Letter to John Washington, 1 November 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Johanna 1 Nov^r

1862

Dear Admiral

We have remained a few days longer here than was needful on account of the weather being unsettled and a blow was expected. We take six trained oxen from M^r Sunley who very kindly parts with them at a low price though it would be his interest to keep them to get in his sugar crop. & intend to sail 2 days hence [0002]We lost a crew of Johanna men they ran away they said because M^r Young thrashed them in my absence up Rovuma. I engaged eleven more who seem a more likely lot than the others

I have to beg your attention to an affair of King our leading stoker. His wife is reported to him to be living with another man He wished to cut [0003] off his allowance to her at once but I advised him to be cautious as it might turn out to be a false report. He has asked Mrs Young to see if she (M^{rs} King) is living openly with another man and if so to report to you so that the pay she draws may be stopped. Any expense for his child he will freely give I hope it may turn [0004]out not so bad as he has been led to believe

Meller is with us again - but his spleen is not reduced as we hoped - he is a capital fellow

Will you send the invoice or bill of lading of anything for us to Frederick J. Rutherfoord Esq-Cape Town. He will look after it con amore. All the beer is drunk by some scamps at Cape [0005]I am deeply grieved to hear of the death of your friend D_-^r MacWilliam Our condensing apparatus has decidedly improved our health & when we can isolate the fore & aft compartments from the coal dust of the engine room which putrifies I anticipate still better results

With kindest compt $^{\rm s}$

I am &c

David Livingstone