

Letter to John Washington

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Steamer Pearl, at sea

19th April 1858

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

I am happy to inform you that we are now so far on our way as to have the prospect of reaching the Cape by tomorrow (20th) evening . We left Sierra Leone on the 10th and sighted the coast near Cape Negro, and considering that we have had head winds nearly all the way and a current against us as well we have done fairly.

My companions are all in good health and spirits but M^{rs} L. has been sick

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continuously ever since we left Sierra Leone and as it seems to be the sea sickness plus 'the nine months complaint ' to which ladies are subject I have decided to leave her at the Cape and let her proceed with her brother M^r Moffat to Kuruman, there to await her confinement and then come up overland to the Makololo country. his arrangement is a great disappointment to me and will be still more so to the Makololo who looked forward to her coming

with more interest than [to] mine.
She would have been a comfort
to any who might be sick.
he expense is considerable, £200
at least, and to make matters
worse I actually gave away
my waggon now standing at
Cape Town a few days before
I left England, and a new
one costs £75 in this dear labour country .

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I have written out instructions
for all my companions and
regular observations will be
begun as soon as we leave the
Cape in order to get their hands
in. I have thought that the
following deviation from the
plan drawn out will meet
your approbation. After the
Bar is sounded we take the
Pearl into smooth water, put
the Launch together as that can
be done in a few hours and
then make her pilot the Pearl
up the river. Then from
whatever point it may be
determined on to send the Pearl
back, send the Ma Robert to
pilot her back to the sea.
She will sound both ways
and the risk of grounding the
larger vessel will be reduced
to the minimum.

It may be well to examine
both the Luabo branches - i.e.
The Eastern & Western or Hoskins

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as it may be called as he thinks
the latter the best, and then
make our choice but this will
be left to Bedingfeld's judgment,
and the state of the river when
we get there. Captain Duncan
is a very careful navigator.
By the way M^r Duncan the
Colonial Office agent neglected
to give him any money to purchase

fresh provisions for his crew,
and he needed planks [fresh water] & besides
Oldfield from whom he got what
he needed seemed unwilling
to take his bill on the Colonial
Office so to settle the difficulty
I wrote "approved" on the bills
and as we were just sailing
I could [not] write you to tell you that these expenses are not those of
the Expedition but of the Colonial
vessel. The senior Naval
officer was absent and the
commissariat could not give
us men to coal so Captain D.
was obliged to incur expenses
which were not provided for
by the Colonial agent. It will
be so here again I suppose.

Captain Duncan has drawn
£130 on the Ceylon Government

28th April We found M^r and M^{rs} Moffat here from Kuruman - my men
still at Tete - Skead is going with us - so is the Hermes - Duncan
is supplied with money by Sir George Grey to be repaid by the

[0005]

Ceylon Government - Maclear is well & hearty - Captain
Saunders of the Buffalo sailed with you and would do anything for us
for your sake - we sail on 30th Captain Lister is thoroughly obliging
the Admiral not having returned yet. I am &c David Livingstone .