

The African Times.

JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Vol. I, No. 8.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1862.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
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MORE MASSACRES—LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM DAHOMEY.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY AND EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES, 8, ADLPH-TERRACE, LONDON.

Dahomey, Nov. 30, 1861.

Sir,—After reading the *African Times*, and finding the objects of your society, feelings of joy impel me to employ myself in any way I can, possibly, to aid you with all dependable information, that the kind African friends may see the wants of the objects on whom they desire to show mercy; and may He, the Father of light, ever bless and crown their labour with abundance of success! I have not the least doubt but that the mind of the African friends in Christian England will be stimulated to employ all power within their means to make an end of the inhumanity in the kingdom of Dahomey, when they become acquainted with what is going on now, and what has passed in the months of July and August last.

It is a pleasure to the King of Dahomey to cut the heads off human beings, to show the strangers who visit him in the seasons of his annual customs, but especially to the English, or people connected with the English. His first reason is that the surrounding countries may fear him when they hear of it, so as to present themselves to him as his subjects; the second is that the English forbid his best trade, and that is in slaves; he will therefore kill every one that he catches in war. Some of these poor victims of the Dahoman cutlass have to receive a good flogging, and from a sharp, cutting whip, while their necks are on the blocks ready for the cutlass. The cutting off their heads was not sufficient punishment for the crime of trying to defend themselves or to prevent their being kidnapped and sold for slavery. To say nothing of the number (upwards of 1,500) killed to be the attendants of the late King Gezo in the other world, with bullocks, rams, goats, cocks, drakes, and guinea fowls by the new King, for the great funeral custom of his late father, and who butchered the human beings just in the same way as he did the bullocks &c.—the blood of man and beasts mingled in one hole made on the ground at the gate of the palace—I shall only speak of what is going on now, and that of July and August last. I started from Whydah on the 4th of June, and reached Abomey on the 7th. On my arrival I missed several of the captains, and there were very few men in town. When I made inquiry I learnt that they were gone to attack some place. In about four days the King sent out about 600 men for another expedition. On the 15th those who went first returned to Abomey with 600 slaves, men,

women, boys and girls, and forty heads of those who made resistance. I was called out to the King's gate to see the train. Each slave is followed by the one who caught him, holding the end of the string. How loud the sight cried for Christian England to help the weak against the mighty! The train comprised several grey-headed men and women. Some of them scarcely could walk. The sick among them were bound in cloth to poles, and carried. Their crime was that they did not come to the custom for his father, and they laughed at those who came from some towns behind them to present things to the King for the custom. The next day the slaves were delivered to the King; the very old ones were put aside to be killed, the young and the middle-aged were put aside to be sold.

Five days after this the second warriors returned with more than 200 slaves. Being disturbed in the counting, I did not get the correct number after the 200.

The slaves were brought to the King, as in the first case.

As the captains passed before the King, they prayed him to hasten the time when Abbeokuta shall have no more name amongst the countries in the world.

In about a week after this he started for Kanna, one of his chief towns, about eight miles east of Abomey, where he has a large palace. Here he fixed a day for the commemoration of the victory gained by his late father over the Ayors, to whom the Dahomians were tributary.

He sent out another expedition from this, and they brought 140 slaves, and were treated as stated above.

On the 30th June the first custom, or the commemoration of the victory over the Ayors, was held. It was the last annual custom with his father; but he, wishing to have things changed to his own fashion, began with this:

The first thing was, that the King came to a large yard in the palace, where big umbrellas were fixed; under them he laid himself on a couch, surrounded by the Amazons, then singers of both sexes began their work, one after the other, singing all the strong names they could imagine. It will be tedious to mention all the ceremonies; but on July the 2nd, which was a day only for the chiefs to hear the singers in their respective places, the King came out unexpectedly, having before him twelve Ayor people, holding in their hands a piece of silk damask and one piece of cotton shirting, went round the market three times, then came and sat himself about ten feet from where I was sitting, looking on the dancing and hearing the singing, and called audience, and told the reasons of what he had done; and that was, the former kings served the Nago Ayors, and paid heavy tribute yearly, and that those who were sent to collect the tribute were such extortioners, that they would claim nothing but silk damask and that kind of shirting. Such treatment all the former kings underwent, except his late father, who would not submit; he therefore turned to and fought them, and became conqueror over them. Those of them he caught he killed, and with their blood mixed mud and built the beasts' house in the palace of Kanna; and that market where he was sitting being the very place where the collectors had to meet to receive their meals from the chiefs of Dahomey, he could do nothing better to show the happiness and privilege which his father had bequeathed to him, than making twelve of the sons of Ayor bear in their hands the cloths as mentioned above, that they may relate to their ancestors, in the other world,

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the change which his father had made. Here he called some of his captains, and gave them about two fathoms each of the silk damask, and explained that he did this because the Ayors would not allow silk damask to be worn at Kanna. Now the Ayors holding the cloths shall have to tell their fathers in the other world that it is not only worn to cover their nakedness, but to sweep ground with. The captains who received it wore it in such a way as to sweep the ground, and walked about where the twelve poor fellows were standing, having some of the skulls of their ancestors in a large brass pan before them. The poor fellows did not know that they were to be killed until now; and how they did look and tremble! Who could rescue them from the lion's mouth? We shall soon see their fate. The speech was then turned against the Abbeokutans and the English people who resided there.

