

## Letter to Samuel M. Peto, 21 June 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Sorry I did not get Havelock's life before leaving  
My kindest salutations to Lady Peto, Aunt Helen  
and M<sup>r</sup> Brock.  
David Livingstone

Zambesi river 21<sup>st</sup> June

1858

Dear Sir Morton

We have been for  
more than a month exploring the  
delta of this river in order to  
find a safe entrance, and having  
succeeded beyond our expectations  
after giving up hopes of entering  
by the Lualio as recommended  
by Captain Parker we find it  
prudent to send away the Pearl  
and go up in the steam Launch  
Ma Robert. The Pearl draws  
[0002]

I have referred to your offer in my dispatch &  
told Lord Malmesbury that a copy is with Washington

9<sup>ft</sup> 7. and though at this time  
of a falling river we could get a  
channel never less than 12 ft [*xWe have long reaches of four or six miles  
of from 5 to 7 fathoms then a crossing of 12 ft.  
but it has to be searched for*]  
as we were specially charged not  
to risk her detention in the river  
we have set up the iron house  
on an island about 40 miles  
from the sea and when all our  
goods are in it the Pearl will  
be sent off to Ceylon. We shall  
take them up to Tete by successive  
trips and the iron house last  
of all. Now if we had a ship, (paddle)  
of four or five feet such as

you offered to build we could  
even now go with ease up to  
Tete. I gave you estimate to  
[0003]

Captain Washington and he took a copy  
and desired me to apply to the Foreign  
Office for such a vessel and he  
will I am sure second the application.  
But these matters are generally put into  
Macgregor Laird's hands in this  
way. He writes to Washington an  
official letter telling what kind of  
vessel he thinks best for such an  
expedition and it saves the great  
folks the trouble of thinking the  
job is at once handed over to  
him. By this mail I apply for  
the vessel described by you and  
I earnestly hope it will be put  
into your hands for I am sure  
you do the work efficiently and  
con amore. I dont know whether  
you are acquainted with Washington  
[0004]

if so you would hear how my proposition  
is viewed and might assist me other-  
wise by your influence with the higher  
officials.

the first news we got of the Portuguese  
was that they had been expelled the  
country by the natives. this alters  
the aspect of affairs in the river for  
me - but as it happened before we  
came we cannot be blamed for  
what the Portuguese call rebellion  
I visited a party of the rebels at Mazaro  
and though about 200 appeared well  
armed ready to dispute our progress  
on my calling out that we were  
English they raised a shout of joy  
and at once ran off to bring  
bananas & fowls for sale. We have  
had no fever. M<sup>rs</sup> L was obliged to  
leave us at the Cape but fortunately  
met M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Moffat there and will after  
her confinement join us by coming overland