

Letter to Henry [Keppel?], 7 March 1861

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org), 2017

[0001]

450- H.M.S. 17 Pioneer 49
in Rovuma Bay
7th March
1861.

Private

Dear Sir Henry

I feel very
much pleased to find
from M^r May that
you are disposed to
continue the kind
and very valuable
assistance rendered
from time to time
by your predecessor
to this Expedition.

[0002]

and though my feeling
partakes very much
of Lord Brougham's
definition of gratitude
namely "a lively anticipation
of future favours" I can
promise truly that
anything you can
conveniently do for us
will be duly appreciated

We entered this
bay on the 25th ult. The
river promises fairly -
There is no bar and
M^r May in sounding
across the mouth

[0003]

found no bottom with 50
seventeen fathoms. We

went up about eight
miles in the boat,
and found high
land beginning
there this shews
a very short delta.
One has to go 150 miles
up the Zambesi
before coming to
such an altitude
though this is only
some 300 feet. The
land is well wooded
and the number of

[0004]

snags seems to say
that it is so farther
up. The river is a
mile wide at the
main entrance but
a large body of water
is let off into the
left bank eight or
nine miles up and
probably finds its
way into the sea
to the North of the
sandy ~~high-land~~ island
at the North end
of the bay. We found
the mass of water -
meandering among mangroves

[0005]

We have been (17) waiting 51
ten days for the Lyra
with coals & provisions
We cannot concieve
what detains her
as Captain Oldfield,
like all the officers
who have rendered
us services entered
so heartily into the
work it must be
something beyond

his control - This
delay is to us very
greivous as we

[0006]

are losing the period
of flood in the river.

Our object in trying
the Rovuma is to get
an entrance into the
interior of Eastern
Africa exterior to the
Portuguese claims - If
we get up so far
as to have an overland
route from it to
Lake Nyassa we shall
prefer it though
treble the distance
of that required to
pass Murchison's

[0007]

cataracts on the Shire, 52
because here we have
a safe entrance
from the sea, and
we are away from
Portuguese pretensions,
the Portuguese Gover-
nment sent out
orders to render the
Expedition every
aid, but there is a
general impression
in the country, that
with the public
orders there came
secret instructions

[0008]

as omnibus people
say - "to nurse us."
They have besides an
inveterate proneness

either connive at or
engage in the slave
trade Partly to get
the mission away from
Portuguese and partly to
pass the three most
unhealthy months of the
year I recommended
the bishop to postpone
landing in Africa - The
"Pioneer" will return to
Johanna for his party
as soon as we explore
Rovuma D. Livingstone