"Now the Ayor people are no more his enemies, but the Abbeokutans," he said. "Abbeokuta is not to be counted with the number of the existing countries. They say," he said, "they have the English on their side; he has not only one European nation to be on his side, he has France, Spain, and Portugal on his side against England and Abbeokuta; or, rather, not against England herself, but those who have gone out and reside in his enemies' country against him. For them he has given whips already to his captains, and he will tie them all and bring them to Kanna to be hung there." One of his captains interrupted him by asking his favour to order his chief minister to mark out a place where those English caught shall be hung. The place was marked directly, and a banyan tree was cut to plant there until the time came for the flagstaff to be fixed and strung with the English. Then he told Mr. — that he thought the English Queen does not know, or has not given such orders on which that consul is acting with some of the men of war officers. "Stop," he said, "it is only at Porto Novo they will cut their capers, but to Whydah or any port belonging to Dahomey they dare not come." He called out the Governor of Whydah and told him that whenever he sees any English vessel landing emigrants at Whydah, he must allow them to come ashore, and kill every one of them. The French or any other may do so, but not the English, because he has heard that when they want to take any place they cunningly land emigrants, and in a day these become their soldiers. Here he finished his speech, when Mr. — got up and told him that the English Queen and Government are still his friends; and of course, if they had any cause of complaint, they would send direct to tell him, but that of the actions of the consul or the men of war officers, being unknown to the Queen or the Government, may so far be true, such as the late Mr. Consul Foote's affairs with Porto Novo. He may not perhaps send to ask the Government before he took any severe measures, being empowered to do what he thought proper, but would afterwards acquaint the Government; and if they approved of it, it would be a name or promotion to him. His Majesty told Mr. — he had spoken the truth, presented a decanter of rum, and then got up to dance for joy, because his father had not left him in the bondage of the Ayors. On the 4th the twelve poor Ayors were sent out to hear the singers.

The evening of the 5th was an evil night, being a night previous to the passing round the market all his furniture to show his people.

On the morning of the 6th I found at the gate leading to that part of the palace where he sat last for the custom seven human heads, freshly cut, four laid on one side, and three on the other, with their faces on the ground.

In the palace he, the King, sat just about the same place, but under a large tent surrounded by the Amazons. The chiefs and captains having passed round before the King with their silk dresses, and so on, about one o'clock they commenced passing with the furniture, cowries, and cloths, which are to be thrown to the people some few days to come. Presently came on two of the poor Ayors bound in baskets, each being carried by two of the Amazons. Next came an alligator and a cat, bound in the same way. Next came six of the Ayors. In the same manner a few other things passed, and then came four more, all bound as des-

cribed, only in cases instead of baskets. His wives were the last, dressed with silks of different kinds.

The cowries, cloths, tobacco, and the other things, except the furniture, were thrown over to his people from a sort of platform on which he goes to stand, and the poor Ayors were thrown from the platform, except two he pardoned. These poor fellows were not criminals; they were people caught in war some time ago, and kept in prison. This custom lasted twenty days, and there were more than fifty killed before I left Kanna for Whydah.

The King was to start from Kanna to Abomey, to hold the Horses' Custom, but the month of September being evil moon to them, no custom must be held in it; so that the custom was postponed to October.

The King started at the appointed time for Abomey. All the Whydah chiefs who had returned home started again for Dahomey. The custom commenced as soon as the Yevoga of Whydah reached Dahomey.

Dahomey has two customs, which come in turns annually. One is Attor, and the other Sori. The former is a sort of platform erected (with sticks), on which the King has to sit or stand, to throw things to his people. The latter is a shed supported by several poles, and to each pole people appointed to be killed at a certain period of the custom are fastened one by one. The late King never exceeded thirty men at a time in all the days of his reign.

This latter custom is what is going on now.

Instead of one shed, he made double, one on the other, and ninety men fastened to the poles, and there was not one pardoned—every one was killed.

In this custom he has to pass the furniture round the market, just the same as the other, and before doing the night previous must be evil night. The evil night carried away thirty-two. Two small trees were transplanted to the palace gate that night, and on each of these trees hung eight heads of the men killed in the night, as the fruits of the trees. Although this custom has nothing to do with a platform, he erected one; and on this he formed some stick-work, and laid a man on them, well fastened, and covered him with white baft, and saddled him; which was to imply that his late father rode on so high a white horse, that he saw everything in the world; that there was nothing hid from him. He also bound two men close to the poor fellow as his ostlers. All were left there until they were dead! He had three more evil nights, and on each occasion he had forty men killed. These poor fellows all fell victims under the Dahomian outlass in the month of October. And does not the blood of these poor fellows cry to the Christian English to hasten themselves for the rescue of the weak and innocent from the mighty? As soon as the custom is entirely finished, the lion of the Rights will be up to seek more poor fellows for his outlass, or for the slavers, to obtain money. I believe Christian England will embrace all chance to make an end of the slave-trade. The King of Dahomey throws all the fault upon those who bring vessels to purchase slaves in his country; he would sell none if no vessel came to purchase. What will Christian England do to stop this trade? Just about a month ago an American schooner left Whydah with upwards of 200 slaves, although the ships of war have been watching the schooner as closely as they possibly could.

Trusting to find you quite well, I am your obedient servant,

The hired transport Berkshire is at Woolwich shipping war stores for Cape Coast Castle.

INCIDENT IN SANITARY.—"The patient often exhibits, at the commencement of an attack of insanity, what, to a superficial observer, would be considered only an unnatural elevation of spirits. He is at other times loquacious, and talks loudly and dogmatically. He subsequently becomes querulous, peevish, irascible, undecisive, not being for two consecutive minutes in the same frame of mind. He quarrels with his best friends, argues with great warmth, pertinacity, and vehemence, the most trifling matters, is excessive and extravagant in his expressions of friendship, bitter and rancorous in his feelings of dislike, hatred, and aversion."—*Dr. Forbes Winslow's "Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Mind."* (Second Edition.)

THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The Royal mail steamer *Ethiopia* arrived at Liverpool on the 9th inst. She brought a large cargo of palm oil, &c., together with 2,200ozs. of gold-dust. Her dates were Bonny, Jan. 7th; Old Calabar, 2nd; Fernando Po, Dec. 28; Cameroons, 30th; Nun River, Jan. 7th; Brass River, 7th; Benin, 7th; Lagos, 10th; Accra, 12th; Cape Coast Castle, 13th; Cape Palma, 16th; Monrovia, 17th; Sierra Leone, 21st; Bathurst, 25th; Tenerife, 31st; Madeira, Feb. 2nd.

