

Letter to John Washington, 21 May 1862

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Shupanga 21st May 1862

My Dear Captain Washington

I wrote you before of the late attempts of the Governor of Mozambique to extend their boundary to the Rovuma - but feel so anxious that you should know about it that in case my previous letter may have miscarried I trouble you again.

the Governor [G.C.] said to M^r Rae that he was not very well recieved up at Zanzibar when we went up to "extend their territories" the ipsissima verba he employed. He wished the

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the Sultan to agree to Rovuma being called the boundary instead of Cape Delgado but Col Rigby's influence prevailed to prevent the weak Sultan from agreeing to what is evidently intended to forestall us. the word "extend" shews what the best informed Portuguese think of our friends Arrowsmith & Macqueen's dicta on the Portuguese boundary The Governor General did not believe that Rovuma belonged even nominally to his nation. Captain Wilson had the very same version as M^r Rae and indeed I got it first from the captain. Now dont omit

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to tell me whether I am to take possession of our discoveries

formally in the Queen's name.
Our flag was the first that ever
floated on Lake Nyassa.
I have asked Lord John Russell
the question but possibly it
may not be deemed expedient
to authorize me though no
fault will be found if I do
it, as if spontaneously.

Not a word has been said
about our freeing the captives.
All the Portuguese are as civil
as ever. Ten slaves whom
I employed in the belief that they
were free men & did not discover
the mistake till we were up the
Shire entered into the work of freeing
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the captives with great zest. I paid
them handsomely and as they had the
muskets of the Tette people from whom
we took the Manganja captives I feared
that they might suffer but nothing
was done and their master M^r Ferrão
of Senna whose people they were wrote
to say that he was glad his people had
been useful. His people can scarcely
be called slaves for he always pays
them for any work they do.

But the Portuguese have got a hair
in our neck. The Gorgon's people
on returning from this mis-behaved
when drunk at Vianna's. I apologized
most amply and so did Captain
Wilson and Vianna would scarcely
recieve an explanation. "It was only
a little wine" &c. But the Governor of
Quillimane wrote me an official letter
from the report of another than Vianna
but trusts that the Portuguese officials
and I will continue in the same friendly
terms as we have always been. I have
to explain to the Foreign office in case he sends
the affair home. I am &c David Livingstone