

## Letter to John Washington, 15 October 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Rovuma 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

1862

Dear Admiral

We beached the Pioneer about a mile inside this river and found that the damage done by the coral at Pomony, which I reported in my last was very slight - five points had ripped about 1 1/2 inches square each. In one there was according to the carpenter a dent of 1/4 inch in the wood

[0002]

In the others the felt was rubbed to one side - 1 1/2 sheets of copper covered the whole no leakage whatever had occurred there, though believing it might have been more than from the shaking of the engines I thought it right to report it to you at once. She has been caulked all over which has done a world of good, and

[0003]

does not leak an inch in a week.

While we were away I ordered Mr Young in writing

not to leave the  
anchorage. A heavy  
swell came in &  
he removed to the  
mouth of the river  
close to the right bank  
point. By dragging  
or otherwise she  
was allowed to  
get on a sand bank  
there, and a heavy

[0004]

swell gave her according  
to Rae a terrible bumping.  
The only white sailor  
with him was sick  
& he says he could  
not get out an  
anchor to haul her  
off with the new  
Johanna crew. I  
found about 20 feet  
of the edge of one  
streak of copper  
bent down & put  
it right. If she had  
not been capitally  
put together damage

[0005]

would have been done.  
Young works hard  
but has an awfully  
bad temper and has  
not the knack of  
managing the men  
either black or white  
except in a hectoring  
bullying manner.  
I have just to pass  
by this disobedience  
of orders.

We exchanged two  
men Goldsmith &  
Whitehead with the  
Orestes. Invalided

[0006]

Charles Neale - all  
three very well

behaved men but  
frequently sick. We  
parted with David  
Gwilliam with  
regret, but Young  
& he could not  
get on together. Gwilliam  
was the cleverer  
man and knew it  
He had £5 of advance  
but all advances  
slops &c are sent  
to the Flagship.

[0007]

Instead of these four  
we recieved two  
from the Orestes -  
Collier & Newell  
who have good  
characters and I  
hope they may  
get on with M<sup>r</sup>  
Young= We were  
towed over her by  
the Orestes, Captain  
Gardner and will  
sail for Johanna  
on 17<sup>th</sup> For an  
account of our  
Rovuma trip

[0008]

see the larger sheet

David Livingstone  
Admiral Washington  
Johanna 24<sup>[7]</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>  
A dhow going off to  
Mayolta has been bribed  
to wait only till I have  
finished my despatch  
that will give you  
what I intended above  
D. L.