SIERRA LEONE.

There is very little news by this mail. We regret to learn that the pacification of the Quia country had not yet been effected. Some fighting had occurred since our last Sierra Leone advices. Only one soldier of the Government forces was killed, and that by accident; but many of the rebels are said to have perished. Nearly all the stockades had been destroyed, and it was believed that the country would soon be quiet again.

THE SHERBORO COUNTRY.

The following particulars by an American eye-witness are interesting:—

Governor Hill, of Sierra Leone, cast anchor off Bendoo, in the Sherboro, on the 7th November. Next day the chiefs, from a great extent of country, commenced assembling in a large bazaar erected for the purpose. On Saturday evening the Governor came on shore and the meeting was opened. The first business was to establish a peace, the preliminaries of which had been previously arranged. The Governor made a short opening speech, and asked them if they had concluded a peace. Sissawoora and Manifelah then came forward, and their hands were placed in each other by Mr. Thomas Carker, Chief of Shingy, and they were declared friends and brothers. The other chiefs then came forward, and there was a general shaking of hands and rejoicing. After this the Governor made a speech, the purport of which was, that he rejoiced in the peace of the country, and that he would be a friend to all those who kept the peace, and an enemy to any man who broke it. He then stated that the British Government had accepted the cession of the Bendoo and Emperry country, not for the sake of the land, but in order to secure peace in the country, and that if the chiefs of the Bargroo had any word to say in reference to the Bargroo country, he was ready to hear it. A prominent chief then came forward and said that for a long time they had desired the protection of the English, and that they were all agreed to the cession. A deed of cession to the English Crown, already prepared, was then brought forward and signed by all the chiefs.

The same question was made to the chiefs of the Sherboro and Turtle Islands, who were all assembled, and they expressed a desire to have their country ceded to the English. A deed was then prepared, which they signed. The Bendoo country, embracing both sides of the Jong, as far up as Bahmah, has been accepted by the Government, and the Governor has no doubt of the acceptance of the territory ceded. Sherboro and Macauley's Islands, as well as Turtle Island, are now British territory, and the Governor of Sierra Leone will take the responsibility of establishing English law in all such places inhabited by civilised people.

We cannot but believe that this will be for good. We learn, too, that the Church Missionary Society will at once establish a mission at Bendoo, and that an English missionary will come out by the December mail.

LIBERIA.

We are pained to find the following in the President's Message: "You will perceive that the revenue of the year is scarcely more than half that of last year." He attributes this to the war in America, and "to the efforts so strenuously made this year to revive the slave-trade in Liberia."

A very unusual state of the weather had produced much sickness.

A collection of articles has been sent to London for the Exhibi-

tion. A portion of these is intended for the African-Aid Society's Museum.

Some little effort is making at cotton-planting.

GOLD COAST.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A supposed slaver, the *Manual Orthez*, from New York, for Whydah, was seized by the authorities in Cape Coast Roads on the 8th Dec. She had been denounced to the Government. They have sent her to Whydah with a guard on board, and the suspected owner or consignee there is to be served with a citation to show cause why she should not be condemned as a slaver. She was under British colours.

A private has been tried at Cape Coast Castle for desertion. It was, however, established in evidence that he had been publicly stripped and kicked out of the castle eighteen months ago, by order of the commanding officer, with orders never to return. The court found that he had not deserted, and sent him back to his regiment.

At the annual missionary meeting at Anamaboo 1577 was subscribed. Lieutenant Thompson presided on the occasion.

About 200*l.* is still required for finishing the new church at Cape Coast. It is thought that this sum can be raised there.

I stated in my last that the Crobboes were paying up the palm oil they owe; that a good deal was being delivered at Pram Pram. It seems there was some error about this; out of 152,000 gallons due, they have only paid 11,898 gallons.

The following is from the *West African Herald* of the 8th Jan: "A very serious disturbance has lately taken place in Western Wassa, in the course of which thirteen men have been killed. The Commandant, Captain Hewett, went up with a view to restore order, but did not succeed in so doing. Quacoo Mensah, King of Western Wassa, has treated the local Government with gross disrespect, and his Excellency the Governor has notified to him that he is no longer to consider himself as being under British protection. It is said that Quacoo Mensah, on being called upon by the Governor's orders to deliver up the British flag and message cane, which he held as signs of his acknowledging the British supremacy, gave up these articles in a grossly contemptuous manner, and then ordered Captain Hewett to go out of his territory. We shall be in a position to give all the details of this affair in our next."

BADAGRY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The traffic in slaves is still carried on between Porto Novo, this place, and Whydah. This inflicts very great injury on the legitimate trader, as the slave-dealers make sacrifices on the sale and purchase of goods and produce, in order to drive the English traders out of the market. Their profit on slaves compensates them largely for the loss they thus sustain in driving away the enemies of that traffic.

LAGOS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The fever that has prevailed here is pretty nearly over, and twenty-three of the Prometheus' men, who have been sick, are now on their way to Ascension. The new Governor is very anxiously expected. Mr. McCorsky's useful efforts to improve the place have made many dissatisfied for the moment; but this will come to an end, and the good will last. The screw-steamer *Retriever* came in on the 9th—all well. The *Rainbow* is also here. Trade is not so brisk as it was, most of the palm-oil and cotton having been shipped. We expect the British Government will do a great deal for this place; perhaps they may cleanse that stinking Agioi Creek. This would make it safer to go up to Abbeokuta, and improve the health here as well.

ABBEOKUTA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

JAN. 6.—I have not much news for you. The missionary societies have had their yearly meetings lately. At the Church one about 12*l.* was collected, and at the Wesleyan almost 30*l.*

The war gets on here about as fast as that in the United States of America, but with a cowrie currency there is no fear of our making a national debt. There is very little cotton to be got now, and what there is they want 11 strings for. Nut oil cannot be got under 8 heads for 10 imperial gallons; and there is really no ivory in the market.

