detained some time and
therefore came home to
write to you.

[0002]

I called to shew the plan of the expedition which I had sketched out for the consideration of Lord Clarendon but failing to find you I may mention that I give the names of Commander Bedingfeld M^r Richard Thornton, D^r John Kirk, M^r Charles Livingstone, M^r T. Baines (Engineer (not named) and ten kroomen which according to your very

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excellent suggestion ought to be written for that the Admiral on visiting Sierra Leone may take them down the Cape with him The persons mentioned by name are thus, the naval officer, the mining geologist the botanist - the general assistant and the artist & storekeeper.

Supposing the expedition

to be so organized and put down at the mouth of the Zambesi I propose to ascend as quickly as possible untill we get through the gorge of Lupata then stop at

[0004]

Tete to deposit some of the heavier luggage - visit certain chiefs who have power in the vicinity and enable the botanist and geologist to get a general idea of the resources of that part of the country

Next proceed to the rapid Kebra-basa and see about passing it, (and by the way it may be proper to have some contrivance for conveying it by land if it is dangerous to attempt to force it up the rapid) that obstacle being sur-

[0005]

mounted we proceed to visit certain chiefs on the banks and ascend to the healthy high-lands near the Kafue Erect an iron house with the consent of the inhabitants and make excursions

These plans are made on the supposition that my old companions the Makololo are gone back to their own country. If they have remained all the operations of expedition will be very much facilitated. At the end of the first year it is proposed to

[0006]

return to Kebrabasa in the launch and send home a full report to the Foreign Office. Then rela communications having been established with the Makololo chief the expedition turns its attention to the north examining whether the net work of waters reported there is correct or not and if it seems feasible after examining the information to be derived from native travellers proceed to the sources of the Zambesi

[0007]

During the whole time the iron house will serve as a depot for the convenience of depositing collections and religious instruction will be given to the natives who will probably congregate around. I think the moral influence of a permanent location of this kind will very materially tend to the success of the expedition

At the end of the second year we return again to Kebra-basa to recieve instruction from home. The members then having the option of returning to England

[0008]

I could have wished to have had your judgement on the plan but I have delayed so long with it that seeing you were so fully occupied I at last sent it in to Lord Clarendon. It will probably come to you yet and I hope to have your suggestions thereon.

A boat built in three compartments each of which is water tight and when the middle portion is taken out is about the size of a ships dingy would be a useful article for the smaller rivers Might we have one?

I am yours most truly David Livingstone