

The African Times.

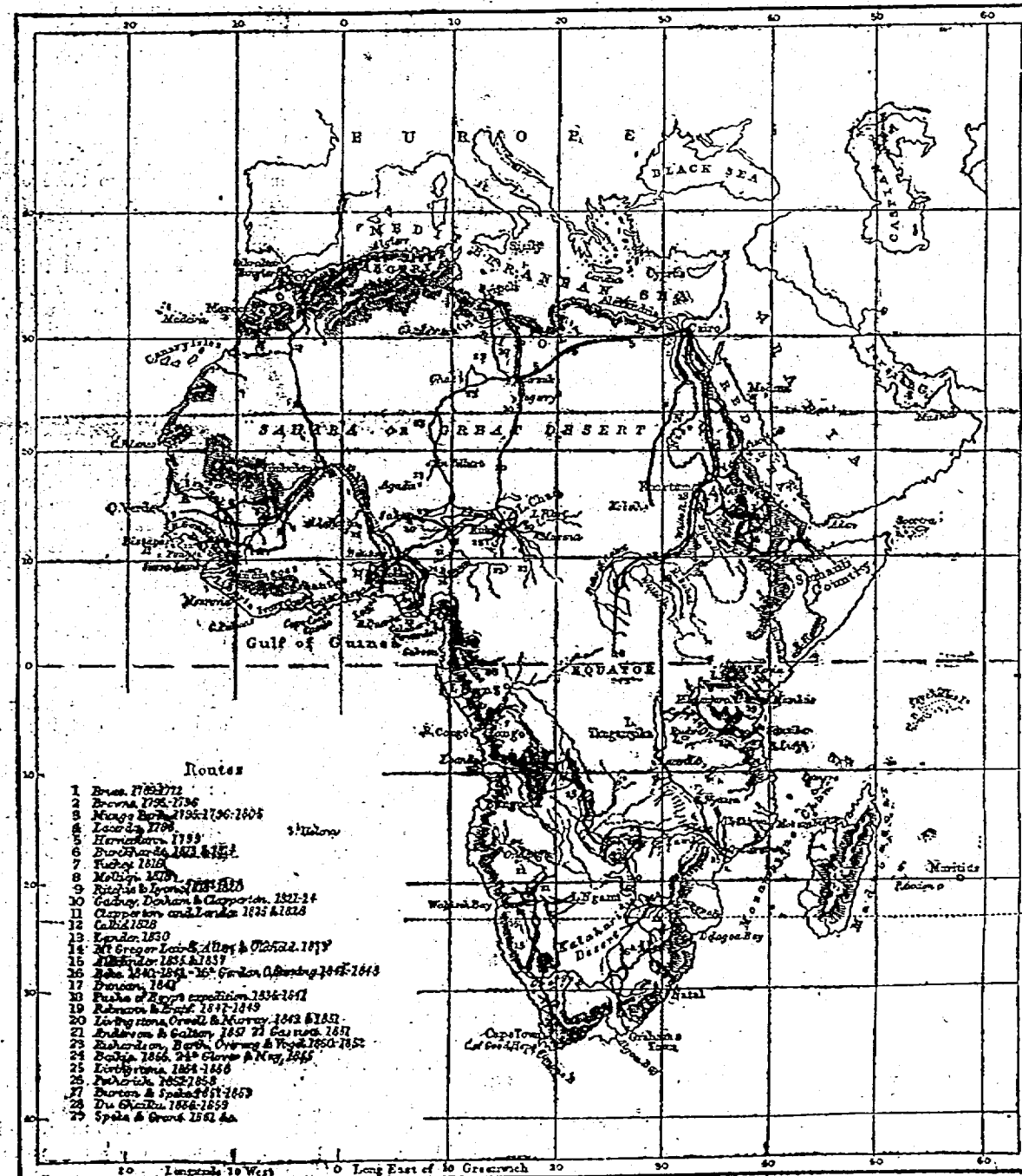
JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Vol. II., No. 18.]

LONDON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1862.

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MAP OF AFRICA,
WITH ROUTES OF DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN EXPLORERS.
PRESENTED TO THE "AFRICAN TIMES" BY DR. NORTON SHAW, SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.



R. C. Oller, Map-room, R.G.S.

WEST AFRICA MAILS.

The Royal Mail steamship Athenian arrived at Liverpool, with the above mails, on the 12th inst. Her dates are—Benin, Oct. 24; Fernando Po, 28; Cameroons, 30; Old Calabar, Nov. 2; Brass River, 3; Nun River, Oct. 25; Bonny, Nov. 6; Lagos, 10; Accra, 12; Cape Coast Castle, 14; Cape Palmas, 16; Sierra Leone, 21; Bathurst, 25; Teneriffe, Dec. 2; Madeira, 4. The Athenian brings 32 passengers, 1,031 ounces of gold dust, 1,284*l.* in specie, and a general cargo, comprising 400 bales of cotton, the largest single importation yet received in Liverpool from the West Coast of Africa.

The slave-trade has again revived, and an active business was being carried on at Whydah. On the 29th of October a large screw steamer shipped upwards of 920 slaves at Whydah, and got clear away to sea, although several British cruisers were keeping a sharp look-out after her. Other vessels are also reported to have escaped with cargoes of slaves.

The yellow fever had not entirely left the rivers on the leeward coast. During the stay of the steamer at Bonny several fatal cases had occurred amongst the Europeans of that place. Trade was very much depressed, not only on account of the epidemic, but in consequence of the war which was being carried on between the Himbla and Aquita tribes of the Eboe country. It was, however, reported by King Poppel, at Bonny, that trade would revive by the 18th of November, and the general opinion among the traders was that the present palm-oil season would be a good one.