Exchange, 2.40 per dollar of 4s. 6d.

AMBOISES BAY.

"The Vindictive, old 50 gun sailing ship, now fitted as a bread and coal depôt for Fernando Po, has had her masts brought alongside her in the steam-basin at Portsmouth, and will at once fit out for her voyage." Why is our bread and coal depôt to be kept up at Fernando Po? The Spaniards have compelled all Protestants to leave that place. They have sought refuge at Amboises Bay, directly N.E. of Fernando Po, and a much finer harbour. The sovereignty of Amboises Bay and the surrounding territory was ceded, many years ago, to Colonel Nichols for the British Crown. Surely the Government expenditure on the coast of Africa ought to be made preferentially in our own possessions. At Amboises Bay there is a constantly flowing stream of the finest fresh water; and yams, &c., are not above one-third the price they fetch at Fernando Po. In fact, the Protestants expelled from Fernando Po, and now settled at Amboises Bay, are supplying Fernando Po with provisions. Amboises Bay has been certified by Captain Allen* as one of the most healthy stations on the coast of Africa. It is immediately under the Cameroon Mountains, the highest peak of which, 13,700 feet high, is within twelve miles of the bay. The best sanatorium for Africa might be established there, and the bay is the most favourable position from which to watch the mouths of the Niger. We intreat the Government to change the destination of the Vindictive from Fernando Po to Amboises Bay.

Since the above was in type we have received the following:—
(From our own Correspondent.)

On the 5th of this month (Dec.) Mr. Mann, the botanist, reached here for the purpose of ascending the Cameroons Mountain. A few days after Her Majesty's ship Bloodhound came in with Consul Burton on board. After consulting with Mr. Mann, Captain Burton decided to visit the Cameroons and Calabar rivers, and return here to follow Mr. Mann to the mountain. Mr. Mann left on the 13th, intending to go just above the last town, and await the consul. On the 16th Mr. Saker reached here, intending also to follow Mr. Mann. On the 18th the Bloodhound returned with the consul and the Spanish judge from Fernando Po, and on the morning of the 19th the consul, judge, Mr. Saker, and a number of Kroo boys, left for the ascent. Mr. Johnson accompanied them to the highest town, and returned. The consul wished to spend Christmas-day on the peak. The consul is greatly pleased with Victoria; he thinks for health there is no place like it on the coast of Africa; and now the British Government have Lagos he strongly urges that they make this a sanatorium. He thinks Mount Henry would be an excellent place for building an hospital. On his return from the higher mountain he intends to explore Mount Henry. Meanwhile we ascended till we arrived on the higher plateau of the mountain, where is found the only spring we saw; there the encampment is now formed. It is 7,000 feet high; a glorious clear sky, a dry air, in fact an English home, and no great obstacles in the ascent but what with a little patient toil will be overcome. Why shall we not have a sanatorium there? I stayed some days in that pure air, but was obliged to leave it. The descent to Victoria took me ten hours walking, five hours each day, leaving at mid-day, and arriving at half-past nine next morning; and this following only the Hunter's path, over rocks and trees, mountains and vales.

PRESENT FOR THE KING OF ABBEOKUTA.

A State chair and footstool, intended as a present from the African-Aid Society to the Alake of Abbeokuta, are now at the offices of the society, at 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand. The Secretary will have pleasure in showing them to any visitors.

* Captain W. Allen's Niger Expedition, Vol. 1, p. 273.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The U.C.R.M. steamer Athens reached Plymouth from the Cape on the 1st February.

White and Pontao wines, 107. 10s. and 127. 10s. per pipe; sweet wines, 367. Wool, unwashed, 5d. to 10d.; washed, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. Wheat, per muid, 27s.; barley, 14s.; oats, 9s. 3d. Butter, per lb., 1s. to 1s. 1d.; beef per tierce, 95s. Ox and cow hides—dry, 17s.; wet, 4½d. per lb.; horns, 43s. per 100. Argol per 100lbs., 65s. 6d.; aloes, 37s. 6d. Ivory, per lb., 5s. 9d. Ostrich feathers, 100s. to 180s., quality and black, 12s.

In the western districts the demand for labourers is on the decline, and "permit" immigrants only will hereafter be received. In the frontier districts the demand is as great as ever.

An attempt at cultivating cotton is to be made in the division of Worcester by Messrs. Tulken and Keyter. During the previous month 730 tons of copper ore were shipped for England. The Customs' duties for eleven months realised 260,138½, being an increase of 13,553½ over the corresponding period in the previous year.

A depth of twenty feet is hoped to be obtained at the entrance of Port Alfred. Graham's Town, thirty miles distant, will be much enriched by the improvement in that harbour.

NATAL.

Arrowroot, 25½ to 27½ per ton. Indian corn is fetching 33s. per 150lbs., and corn meal 40s. They have been 40s. and 46s., and will be very dear until after next harvest. Wheat is about the same price.

Revenue.—The past quarter, 28,240½, same period last year, 14,817½. This shows a very satisfactory progress.

The colonists say they would grow cotton if they could have capital at a moderate rate, and call upon Manchester to furnish it.

MADAGASCAR.

The Rev. J. J. Le Brun, who went from Mauritius immediately the news of the Queen's death arrived, has been well received. A Christian officer was at Tamatave to meet him, and conduct him, in the King's name, to Antananarivo. He was exceedingly well received. When the Protestant places of worship were opened, there was great astonishment at the number of Christians who presented themselves after their long concealment under most dreadful persecutions.

By last advices three Roman Catholic priests and four sisters of charity were likewise there; and six priests, with four lay assistants, left Aden in the steamer, on Dec. 12, to reinforce the mission.

The report made to the Governor of Mauritius by the embassy he sent to the new King of Madagascar is very interesting and important. We will preface a few extracts by one from the instructions given by the Governor to the embassy:—

I may here repeat what I have already explained, that there is a clear understanding between the English and the French Governments, that no diplomatic step whatever, that may alter the present relations and state of things with Madagascar, is to be taken by either of these countries, without the full knowledge and consent of the other. With this fact in mind, all approach, or appearance of approach, to that point must be carefully avoided, in act and word, by all members of this mission.

