

## Letter to John Washington, 24 March 1862

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[0001]

Kongone 24<sup>th</sup> March  
1862

Dear Captain Washington

It is clear that we look out for a new . Hardistey is determined get away by a quarrel. first appearance of the occured when we down to the East Luabo . there is a bank called M<sup>r</sup> Inglis in his late an "inner bar" ran aground on it at ebb, and resolved just to till the flow. I told M<sup>r</sup> Hardisty to have steam at that time and when began to float all were their posts [but] him - not knowing I simply called down

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"a turn astern" and off she came - Having anchored quarter of a mile from the spot to cut wood & wait a man of war. Hardisty came aft to the quarter and demanded "Did you give orders for the to go without a calling of me." I replied yes gave orders to you to have the steam ready and not know till now that you were not at duty. "Well I wish you to get another engineer you are going to treat me that way." I told him he was guilty of the impertinence because thought himself indispensable - and an hour he came and apologized. I would have referred to this but it is evident he had made a mistake in his action , and has gone to work more systematically to make himself a nuisance, in order get away. We failed to carry 35 tons. It is quite true was top heavy and listed over often, but we left

Johanna as deep and had 26 tons of coals - & nearly all mission gear on deck yet came up to Shupanga wood in 2 days of 20 hours steaming - now took over three weeks though half the way we had coals took out 5 tons and dismissed the paddle box boats could barely stem the current in parts four and a half knots could barely make one knot over the ground though in the shoal parts out of the current. Her speed ought be at least 8 or say seven. Well even that would about 3 over the ground, but every one saw Engines were not properly worked and I suppose of the 6 officers of the Gorgon had let M<sup>r</sup> H. what he thought. We came several times

[0003] a stand still, and observing M<sup>r</sup> . sitting on deck quietly smoking asked him what was the matter the engines - "Its the list over" the reply. He then went into engine room and made go better. An hour afterwards same thing occurred & I saw

M<sup>r</sup> Hardisty lying on the engine lights asleep. I asked him he did not attend to the . He went down again & hour after he went on the list! M<sup>r</sup> Rae then screwed the packing of the cylinders & the feed pump which to me had been broken all the time we were waiting at Luabo and loading in the Kongone - and the speed was increased by revolutions per minute course pumping in cold had been so much loss fuel. M<sup>r</sup> Rae suspected

[0004] a certain valve was not - but Hardisty soon out of the sick list & were reduced to our former . When we resolved to a deal of tinkering place in the engine - and knowing the to be very touchy refrained examining was done. But we down to the Kongone [above Mazaro] in 8 or 9 hours a speed or at six knots - 10 with current over the ground. then M<sup>r</sup> Hardisty came said "I wish an of the engines as you are dissatisfied me send me home "

[0005] after the tinkering and after I had carefully from saying a word to him. I replied

I had been disappointed at not getting up receiving the assistance of the officers & men had come with us, but had never uttered word of dissatisfaction to him. I confess that I felt it but never expressed it, or shewed it.

He has since set up his back against M<sup>r</sup> and answers him in the most impertinent, for instance, Hardisty had placed several of charcoal on the boiler casing and M<sup>r</sup> Y. giving the whole ship a thorough cleaning & washing asked me if he might place some boxes of shot on them till he found a better. I replied yes. When Hardisty saw that he and bawled out before Captain Wilson his officers to me, that "he had received (I suppose he meant from you) not to anything there. And if you don't allow my position in the ship, send me home, Captain Washington guaranteed me here only year." &c &c &c." of course I adhered to I had allowed M<sup>r</sup> Young to do feeling that you had given no such orders & one else had a right to give any. He has sat at table contradicting everything he can say a word against - no one replies - and has tried to create disturbance with M<sup>r</sup> Rae the falsehood that he has been asked to put

[0006] Lady Nyassa together

Captain Wilson who has a witness of his impertinence that he will tell the and another engineer be sent up. I see plainly matters with Hardisty get worse & worse - and be glad if another is sent the admiral who will be to naval discipline while Hardisty is I shall make him do his though it be by bread & or leaving him on an. He expects that he get a years pay whenever leaves - if that is the case it to be altered. He has taken this course of conduct entirely & in the opinion of all is inexcusable

David Livingstone