

## Letter to George H. Richards, 10 February 1864

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Shupanga 10<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Kirk  
that on the recommendation  
of the surgeon of the Orestes  
D<sup>r</sup> Playfair, the seamen

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discharged from the Pioneer - D<sup>r</sup> Kirk  
himself & M<sup>r</sup> Livingstone were  
sent by the overland passage. On  
account of the expense I cautioned  
D<sup>r</sup> Kirk not to take that route &  
said if he did so it must be at his  
own cost. It seems D<sup>r</sup> 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