

## Letter to John Washington, 9 January 1858

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[0001]

20 Bedford Square

9<sup>th</sup> January

1858

My Dear Captain Washington

I called at your office  
at 12 1/2 this morning &  
again at 2 oclock but  
finding that you were at  
the war office I concluded  
that you would be  
detained some time and  
therefore came home to  
write to you.

[0002]

I called to shew the plan  
of the expedition which  
I had sketched out for  
the consideration of Lord  
Clarendon but failing  
to find you I may mention  
that I give the names  
of Commander Bedingfeld  
M<sup>r</sup> Richard Thornton, D<sup>r</sup>  
John Kirk, M<sup>r</sup> Charles  
Livingstone, M<sup>r</sup> T. Baines  
(Engineer (not named) and  
ten kroomen which  
according to your very

[0003]

excellent suggestion ought to be  
written for that the Admiral on  
visiting Sierra Leone may take  
them down the Cape with him  
The persons mentioned by  
name are thus, the naval

officer, the mining geologist  
the botanist - the general  
assistant and the artist  
& storekeeper.

Supposing the expedition  
to be so organized and put  
down at the mouth of the  
Zambesi I propose to ascend  
as quickly as possible untill  
we get through the gorge of  
Lupata then stop at

[0004]

Tete to deposit some of the  
heavier luggage - visit  
certain chiefs who have  
power in the vicinity and  
enable the botanist and  
geologist to get a general  
idea of the resources of that  
part of the country

Next proceed to the rapid Kebra-basa and see  
about passing it, (and by  
the way it may be proper  
to have some contrivance  
for conveying it by land  
if it is dangerous to attempt  
to force it up the rapid)  
that obstacle being sur-

[0005]

mounted we proceed to visit  
certain chiefs on the banks  
and ascend to the healthy  
high-lands near the Kafue  
Erect an iron house with  
the consent of the inhabitants  
and make excursions

These plans are made on the supposition that  
my old companions the  
Makololo are gone back  
to their own country. If  
they have remained all  
the operations of expedition  
will be very much facili-  
tated. At the end of the first  
year it is proposed to

[0006]

return to Kebrabasa in the launch  
and send home a full report  
to the Foreign Office. Then  
~~rela~~ communications having  
been established with the  
Makololo chief the expedition  
turns its attention to the north  
examining whether the net  
work of waters reported  
there is correct or not  
and if it seems feasible  
after examining the  
information to be derived  
from native travellers  
proceed to the sources of  
the Zambesi

[0007]

During the whole time the iron  
house will serve as a depot  
for the convenience of depositing  
collections and religious instruction  
will be given to the natives  
who will probably congregate  
around. I think the moral  
influence of a permanent  
location of this kind will  
very materially tend to the success of the expedition

At the end of the second  
year we return again to  
Kebra-basa to receive instruction  
from home. The members  
then having the option of  
returning to England

[0008]

I could have wished to have  
had your judgement on the plan but  
I have delayed so long with it that  
seeing you were so fully occupied  
I at last sent it in to Lord  
Clarendon. It will probably come  
to you yet and I hope to have  
your suggestions thereon.

A boat built in three  
compartments each of which

is water tight and when the middle portion is taken out  
is about the size of a ships  
dingy would be a useful  
article for the smaller rivers  
Might we have one?

I am yours most truly

David Livingstone