

## Letter to Thomas Maclear, 3 February 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

50 Albemarle St

3 February 1858

My Dear Friend

We are at last to sail in the "Pearl" a vessel bought by the Ceylon government and chartered by the Foreign Office to take us into the Zambesi and as far up the river as 9 ft draught will allow. We expect to sail on the 15<sup>th</sup> or a few days later. She is a screw vessel about 300 tons burthen and carries a small steam launch in three pieces on her deck. this will draw about 18 inches water and is to be our house when we quit the "Pearl" She is ten horse power only. the Government have done all

[0002]

this handsomely and would have done better had a suitable vessel been in their possession. We are rather hurried at last and as we hope to see you soon there is not much use in making a long story on paper I am extremely obliged by the liberality of my friends at the Cape and if it should be thought desirable would give them a general idea of my journies at a meeting at which the money they so generously contribute might be handed over for the benefit of my wife and family. If I had any voice in it I would like it invested in

some safe Colonial undertaking  
I am fully convinced of the  
thriving nature of the colony

[0003]

and will be only too proud to have  
a stake in it. It must however  
be borne in mind that my book  
forestalls my speeches. It has taken  
the wind out of them entirely.  
It has you may have heard sold  
marvellously well exceeding all my  
most sanguine expectation. the  
book of Williams the missionary  
took four years to mount up to  
16,000. mine in three months  
30,000. I dont expect your  
praise in the matter of the map  
you will say I have given  
Arrowsmith too much licence  
but I had no time to watch  
him. the writing of the book  
had been all engrossing &  
it is only now I can peep  
at it. I shall bring all my  
observations to you and if  
verified by fresh which I hope  
to make they will be published  
at a future time.

[0004]

M<sup>rs</sup> L. and one child goes with us  
I have a practical mining geologist  
and an economic botanist to tell  
us more of the mineral & vegetable  
wealth of the new country than  
I could do when alone. A naval  
officer Commander Bedingfeld  
an artist and an assistant  
who can do a little in magnetism  
and Photography (my brother) I am  
ashamed to say I have not been  
able to run down and see your  
daughter as I understand she is  
with Admiral Smythe - I am  
consul with a roving commission  
& can go anywhere. It gives  
me status. the expedition is the  
fruit of Parliament giving £5000  
I shall of course find my way  
out to you as soon as I can

get ashore. Dayman says you  
have a telescope which I hope  
to get an order for which  
will be useful in occultations

Kindest regards to all  
David Livingstone