

Letter to Samuel M. Peto, 21 June 1858

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)
[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 *

* We 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 otherwise 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