The following from the report seems to dispose of the falsehoods of the French press about *Prime Minister Lambert*:—

Although there is every disposition on the part of the King and his Government to welcome Europeans, and treat them with respect and kindness, there is yet no truth in the report that the King has sought their official counsel, and has appointed one among the European residents to fill an important executive office. Such a step would be entirely opposed to the spirit of the Madagascar Government.

In reference to the general joy manifested at the presence of the English, it says:—

We need not look for an explanation of this feeling. The missionary work, initiated thirty years ago, will sufficiently account for it. Nearly all the arts with which the people are acquainted were taught them by the missionaries, and your excellency will see with astonishment with what patience their workmen carry out any given task, and often with implements ill fitted for the performance of it. Their iron work deserves the highest praise.

Africans to St. Helena and Sierra Leone, instead of direct to the West Indies, but as he (Mr. Cave) intended bringing this subject before the House, when the expenditure caused thereby came before them in the estimates, he would say no more then, but he begged to remind Her Majesty's Government that the authorities of the Federal States had lately expressed in the most marked manner their determination to put down the slave-trade, and had even condemned a slave captain to death in New York; so that it was possible they might consent to some, if only temporary, measure, such as a relaxation of their rules respecting right of search, so as to prevent the mischief which would otherwise arise from the withdrawal of their squadron.* (Hear.)

Lord PALMERSTON: Sir, in regard to the question put by my noble friend (Lord A. Churchill) with respect to Dahomey and the slave-trade on the coast of Africa, the House knows very well that measures for the suppression of that traffic have occupied the most anxious and active attention of Her Majesty's Government for a great number of years. (Hear, hear.) My noble friend probably knows well enough that two missions have been sent out at different times to the late King of Dahomey for the purpose of endeavouring to persuade him to abandon that barbarous and inhuman practice of human sacrifice, and to assist us in suppressing the slave-trade. (Hear, hear.) I am sorry to say that they were not attended with success. (Hear, hear.) Persons, however anxious they may be for the attainment of their objects, must recollect what obstacles the passions and habits of mankind sometimes oppose to what they have in view. This practice of human sacrifices has prevailed extensively over the whole of that part of Africa, and when you go to a barbarian (like the King of Dahomey for the time being), and ask him to forego these practices, to which he has attached a value, as symbols of authority and power, and as being tokens of respect for those who have gone before him, it is just as if you asked the ancient Romans to forego the murders which were committed in the amphitheatres, or the Spaniards of the present day those bullfights which would disgust an Englishman, but which afford great delight to spectators in Spain. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Duncan was sent some time ago to the King of Dahomey, and the account he gave was something utterly disgusting. (Hear.) The palace was surrounded by a large and extensive wall, which was decorated with human skulls on spikes. He himself was compelled to be a witness to one of those human sacrifices, where the unhappy captives were put into things like canoes and thrown over a parapet from forty to fifty feet high, and if not killed by the fall, they were despatched by people standing below. (Hear, hear.) Nothing was accomplished by the mission, and I very much doubt whether any persuasion would induce the present King of Dahomey, who seems, if possible, less imbued with feelings of humanity than his father, to abandon this practice. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, I can assure my noble friend and the House that no opportunity will be lost which appears to Her Majesty's Government calculated to effect an opening with the King of Dahomey for effecting our object. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the slave-trade, I fear persuasion will not induce him, any more than other African chiefs, to abandon it. They will only be induced to abandon it when convinced that it would be more to their advantage and more easy for them to carry on legitimate trade. The fact is that the chief derives great profit from the slave-trade, while the people under him derive more profit from legitimate trade. The occupation of Lagos has resulted in impeding the slave-trade in that quarter; and if we could only shut up Whydah we should have done much to drive the slave-trade from that part of the coast. But, as stated by my noble friend, the slave-trade is carried on by Spaniards, Portuguese, and Brazilians, and, though their Governments have, as Governments, abandoned the practice of the slave-trade, yet habits to which people are once trained are very difficult to be eradicated. At the same time, much progress has been made, and my noble friend is right in saying that, if this slave-trade from the West Coast of Africa could be stopped, there are sources there

of legitimate trade of infinite value, not only to that country itself, but to England and a great part of Europe. Cotton plants have been seen growing naturally, within a great zone, in great abundance, and shedding the cotton on the ground; and it is evident that this is a matter of great importance to the manufacturers of this country. (Hear, hear.) I can assure my noble friend that no exertions will be omitted on the part of the Government, first of all to endeavour to eradicate the abominable system of human sacrifice, and in the next place to put a stop, as far as possible, to the slave-trade. (Hear, hear.) It is quite true that, owing to the civil war in America, the Federal Government has withdrawn the greater part of their cruisers from the coast of Africa, and I cannot say, offhand, whether there still remains that number of guns which the United States are bound by treaty to maintain on that coast for the suppression of the slave-trade, but it is quite true that the Federal Government have shown the most anxious and sincere desire to put in force their laws against the slave-trade; and it may be expected that when the present unfortunate dispute in America terminates, whether in the establishment of one or two Governments, the American authorities will concur with Great Britain in some arrangement by which more effectual assistance may be given by American cruisers to check a crime which is a capital offence by the laws of the United States. With respect, therefore, to the African coast, I hope my noble friend will believe that we are anxious to carry out those views which he has so properly expressed.

NEW INVENTION IN TELEGRAPHS.

We believe that an important invention connected with both land and submarine telegraphs will shortly be made public. By this invention the construction of telegraph lines will be much simplified. We believe the principle consists in the employment of an entire metallic circuit, in which perfect insulation is not material. In land lines the second wire is made to convey the return current by a different route; thus making it possible to utilise the current at any given point throughout the entire circuit. The submarine lines are also constructed on the same principle. It is a well-established fact that, as the electric current invariably travels in a circuit, it will not leave an outgoing conducting wire, unless it can find equal facilities for re-entering by the other. A very slight insulating covering will, therefore, under such circumstances, be all that is required, the return by the earth's circuit being disused.

