

Letter to John Washington, 5 May 1862

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Shupanga 5th May 1862

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

With a sore heart I have tell of the loss of my bosom friend eighteen years. She died on the 27th the complaint having the complication continued by which all the remedies rejected. We have been months down in the Delta of as I anticipated three four days. I bitterly regret now consented to her coming time, but matters have a turn so utterly beyond my that I bow to the will the Almighty Disposer of events. thought that Lady Nyassa could out & on reaching Kongone

[0002] wood & steam up to the cataracts she might have been lost. When

Captain Wilson volunteered to help us to the cataracts I thought all would turn out right we should only be week or two down here. But Pioneer I thought failed to carry 35 tons. landed the sections at Shupanga was some tinkering at the engines we came back to the sea in one . We took 3 weeks to go up. I still

[at that time] put the blame on her having been . She was down to five feet. Gorgon had been driven away during seventeen days we were at the Kongone nothing was to the Engines. After the Gorgon left the air pump was opened, happening to go down I saw least a quarter of an inch of round the plunger & it had a great way into the cylinder the working parts. the trunions

[0003] had not been packed for 20 were repacked then, and we detained a day & a half while that done. We went up to Shupanga a load which brought her down to 5 feet in 2 1/2 days steaming - grounded a day. Now it is not Engineer's fault that we go - but the feed pump ought be disconnected at once and boiler supplied by the donkey . She ought not to be allowed pump in sand. When the valves come the Engine will quite safe. I tell you all this one ill feeling towards the , he has become respectful & probably he was irritated some of the officers of the Gorgon it is evident he does not feel towards the service. But think it only fair to explain

[0004] without any engineering know appears to have been cause of the wretched failure of the in carrying 35 tons. the list nothing as in a seaway she would always list

Gwilliam the quarter master

& Hardisty have always been at & having come to words Gwilliam assaulted Hardisty I have to give Gwilliam over a man of war for trial. I am sorry for Gwilliam for he well during our period up river and is a good hard working . When in drink however he bad. While among Portuguese men do get drink and we much dysentery & illness. We not get fresh meat except enormous prices & having no the beans caused irritation the bowels. We part with a number the men - when we meet a man

[0005] war about the end of this month

John Hutchins quartermaster from being subject to . Wheatcroft quarter master for Lady Nyassa an drunkard disrated & to single pay. Nolan stoker never did a day's work he came nor is it said where else - single pay beginning - Waldman cooper intended to be carpenter quite useless. He was on passage to the Cape and I send him off He is not man of war's man. Reid

out a first rate man carpenter & everything. Macleod smith - a very good & well man. A civilian

[0006]

M^r Rae put the hull together in fortnight with but a very few - but for the sad event which a gloom over all my horizon should have felt delighted. I cannot my brother though I thought reducing our expenditure by sending home. We shall need every at Roadmaking & carriage have about 4 months - we recieved the meats you sent but ale by 10 dozens remains . I feel sorry that kindness is stopped in its - where I cannot divine recieved it but twice - eight the number in one - the other less. It surely could be . It would have saved us

[0007] great deal of money. I had to mess rum for our crew 10/ per gallon. I would have them want rather but at the time we should the sections up to the cataracts wished to give them grog while working ashore. shall enclose my accounts a letter which will go to Cape in July. M^r Young going to give quarterly of expenditure as ought to have done all . We have no forms it. I am a good deal out pocket at present and not enough private to pay our six

[0008] men who have now 13 months - If we get

12 more when these leave we do with but few Europeans

Captain Oldfield has promised to send them. They have never been sick until lately.

My poor wife had made provision for making Nyassa a comfortable home us all. We find evidence this in her boxes. As a great was new I have selected the and any keepsakes for her and send them in three , to the care of M^r Frederick . I have taken the liberty addressing them to you. We plenty of table linen & towels the Lady Nyassa

I am &c David Livingstone

[0009]

P.S.

I would just add that the water is still but falling fast. I think we shall up the Shire in June. We have a prospect of being able to do our comfortably. D^r Kirk & C Livingstone off this morning to Tette to remove our by canoes. the Portuguese have said to us about our freeing the captives

& we say nothing to them. We are good friends . I gave Major Secard his watch. the would never work I suppose it had knocked - if repaired I shall buy it if please. Waller was down here &

[0010] on 3^d with all the mission goods in . A report says that the missionaries retiring down to Chibisa's bad movement to come down to the but some are faint hearted carry no more for them as it is out the question

Please give the sad intelligence to my friend M^r Conyngham the Foreign Office & Remember me most kindly M^{rs} Washington