

## Letter to Edmund Gabriel, 7 October 1858

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[0001]

R Kongone; Steamer Ma Robert,  
8 7 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1858

My Very Dear Friend,

I cannot forgive  
you because I was never  
offended having recieved from  
M<sup>r</sup> Brand the assurances  
you expected him to give  
and even though I had not  
a poor friendship that  
vanishes at a far - The Lynx  
came into the Kongone river  
and sent up for me. I came  
down at once and during  
the time they have been  
making some repairs I  
have been writing long official  
letters about our friend

You ought to make old Jose Laurengo Marques  
the Governor of Angola - Write care of Admiral Grey  
no excuse now you know

[0002]

Bedingfeld - I gave him the appointment  
Lord Clarendon having put all into  
my power chiefly from what I  
saw of him at your house and  
his offering to go and "be delighted  
to serve under my command  
I made his salary equal to double  
commander's full pay £600 -  
and felt that I had an able  
coadjutor But he quarreled with  
the commander of the Pearl and  
on public altercation N<sup>o</sup> 4 taking  
place I said - (Having previously

remonstrated in private) C. B. I must  
have no more of these public  
altercations - He resigned that night  
and accused me of slighting him  
injuring his professional reputation  
by consulting the other Captain more than  
him &c &c. I explained and assured him  
it was an entire mistake and allowed  
him to withdraw the letter. But he wou[...][ld]  
quarrel again - gave in a second

[0003]

resignation from an idea that we  
could not move a mule without  
him - and then commenced a series  
of slanders, carping, complainings,  
and raising objections, which  
the medical officer & I looked  
upon as the effects of irritable  
bladder & bowels on the mind  
but it became so absolutely  
unbearable especially from  
the untruthfulness which I am  
sorry to say he indulged in  
that I at last accepted his  
2<sup>d</sup> resignation and sent him  
off to Kilimane to wait for a  
passage to England - You will  
I have no doubt find it difficult  
to credit it of him and I would  
not wonder in the least but  
he recieved itsthis letter containing  
my acceptance of his resignation  
with dancing and singing -  
And when I took charge of the  
steamer myself and came back

I believe I forgot to tell you that I visited M<sup>r</sup> Horsfall at Bellamon Hall  
near Rugeley Staff<sup>d</sup> & saw a scheer tertestimonial which is to be given to  
M<sup>rs</sup> Gabriel when you get her! He desired me to say so - Hope  
who ever she is she may be a good one

[0004]

after making a quicker passage  
with a heavier load than he even  
did - I never once touched the  
ground & he did perpetually - this  
brought him to his senses - He

tried various dodges to regain  
his position but I had borne  
to the utmost limits of endurance  
and declined his services - All  
my companions heartily approve  
the step I took and as we never  
had a single touch of ill nature except  
from him we go on comfortably  
He tries now to make himself out  
a poor persecuted individual and  
I can declare most solemnly that  
I never entertained the idea of thwarting  
him - and at the very time he was  
asserting that I slighted him, and wished  
to get rid of him by persecution, I was  
writing highly of him to Lord Malmesbury  
and Sir George Grey, and the latter  
published my letter. This subject  
has occupied my time of late  
and is the most disagreeable I ever attempted -

Well I tried to come in to Loanda  
but could not honestly do it - as  
you will have heard from  
Sierra Leone I have got the  
enclosure from the Bishop  
all right -

[0005]

We got into the Zambesi by a new  
mouth named Kongone, and being obliged  
to send off the Pearl which brought us  
out we have been slowly working  
our luggage up river by this Launch  
I have been to Tette and found my  
men waiting in anxious expectation  
of my return but small pox had  
cut off thirty of them and six had  
been killed by a neighbouring rebel  
chief - Poor Sekneeben's death  
was a sad blow and though they  
recieved me with screams of joy  
and grasping me convulsively  
The team came whether I would or  
not. Some time will be required  
to bring up all our 25 tons of  
luggage - for poor Bedingfeld's  
untruthfulness began in England  
We got a steamer called the Ban drawing  
only three feet which would have

sailed on the river the whole year, but  
when B. heard he was to navigate  
her out he wished me to apply for a  
second master and on my declining  
though he had been well pleased with the Ban  
he now condemned her enough because

Kind regards to Schut & all my acquaintances

[0006]

he knew what we learned afterwards  
that he could not from seasickness  
navigate her out - He reported to me  
also that this was an admirable vessel  
and required very little fuel - We spend  
half our time woodcutting - It is with  
great grief I tell you these things for  
I know your good opinion of him as you  
remarked to me on his leaving Loanda  
"he is A. I." & that induced me to appoint him -

We get a ton and a half of coals  
at Tette the first even taken out of  
the ground in this country and it is  
very good coal too more like the Welsh  
than any other though what we got had  
been exposed to the floods of the  
Muatize for ages - With abundance of  
iron ore and coal surely the  
Great Architect designed & will  
work out something better for  
Africa that that she should always  
be a slave market - the Portuguese have  
been as kind as ever and especially  
Major Secard - they were fighting when  
we came but we went from one park  
to the other without molestation by either  
simply because we were English - but  
the war is now over for a few weeks  
I suppo[se]

[0007]

My missionary friends are rather  
grumpy with me for leaving them  
and they snarl considerably since my  
departure for Africa because I have  
turned consul - Kebra-basa is said  
to be rocks jutting out of the stream  
and rendering the deep channel tortuous

and dangerous but if half a years  
slashing will make an open way  
for a steamer then what will  
they say if I turn quarryman too.

You recommended the  
German D<sup>r</sup> but they are not  
in much favour as home on  
account of their greediness - Two  
of them got away instruments  
value two thousand pounds and  
though paid by England published  
the results in Germany & kept  
the instruments - But if you befriend  
them you will win the Prince  
Consorts heart - From what I have  
seen and heard I am become so  
bigotted that I prefer an Englishman  
out & out to any one of the Wel

[0008]

I think England ought to buy Angola  
on this side but the Villa da Flor  
was sent out to survey the Luabo  
and build a fort & custom house  
but they did not know where it  
was and the Government of  
Mosambique cannot pay its  
own officers though it costs the  
mother country 240 thousand ambreis  
per annum -

We have had no fever properly  
so called though we have had illness  
The Zambesi maybe called a sand  
river and not a muddy one like  
those in the West - We have lots of  
lignum vital & ebony on its banks  
but full reports will be made by  
my companions - My wife met  
her father & mother at Cape town  
and went with them to be confined  
at Kuruman - When we left  
England we expected to come here  
together - Three of our children are at  
school & one with his Mamma. My  
brother is with me He was offered £800  
a year if he would take the situation  
Monteiro got Thornton is with me as