We hope this will bear the test of experience, and then, as one result of the cheapness of construction, where little else than the conducting metal is employed, we shall, no doubt, soon have telegraphic wires along the African coast for immediate communication with England.

REVIEWS.

Toils and Triumphs; or, Missionary Work in the World's Dark Places. By HARRIET WARNE ELLIS. London: Seeley and Co. 1862.

We commend this little work to our readers. By careful extracts from voluminous reports of the various missionary societies, it presents graphic sketches of the principal fields of missionary labour. We have read with great interest those of Africa, where even flies are preserved and worshipped in some places as Fetishes. An earnest spirit has been engaged in the compilation of this really interesting and valuable book. The authoress truly says: "It is awful to think of the physical suffering and loss of life directly resulting from Paganism." And we do not wonder at her pointing to Dahomey as a flagrant example.

COTTON FROM THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—Messrs. W. H. Fisher and Co., of this city, have just received from the West Coast of Africa 137 bales of cotton, quite equal to middling Orleans.—*Manchester Examiner*. [Messrs. Banner Brothers, London, have also some of fine quality; and some sold by Mr. Clegg, of Manchester, has realised 12d. per lb.—*Ed. A. T.*]

* The African-Aid Society sent in a memorial to the Government on the 4th February, with some specific propositions on this subject.

CAPABILITIES OF AFRICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bowsonia, Leelanau County, Michigan, U.S., Oct. 14, 1861.

Dear Brother in the cause of God and humanity,—The elevation of Africa is near my heart, and anything that promises to aid in rescuing her from her long and deep degradation meets a warm response in my heart. I feel identified with the coloured race by my five years' imprisonment in Missouri, on account of my love of the slave, and by my six years' residence in West Africa, where I laboured hard and suffered much for them; and should probably have remained, but for the ill-health of my family—wife and child. We had buried our first-born there, a little boy of six years.

But poor Africa—what can be done for her? I rejoice in the success of Dr. Livingston, and of every other explorer and labourer in Africa; but much more need to be and can be done for her. 1. She needs missionaries and teachers, but *these alone will not do the work needed*. Accompanying them should be (2) farmers and mechanics, who can teach them civilization, for both must go together—civilization and Christianity: either without the other will fail; but both united will, with God's blessing, lift her up, and soon give her a place among the nations.

She has natural resources abundant. 1. The people are capable of being educated in the arts and sciences, in which they make rapid proficiency when an opportunity is provided. In managing business, mercantile or other, they manifest an ability equal to the whites. The richest men in Sierra Leone are negroes who were taken out of the slave ship. They make very efficient preachers, teachers, mechanics, farmers, &c., when instructed.

2. The country is rich—very productive in many things needful for commerce and home consumption. Rice, Indian corn, and some smaller grains, suited to exportation, can be produced to any extent. Ginger, pepper, arrowroot, can be supplied to meet the wants of the world. Coffee and cotton of fine quality grow wild abundantly, and can be cultivated to any extent to supply Manchester and every cotton factory in Christendom. There only needs to do this to start it all along the Western Coast, and make a market for them, and the natives will go to producing them. They will work at what they can make the most money by. Africa is by far the best and most natural coffee and cotton country in the world, and, I will add, sugarcane also. These articles are spontaneous products of the soil. Coffee is a forest tree, from twenty to seventy-five feet high, as I saw myself, and is cultivated with great care. Cotton grows to quite a bush, from six to ten feet high, and the same bush bears a crop every year; and sugarcane, when *once planted, will shoot up and make new crops as often as cut down*. These things I have seen.

3. And her minerals are rich and abundant. Gold and iron ore, the purest in the world, is very abundant in many parts. Copper, zinc, lead, &c., have been discovered, how abundant we know not. Coal has been found on the West and East Coast.

4. And her climate is mild (West and Central Africa)—no excessive heat or cold. And why should not Africa become a great country? Only let the proper means be used, and, with God's blessing, she shall be. Dear brother, I hope the African-Aid Society may prove a great blessing to Africa and the world. May God give all needed wisdom to guide you aright, and grant His rich blessing, is my desire.—Yours, for the redemption of this long-neglected land and people,

GEORGE THOMPSON.

P.S. Our country, as you know, is passing through a fiery ordeal. May she come out purged from her abominations, and yet become a "nation whose God is the Lord!" The expectation is more and more general that the days of slavery are being rapidly numbered. God grant it! is the prayer of many tens of thousands.

LARGE quantities of cotton are now being carried through Texas in waggons and taken into Mexico, whence the staple is shipped to England and France.—*New York Commercial Advertiser*.

HOPE FOR AFRICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Deeply interested in the land so long oppressed, afflicted, and devastated by all nations, I have heartily rejoiced in the appearance of the *African Times*. May abundant success attend it!

The "signs of the times" appear at length to indicate that the "day of Africa's redemption draweth nigh." Christian zeal and commercial enterprise are earnestly exploring her coasts and opening up the long-hidden interior to the eyes of the world. The great markets of the earth are asking for other products than her sons and daughters, and she is at last felt to be necessary to the general weal.

Rich in natural resources, she need not be a beggar. Teeming with millions of the human race, she need not be despised. Sunk, indeed, in moral debasement she has been, and is; her dark places still full of the habitations of cruelty; her kings and her chief men, with few exceptions, very incarnations of Satanic evil. But what hinders her recovery? The greatest barrier is the participation of so-called Christian nations in her greatest crime. How shall it be removed? Treaties have failed, cruisers have but very partially succeeded. But can no other means be tried? England is fearfully implicated in the guilt of Africa's degradation. Atone fully for that guilt she never can; but she may make some reparation for the grievous wrong. Not alone, however, is appeal made to England's justice and humanity: England's interest as loudly calls for Africa's release. The dark cloud which slavery has raised has yet a silver lining for the motherland of the slave.

