

Letter to George H. Richards, 10 February 1864

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Shupanga 10th February
1864

Captain G. H. Richards R.N.

Dear Sir

The accompanying letter for the late Admiral Washington whose loss I deeply deplore, is sent unaltered to you, as I am informed by Sir Thomas Maclear that you have been appointed chief of the Hydrographic Office. We have been in the habit of corresponding in the familiar style of that letter and as we shall start for the sea as soon as we have wooded, the want of time to write otherwise is my excuse

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for begging you to consider it as addressed to yourself:

The flood came unusually late this season but rose very high. It was the more trying to wait so long in as much as I felt that there was actually abundance of time for my having explored the Lake Bemba and a portion of the river system of the Luapula which possibly discharges through Tanganyika into the Casai & Congo, but all enjoyed good health.

We carried away the Rudder by being swept against a bank by the current. this delayed us so that we were a fortnight in coming down the Shire. We took off the last of the missionaries from Morambala mountain and some forty captives who

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had been attached to the mission
[^] [of] bishop Mackenzie, but whom
bishop Tozer wished to abandon.
as I was instrumental in
liberating these captives I felt
in honour bound to see them
out of the country if necessary
at my own expense. they are
put on board the Lady Nyassa.
The Portuguese officials have all
been very civil to me personally,
though we know that these
poor people were captured by
means of their slaves. In our
intercourse they never refer to the
subject. The liberated are chiefly
boys and all exceedingly glad to
go with their missionary friends
two of whom we have on board

I am informed by D^r Kirk
that on the recommendation
of the surgeon of the Orestes
D^r Playfair, the seamen

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discharged from the Pioneer - D^r Kirk
himself & M^r Livingstone were
sent by the overland passage. On
account of the expense I cautioned
D^r Kirk not to take that route &
said if he did so it must be at his
own cost. It seems D^r Playfair
had said that he would have nothing
to do with the men & on his authority
Captain Gardner decided on the
overland passage. I used the
necessary precaution previously
so am not responsible for the
measure.

I intend to go Northwards -
perhaps to Bombay in search
of a market for Lady Nyassa
there being no probability of our
disposing of her at the Cape -

And am Dear Sir

Faithfully yours

David Livingstone