

## Letter to John Washington, 19, 28 April 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Captain Duncan has draw  
£130 on the Ceylon Government

Steamer Pearl, at sea

19<sup>th</sup> April 1858

Private

My Dear Captain Washington

I am happy to inform  
you that we are now so far  
on our way as to have the  
prospect of reaching the  
Cape by tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup>) evening  
We left Sierra Leone on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> and sighted the coast  
near Cape Negro, and  
considering that we have  
had head winds nearly all  
the way and a current  
against us as well we  
have done fairly.

My companions are all  
in good health and spirits  
but M<sup>rs</sup> L. has been sick

[0002]

28<sup>th</sup> April We found M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Moffat here from Kuruman - my men  
still at Tete - Skead is going with us - so is the Hermes - Duncan  
is supplied with money by Sir George Grey to be repaid by the

continuously ever since we  
left Sierra Leone and as it  
seems to be the sea sickness  
plus 'the nine months com-  
plaint to which ladies are  
subject I have decided to  
leave her at the Cape and  
let her proceed with her brother  
M<sup>r</sup> Moffat to Kuruman, there  
to await her confinement  
and then come up overland  
to the Makololo country. this

arrangement is a great disappointment to me and will be still more so to the Makololo who looked forward to her coming with more interest than [to] mine. She would have been a comfort to any who might be sick. the expense is considerable, £200 at least, and to make matters worse I actually gave away my waggon now standing at Cape Town a few days before I left England, and a new one costs £75 in this dear labour country

[0003]

Ceylon Government - Maclear is well & hearty - Captain Saunders of the Buffalo sailed with you and would do anything for us for your sake - we sail on 30<sup>th</sup> Captain Lister is thoroughly obliging the Admiral not having returned yet. I am &c David Livingstone

I have written out instructions for all my companions and regular observations will be begun as soon as we leave the Cape in order to get their hands in. I have thought that the following deviation from the plan drawn out will meet your approbation. After the Bar is sounded we take the Pearl into smooth water, put the Launch together as that can be done in a few hours and then make her pilot the Pearl up the river. Then from whatever point it may be determined on to send the Pearl back, send the Ma Robert to pilot her back to the sea. She will sound both ways and the risk of grounding the larger vessel will be reduced to the minimum.

It may be well to examine both the Luabo branches - i.e. The Eastern & Western or Hoskins

[0004]

as it may be called as he thinks

the latter the best, and then  
make our choice but this will  
be left to Bedingfeld's judgment,  
and the state of the river when  
we get there. Captain Duncan  
is a very careful navigator.  
By the way M<sup>r</sup> Duncan the  
Colonial Office agent neglected  
to give him any money to purchase  
fresh provisions for his crew,  
and he needed planks [fresh water] & besides  
Oldfield from whom he got what  
he needed seemed unwilling  
to take his bill on the Colonial  
Office so to settle the difficulty  
I wrote "approved" on the bills  
and as we were just sailing  
I could [not] write you to tell you that  
these expenses are not those of  
the Expedition but of the Colonial  
vessel. The senior Naval  
officer was absent and the  
commissariat could not give  
us men to coal so Captain D.  
was obliged to incur expenses  
which were not provided for  
by the Colonial agent. It will  
be so here again I suppose.