The plan proposed by the *African-Aid Society*, conjoined with enlarged missionary effort, and encouraged by the co-operation of Government, presents, perhaps, the brightest hope that has yet appeared. Will a fair trial be given to it? Will England awake to a sense of her duty, and make an earnest and an honest effort to apply a remedy for Africa's woe?

From some considerable personal acquaintance with African character, I firmly believe that the measures proposed by the African-Aid Society, if energetically sustained, will most materially promote the civilization, and consequently the elevation, of the country. I do not mean that any measures merely directed to the development of its natural resources will alone be sufficient to bring the people out of barbarism; but I do believe that such efforts, in co-operation with agencies directly engaged in the promulgation of the Gospel, would be greatly blessed. While this co-operation would encourage and hold up the hands of the missionary, the labours of the missionary would give vitality and efficiency to the working of the secular element. The introduction of an industrial Christian band, as a nucleus around which native material might be drawn, would have the happiest effect. And there is not a missionary in the country who would not hail with joy the accession of such auxiliaries. May England listen to the appeals of the Society, and in right earnest set about doing the work! Soon, then, might even poor, dark, down-trodden Africa hear the joyful sound, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee!"

Yours respectfully,

A.

THE paddlewheel steam sloop *Virago*, 6, Commander W. J. H. Johnstone, left Plymouth Sound on the 12th, having in tow the paddlewheel steam vessel *Investigator*, Lieutenant and Commander Benjamin L. Lefroy, which she will escort as far as the island of Madeira, on her way to the West Coast of Africa.

WATER.—An artesian well has been sunk at Capetown, Cape of Good Hope. An ordinary well, thirty feet deep, failed to give anything like an adequate supply of water. Two holes, four and a half inches wide, were then sunk, and after proceeding another twenty-five or thirty feet, a body of water, yielding not less than two thousand gallons per hour, was obtained.—[We wish some of the educated Africans on the West Coast would turn their attention to matters of this kind. The most ignorant nature would appreciate such evidences of the fruits of civilisation; and the public health would be improved.—*Ed. A. T.*]

AMERICA.

FEDERAL ARMIES.—Except gaining a small victory at Somerset, Kentucky, on 18th and 19th January, these have really done nothing. 600,000 men, costing 500,000l. a-day, could not well do less. The Confederate general, Zollicoffer, was killed in the above-mentioned action.

President Lincoln has granted three weeks' respite to Captain Gordon, of the slave *Erie*, who was to have been hung to-morrow morning (the 7th inst.). The *New York* press unanimously urge the carrying out of capital punishment.

General Beauregard's official report on the battle of Manassas has been published. According to this report, the loss of the Confederates was 1,800 killed and wounded. The effective force of the Confederate army of the Potomac was 21,000 men and twenty-nine guns.

GENERAL McCLELLAN.—A Sacramento (California) paper gives the following sarcastic opinion of this American Napoleon's projects: "That McClellan is waiting for the Chinese population of California to increase to such a vast number that they will be able to cross the Rocky Mountains and bring up his right wing, by which time the Russian possessions and Greenland will have a redundant population, which can be drafted down to the support of the grand left wing of the Union army—and that when these great events take place, the war will commence in earnest."

HUMAN ENACTMENT.—The exportation of quinine from New York to Cuba had been prohibited, it having transpired that it was transhipped to the South.

It is well ascertained that the President will approve no measure of emancipation not embracing colonization.—*New York Times*.

A New York correspondent of the *Standard* says:—Since the active measures taken out against slavery in New York, vessels are fitted out from Liverpool, and the British Ministers have documents and affidavits in their possession clearly proving the fact. More than that, persons are now in prison here, who are detained to be used as witnesses in Liverpool, but the British Government has not yet sent for them, although knowing all the facts. The Ministry know that the British Consul at St. Thomas's is up to his eyes in this rascally slave business. Is despatches from our Secretary of State, containing clear proofs of all I state, have been for weeks in the possession of the British Minister. We have thought it right to insert this, that we may state we do not believe one word of it. Lord Palmerston's hatred of the slave-trade is too well known to allow of our attaching any credit to such statements. We wish, however, that some member would refer to it in the House of Commons, that it may receive an authoritative and indignant denial.—*Ed. A. T.*

LATEST.—Intelligence has arrived of the capture of Fort Henry by the Federalists, who took twenty cannon and sixty prisoners.

HOW TO TREAT DAHOMEY.

"We observe by our English journals, received per Ethiopia, that the friends of Africa in England are greatly bestirring themselves in favour of our country. We are glad to remark that the British Government have firm opinions as to the policy to be pursued with reference to the King of Dahomey. Some anti-slavery journals appear to deprecate the use of force towards that monarch. They think that persuasion and entreaty should be brought to bear on him, with a view to induce him to desist from his practices of sacrificing human beings and engaging in slave-hunts. Persuasion, argument, and entreaty, have been repeatedly used on this present King of Dahomey and his predecessors, and used in vain. These kings tell us that it is the custom of their nation to hunt for slaves and to sacrifice human beings. He who is king is obliged to do these things. It is with him just as much a duty as the abiding by the advice of responsible ministers is with the Sovereign of Great Britain. If he abstained from these practices, his subjects would turn him out, and set up another man in his place, who would carry them out in accordance with immemorial usage. In order to put down these barbarous practices, only one course will avail—to use physical force. The British Government must say to the Dahomians, 'Sirs, you are unwholesome in your habits and troublesome in your ways and practices. You won't live and let live. You go about kidnap-

ping and killing people who never harmed you—who don't even know you. You prevent commerce, you hinder civilization, you create misery and desolation, you break up hundreds of thousands of happy families. This will not do. The world really can't get on in this manner. We have spoken to you, we have reasoned with you, we have entreated you—nay, we have even offered you money to leave off troubling your neighbours. Well, you are obstinate, you are perverse; you won't listen to anything; you will continue killing, kidnapping, and plundering, for no other reason than because you like it. Now we are resolved to put an end to your proceedings. You shall keep the peace in future. You shall no longer be a bugbear, a nuisance, a terror and a scourge to all surrounding nations. Kill yourselves if you like—that's your business; but if you dare to step out of your own boundaries and disturb other nations who never troubled you, you shall pay for it—yes, in such wise that you shall never have the power to molest the neighbours again.'

