

## Letter to Andrew Drew, 27 September 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Kongone Harbour

27<sup>th</sup>Sept<sup>r</sup> 1858

My Dear Captain Drew

I beg leave to tender  
you and Mrs Drew my  
hearty thanks for your  
kindness to me while with  
you and if possible  
heartier ones for your  
generous kindness to  
my wife after my  
departure, I shall ever  
retain a grateful sense  
of your sympathy &  
may the Almighty abundantly  
reward you.

[0002]

I had just been up at Tete  
with my first cargo for I  
have been compelled to turn  
skipper myself. There we were  
the first steamer that ever  
appeared among them and  
were visited with as much  
interest as you would do  
the Leviathan. We got a  
ton and a half of coals  
the very first ever digged in  
this region. they were from  
the surface where they have  
been washed by the floods  
of the rivulet in which they  
appear for ages and yet  
they gave pretty good steam  
better the engineer says than  
the American which he used  
to get at New York. We are

[0003]

rather glad of this for we have  
a great abundance of both coal  
and iron and with these two  
there is hope of civilization[.]  
We see the river at its lowest  
nearly and though it has  
fallen many feet since  
Captains Bedingfeld and  
Gordon thought so favourably  
of it there is not much  
difference in its general  
appearance. I had a good  
deal of difficulty at one  
spot where it is about  
four miles wide. Indeed  
I spent five days seeking  
a channel but having  
found it we came down  
from Tete to Senna in  
four days. Above Supata  
it was all easy as it runs  
one or two channels only[.]  
[0004]

This vessel draws 2 ft 6. when loaded  
and is very weak in her engine being  
but ten horse power. The canoes take  
the shine out of us except when we are  
coming down stream. Going up, they  
pass us and look back at the  
"Asthmatic" as she ought to be called  
slowly panting along.

My men recieved me with  
unbounded joy at Tete. 36 have  
fallen victims to fev small pox  
and six were murdered by a chief  
in a drunken fit. for these our  
hearts are very sore. By direction  
of the admiralthe Lynx has offered  
us any assistance in her power  
and I have come down to recieve  
what we need. The Furnace has  
been of service but as she draws  
when loaded more than the Launch  
and the latter is very slow, swinging  
round if furnace touches the least  
sand, she has not done all we  
expected. She is up at Tete now[.]  
The Admiral and indeed all the naval  
authorities including of course yourself

have been remarkably kind & obliging

Kindest salutations to Miss Drew