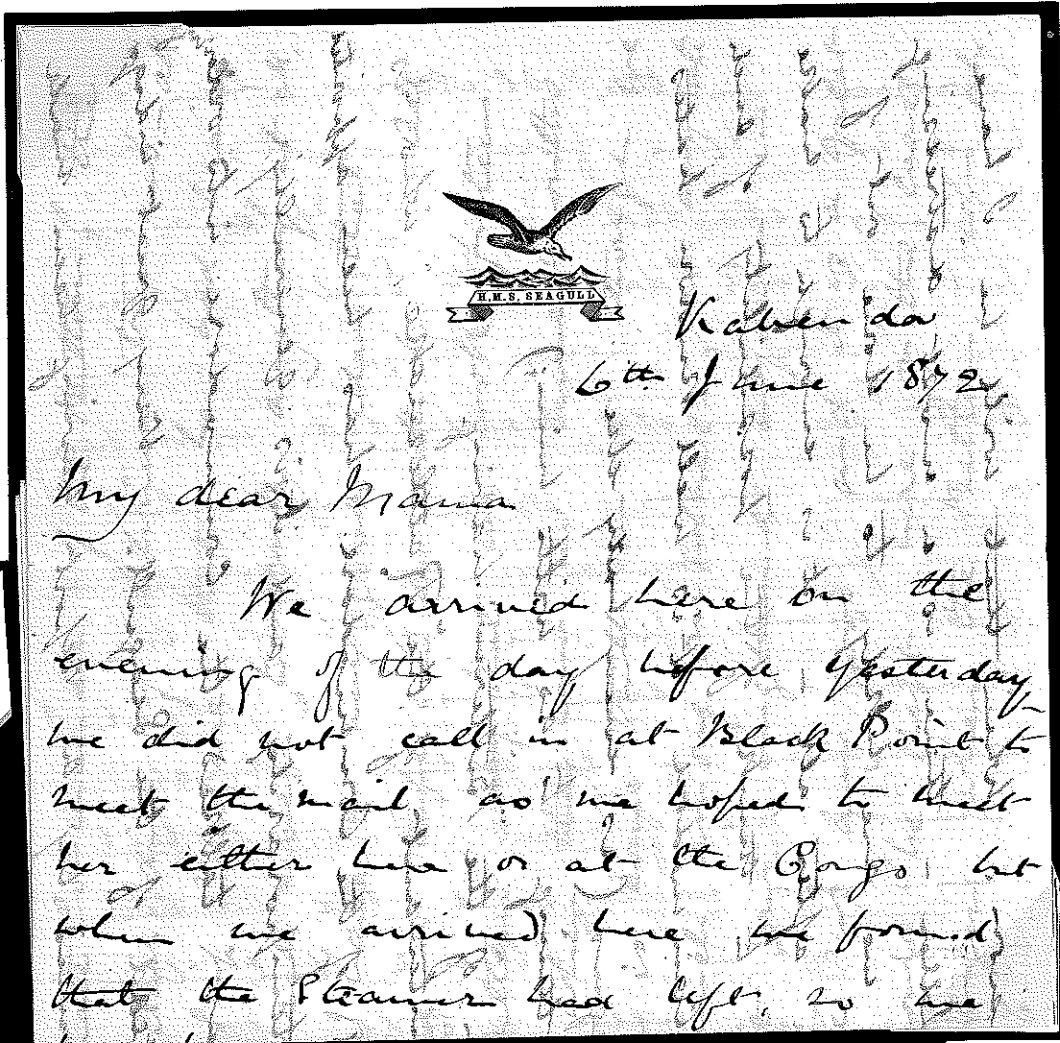


BELGIAN CONGO

1872 PRE-STAMP ENTIRE LETTER

Officer's letter from H.M.S. Seagull endorsed 'No stamps obtainable, Banana Creek - Congo'

A complete letter on ships crested stationery started at 'Kabenda', 6th June (present day Cabinda, the oil rich enclave just north of the Congo River mouth) and finished at River Congo, June 8th 1872. Charged 6^d on arrival with two red inspector's marks on front and receiving backstamp July 11th.



Cuthbert Druitt writing to his mother in London speaks of the frustrations of waiting for specific assignment orders and mentions a possible stint at Ascension re certain survey work. He also mentions the other ships of H.M. Fleet in the Cape area H. M. S. 'Rattlesnake' and the 'Bitterne'.