

Letter to John Washington, 15 December 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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River Zambesi 15th Dec^r

1862

Dear Admiral Washington

We came from Johanna to the Latitude of the Kongone in five days during two which without steam and a light head wind we were carried 60 miles a day. Our coals were expended when we made the land. We could have gone into Namiara or Nyamiara a double mouthed port about 30 miles from Luabo but were afraid to run a risk in a spot we did not know except by Portuguese reports with wind blowing freshly on shore, so we bore away with sails to Quilimaine River - cut wood there, and came round to Kongone. We find the Zambesi very low but the water is rising, and we shall be towing the Lady Nyassa up in about a week. I shall feel immensely relieved when fairly at that work. the oxen & mules are in good condition and promise fairly to facilitate our labours.

Thanks for Captain Maury's work. It is exceedingly interesting. Had we possessed it sooner we should have looked abroad with more intelligent interest - the black indigo colour of the sea tells when we are in the current - we noticed this both in going and coming. In the hollow south of Mosambique & west of 38° E. there seems to be no current except near the shore

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and there it is towards the North. We have been twice deceived by being too clever - making allowance for a current to the south and finding we made the land

just where we steered for North of our port.

My Chief object in writing at present is to beg you to transmit (£10) Ten Pounds from Quarter-master Collyer to M^{rs} Collyer 13 Bilbury St. Plymouth to be payable at Devonport Dockyard this sum is additional to what she has been regularly drawing

Also to M^{rs} Magrath Ten Pounds (£10) from Q^r Master Magrath - this too is additional - her address is M^{rs} Magrath. Dawlish; Devonshire:

And to Sarah Jane Saunders from our carpenter to be drawn as additional to what she now draws at Portsmouth Dockyard, Five Pounds (£5) her address is - Sarah Jane Saunders 16 Plymouth St. Southsea.

Also £5. to M^{rs} Pearce, 46 Albion Brighton - she is mother of the man who sends it and does not draw anything regularly - we recieved him from the Ariel. All are well behaved men.

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We hear that Thornton is up at Senna waiting I suppose for some one to take him to Gorongoza - mountains with inscriptions west of that village We did not take him with us to the Rovuma because we left with the intention of going down to the sea for provisions only and to send home our Johanna crew We have eleven new Johanna men at Kroomen's wages - they promise to be very useful. They scarcely ever have fever and dont fraternize with the natives.

I see Pocket Aneroids mentioned in the Journal of the Society of Arts, we were unfortunate enough to break 2 common barometers - one by a hawser light dropping down

the skylight and other by two natives fighting and tumbling down into the saloon. Will you favour us with a couple of pocket Aneroids they are by Mess^{rs} Frankham & Wilson of Wilson St. Grays inn Road and are mentioned in the journal for May 16th 1862. they are said to be improvements but you will be able to judge whether there is anything in this - the mountain Barometer

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came out smashed & so was one of the boiling point instruments - M^r May brought no fowling pieces - my private one is much too heavy. Indeed it is an elephant gun as well, I bought another fowling piece lighter for £10 (private) and it does not carry well. Both those we brought from Gov^t were very good but one is quite used up.

We shall not come down till January of £1864. Our fresh meats and groceries will then be quite done. Please think of this at your convenience.

The Makololo mission is about to be renewed. M^r Moffat senior who established one with Mosilikatze will probably help and so will his son. Poor Helmore & his party it turns out used no medicine except a little Dover's powder!

Two carpenters - Two masons - one smith and a headman - an Englishman (the rest being Scotch) set out from London to form a settlement near us, working at their trades the wages going to a common fund: they bought two waggons and were proposing to go overland when the magistrate who testifies to their good conduct at Ahival North, Cape Colony laid the case before the Governor. His Excellency consulted me about sending them by sea. They seem to be the men who will suit our plans much better than those who have been employed by the

mission of the Universities

David Livingstone

Shupanga 18th Dec^r One of the missionaries informs me that the

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the slaving is going on from Shire to Tette at the rate of 100

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per week I feel inclined to hang a few of the blackgaurds