"If England would say this, and do it, she might save millions sterling in money, and she would be the salvation of Africa and millions of her suffering children."—*West African Herald*.

The crowned gorilla, Dahomey, now stops the way in Western Africa, and crowds of merchants and dealers, and millions of cotton cultivators, demand whether the way is to be stopped, or Dahomey put out of it? and we ourselves want to know who will maintain the rights of this "legitimate" abomination against the interests of surrounding nations, and the civilising influences that are now pouring in upon Africa? Sympathy with crime must be stronger and far more morbid than we take it to be in England if this miscreant finds amongst us a single apologist. A prospective murderer—one who promises to murder periodically, who sends out invitation cards for a circuit of 200 miles with a grand and dainty programme of slaughter—drives from the heart every wish but that for the swiftest and most efficient intervention between him and his victims. "Non-intervention" is a fine, and sometimes a useful phrase, but it is not meant to charter the libertines of the world, or to draw a sacred line within which some half ape, half demon, may celebrate orgies that banish civilisation from his age and country.

It is a case for the police. We don't make much ceremony about dropping a drunken Irishman down three pairs of stairs to the station, and Dahomey bears about the same proportion to the interchangeable value which his neighbourhood would soon yield to the world as the Irishman does to London. Let the English, whose *deaf* is nearest, take it in hand. It is a nuisance that has got to be abated—a stench foul that wants a trap. Let those whose occupations there of purveying the raw material for the world's operations subject them to Dahomey's incursions; let those whose industry haunts all the shores, and interpenetrates the regions round about, attend his next grand ceremony, for which he has sent out cards, and introduce to him the moral, and, if necessary, the physical force of England.

The savage, as such, can understand nothing of power that does not restrain; and in using temperately and efficiently our power we use the only means left to us for doing the duty which our position in Africa devolves upon us.

Of two things one—*Dahomey or civilisation*. Either he must be made to understand that the nascent civilisation around him is to be left alone, or it must be abandoned by the British people, its natural guardians. For ourselves, we confess we prefer civilisation, and if we must choose, would abandon the pet ruffian for the sake of the numerous contented and prosperous aboriginal races. The cause of Africa can't afford both.

Countries there many times larger than England are beginning to learn industry, law, government, and religion; and if we are to foster these gifts of heaven, we cannot also tolerate in their vicinity a power that says to slaughter, "Be thou my thanksgiving," and to evil, "Be thou my God!"

We might claim this act of justice in the name also of science. It may, after all, turn out that this King of Dahomey is the missing link which Du Chaillu has not considered between the animal and man. His actions support this view of his nature.

He is almost too calculating in evil not to be somewhat human, and he is altogether too ravenous and bestial not to be greatly animal. To take Dahomey out of harm's way, to settle this point for science, and to do our duty by our own commerce and principles, let the man—or the monkey—be straightway caught and caged, if living; or, if dead, preserved in spirits and brought over. Let phrenologists have his cast, Du Chailu his brains, Tussaud his effigy, the Museum his skin, and let Africa be well rid of them all. But, be this done or undone, in the name of common sense, let us hear no more of this creature as an obstacle to the now imminent progress and reclamation of the great African continent!

MISCELLANEA.

AFRICAN WOMEN.—Mungo Park says: "I do not recollect a single instance of hard-heartedness toward me in the women. In all my wanderings and wretchedness I found them uniformly kind and compassionate. I can truly say with Mr. Ledyard, 'To a woman I never addressed myself, in the language of decency and friendship, without receiving a decent and friendly answer. If I was hungry or thirsty, wet or sick, they did not hesitate to perform a generous action.'"—*Macbride's "Africans at Home."*

Mr. JOHN WHITE, of Cowes, has received an order from the Admiralty for the construction of twenty lifeboats, cutters, and gigs, their lordships having determined that every ship serving on the West Coast of Africa shall in future be supplied with one of each description. The cutters will be capable of carrying a gun and ammunition in addition to their ordinary crew, and will possess buoyancy sufficient to prevent the hull of the boat, with its gun, ammunition, and crew, from sinking in the event of its being struck by shot, or stove from any other cause.

IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL AGENCY IN AFRICAN REGENERATION.—How strongly this is shown in the following extract from a Report to the Baptist Missionary Society, dated "Cameroons":—

The circumstances of these people require that they should be taught the value of labour as well as the Gospel. I do not wish to undervalue pulpit duties and good preaching, but a man that could do no more would be but a sorry workman on the West Coast of Africa. The working man who has the love of Christ in his heart, and can preach Christ in all plainness and simplicity, is the man that will find work to do for many years to come.

The last remark is full of important truth, and will go far to explain to our readers the manifold employments which fill the missionaries' time. It must not be forgotten that on this coast there are none of the advantages of civilisation. All trade is barter; and it is only by gifts of cloth, tobacco, and the like, that the missionaries can secure the fruits of the earth for food. If they want a house, they must build it. They must be both workmen and instructors of workmen. In other lands the missionary can have all his wants supplied, if he only possess money to purchase what he needs. In Africa, he must be his own purveyor, his own carpenter and brickmaker, and money is of no use. Thus he depends on stores from England, and on the exchanges he can effect with the natives, for his daily food. Inevitably his day is occupied with manifold secular employments, as well as with exertions for his great object—the evangelization of the people. Here the Gospel is accompanied by the arts of civilised life, and the missionary must be the pioneer of both.

Just published, second edition, revised, 8vo, cloth, 16s.,

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