

## Letter to John Washington, 18 April 1861

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Private

Johanna 18<sup>th</sup> April

1861

Dear Captain Washington

After ascending barely 30 miles found that the water of Rovuma was at the rate of about half a foot a day we saw at once that had we proceeded should be detained till next flood. Had whole of the bishop's party been with us should have had little hesitation about it - as only he & Rowley were there we resolved not be caught but return here and then go to Shire we taken them there first we see now that all have perished - fever is unusually severe year probably from the amount of rain greater than ever known. While on the I may say at once all have had it with or two exceptions and all have recovered was all we could do to make Mohilla - there bought very indifferent wood - then we bought ton [of coals] here to take us round the island to H M. . where we got 26 tons - we got also a awning of which we stood very greatly need for our "sun awning" allowed any under it to be drenched. Having a great things in the cabin, as we have no , most sleep on deck - the rain awning be a great protection & comfort. I all the men who had been sick with meat & vegetables as often as we could them. I engaged six Johanna men

[some of ] whom have been on board whalers at £1

8/8 a month or as they say seven dollars advanced 2 months pay to each - they are rationed and should there be pleased

[0002] 12 months service we shall get as as we please. I had just taken our crew home to their own land when arrived, and sixteen who are now us are perfectly raw & useless on the . For land they are invaluable - they the half caste Arabs on the Rovuma their senses in no time by only making a to their arms when they began the of which Burton so much com- but on the sea they are like children, I have to treat them with the greatest . We discharged five men into Wasp on recieving the Johannese. Quarter master is quite useless from Rheumatism - and a leading stoker most willing man, from chronic dysentery old standing - the others were quite well. shall reduce the whites as soon as we . the stokers for instance, but they are for this sea voyage. M<sup>r</sup> May home by way of the Cape. He has somewhat from fever, and his would have broken up the previous of the Foreign Office, and caused disturbance, so I proposed him to retire in an amicable way. As had wisely forwarned him might be , I giving him a letter thanking for his services in bringing out Pioneer. , I have avoided saying a word his retirement to any one - except the Foreign Office, and hope no inference may be drawn from his retiring

[0003]

Returning to the subject of expenses, recieved £17 [from M<sup>r</sup> May] the balance of money by him at the Cape. The Bishop had £10 to a [black] man intended to act as M's interpreter. this man was to recieve

£36 per annum & £2 per month was to advanced to his wife out of it. As we not well break through the arrangement he is useless as an interpreter we made him cook. We found that he had been a slave and would have made mischief so send him off to the Cape. His wife and he will cost us not £17 but £22. the balance of £17 therefore only nominal. Our for fresh meat

& vegetables, which the sake of those I ~~got from~~ had had fever I got as frequently as possible; fowls - wood at Mohilla - boat hire ton of coals to take us round from Pomony bay to the Wasp - provisions the natives on board, and advance two months wages to each, amounted nearly £50. So I gave a receipt for amount on the 18<sup>th</sup> April to the . [H.M S Wasp]. We got also stronger tackling used to take the ship off a bank in Rovuma having broke several times. Also addition to the white crew's provisions shall not come down the river till 1<sup>st</sup> January 1862. We ought then to a stock of fresh provisions ready the mouth of Kongone. Preserved are the most important article us, those on board Pioneer when came were to last till September

[0004] consequence of having the bishop & Rowley

Kirk, Livingstone & myself addition M<sup>r</sup> May tell you there is not much likelihood of the stock lasting so long. We shall use as native produce as we can. We ask the to contribute to the cabin table from place onwards. The only thing we ask of is Preserved fresh meats. We can get tea & sugar from the Cape. Salt meats biscuit from the men of war. We 23 bottles of brandy in Pioneer, and them into the medical stores. Of wines spirits a good quantity was got at the & that is the best place to send if we any more. A present of 4 dozen Export ale from M<sup>r</sup> C. S. Hanbury turned to be only four bottles. They had forgotten wire their corks!! The idea that these were made us use those you kindly sent after out long tramp up to Sesheke do not send any more cotton gins you hear from me - but honour small bill for some medicines from Apothecaries company which will be . The new medicines got at the Cape rubbish and in some cases required shovelful of salts atop to make them .

I could not square our last years because I could not get a bill Quilimane & another from Mos- - but though the expenses arising our goods being pretty well all expended calicoes being very dear & our means locomotion gone - the sum against Gov<sup>t</sup> not large. I have recieved £130 by way the Cape Treasury

[0005]

If there are any means of getting

M<sup>rs</sup> Livingstonea passage out I think shall be able to provide a house for by January 1862. I understand Government has contracts certain lines whereby they can whom they will at a lower of fare than the common. If can procure that or any other you will oblige me much bishops sisters are now at the and come up by a Man of in January next. I suppose shall have entered into little with as many villages our route as we touch at buy cotton and also settled the Nyassa & Rovuma questions that time and it will not do for to keep away from my wife after other ladies have come. So I give leave to come and she will sort of headquarters for us. steamer must remain up all time [till January] as our point of retreat.

A small gun boat's condenser not to be more than 18 inches

[0006] diameter and costing only £15 or

£20 - would enable ~~to~~ us to get rid great inconvenience - the want of a . It is said that there are a number these little condensers always on - they are made for the ~~lowe~~ gunboats and distil enough all we shall ever need to put aboard. could get rid of the large Tanks are now obliged to put in three of water - and though we may be in the sea often yet we condense in unhealthy water as Rovuma in flood which us all diarrhoea. I mention to you only. I think all additional should require would be piping only a few feet of that.

We have ordered 2 mules and

2 Scotch carts from the Cape by

Sir George Grey to transport our past the Cataracts. By the our goods should have been from James Aspinall Turner .P. for Manchester He supplied formerly and his goods gave satisfaction.

Mr Clegg's people

[0007] a lot of fragments in one bale, & articles generally good for the in doubt are too flimsy for our . Of the men discharged into Wasp two were suffering the effects of former diseases - but all the cases recovered well.

Proctor complains of a little fever today

I am &c

David Livingstone

I enclose requests made by Hardisty, & George for you to draw and appropriate of their pay, as it seems you offered to do. I told them that quarterly life certificate was not .

I enclose also a plan and for the condenser

Mr H. says that the second size in the gun boats and not very smallest would suit us could take out the tanks make a sort of hold and stop any talk that may about forgetting one.