At Benin trade was somewhat improved, though it had not recovered from the late depression.

At Lagos everything was very quiet. The Governor had commenced making great improvements in the town.

Accra still continued in trouble, and the general dulness in commerce was occasionally relieved by shocks of earthquake, which continue to visit the place, more or less, since the one which occurred some months since.

At Teneriffe much distress prevailed in consequence of the prevalence of yellow fever, which was committing great ravages at that place. When the Athenian called off Teneriffe the captain refused to communicate with the shore. Pratique was refused him at Madeira, and the consequence was that several ladies and gentlemen (passengers on board the steamer) who wanted to land were obliged to come to England, at the loss of a great deal of time and money. Among these was the distinguished explorer, Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul for the Bights of Biafra. The Athenian brought the following shipping report:—

Benin, Oct. 24.—The Benin and the Pride of Canada.
Fernando Po, Oct. 28.—The Harriet Ellen, the Love Bird, and the Mary Hamilton.

Cameroons, Oct. 30.—The Dauntless, to sail on the 7th of November.

Old Calabar, Nov. 2.—The Cressy and the Coquette.

Brass, Nov. 3.—The Mosquito, to sail on the 4th; the Rydal, off the bar; the Empress sailed 22nd of October.

Bonny, Nov. 6.—The Tapley, the Ferozepore, the Benledi, the Faith, the Ellersley, the Manners Sutton, and the Ellen Grant, sailed on the 6th; and the Fidelitas on the 3rd of November.

Lagos, Nov. 10.—The Lagos, the Madagascar, the Parthenope, the William, the Medina, the African, Her Majesty's ship Wrangler, and the Griffin; the Africa at Palma.

Accra, Nov. 12.—Her Majesty's ship Lee, Cape Coast Castle; Her Majesty's ship Brisk.

Cape Palmas, Nov. 16.—The Royal Mail steamship Ethiopie.

Sierra Leone, Nov. 21.—Her Majesty's ship Bloodhound.

Madeira, Dec. 4.—The Royal Mail steamship M'Gregor Laird sailed December 3.

The Athenian brought home the captain, officers, and twenty-three distressed seamen from the bark Dee.

SIERRA LEONE.

Her Majesty's steamship Rattlesnake, Commodore Wilmott, C.B., arrived in port on Monday, the 21st October, to succeed the Arrogant, Commodore Edmonstone. After all the requisite ceremonies and salutes, the Arrogant steamed off, and left this

harbour on the afternoon of the 22nd inst. for her future destination.

Through the recommendation of the Church Missionary Society, four of the pupils of the Grammar School have been lately selected to be instructed in navigation. It is said that they are to be apprenticed for a certain term on board Her Majesty's steamship Rattlesnake, Commodore Wilmott, C.B. They will have to undergo a strict examination previous to their admittance.

The new Governor, his Excellency Major Samuel W. Blackall, arrived in the Ethiopie on the afternoon of the 11th November, and landed at the New Wharf at about half-past five o'clock. His Excellency was received by the civil and military authorities, and a large crowd of respectable merchants and citizens, who gave him a most hearty welcome. His Excellency would have landed earlier, but for the heavy rain, which came down in torrents for an hour after the arrival of the vessel.

PRESIDENT BENSON IN SIERRA LEONE.—On Thursday, 13th November, a salute of twenty-one guns from the barracks announced the landing of the African President of the Republic of Liberia and suite from the mail steamer Ethiopie, in his official capacity, on a visit of ceremony to his Excellency the Governor.

A detachment of troops from Tower Hill Barracks, commanded by Captain Knox, 2nd W.I.R., has left this to join the Gold Coast Artillery Corps, in the room of the mutinous soldiers who are kept here, till further arrangements. We have no doubt that the soldiers will be found very superior to those of the Gold Coast Corps, both in character and discipline.

ROADS NEAR FREETOWN.—Great complaint is made of the state into which these have fallen. They are said to be very much worse since a road-tax has been collected, and it is therefore suggested whether it will not be better to allow the people, at least those in the villages, to attend to their own roads, as heretofore; and if they are too many to work at one time, that they should be divided, and the roads be cleaned twice in the year? It appears that there is an impression on the minds of the people in some of the villages where the road-tax had been commenced that the tax is collected from them to make good the streets, &c., of Freetown; because after the tax had been collected from those who could pay, the defaulters were called upon to clean the roads in the best way they could; so that work which was formerly done by the whole of the villagers is thrown upon a comparatively few defaulters. The importance of good roads is so great, that we hope the new Governor will speedily take measures for remedying this great grievance.

SHERBORO.

Sierra Leone seems to draw largely from the Sherboro, twelve brigs, schooners, and cutters having left for Sierra Leone, during the month of October, laden with produce.

There are reports of extensive preparations being made by both the warring parties in the Boom for carrying on the war during the dry season, now commenced.

The missionary paper, the *Early Dawn*, says, when treating of the late atrocities at Abomey: "We hope something may be done to stop this mad savage from further barbarities of this kind."

We hope the following from the same religious paper does not apply to any other part of the African coast. The statement is a very strong one, and calls for the serious consideration of Christian British merchants. Commencing with the following verse from Phil. iv.—

Whatever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report—if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things—

the Editor thus proceeds:—

"Suppose a young man should come into the Sherboro to trade for Mr. A, B, C, or Z, and endeavour to make the above injunction a principle of his life, how long would he retain his principles and hold his situation? Would he not soon be told that he must not bring his conscience into the trade in dealing with the country people. He must throw away all scruples of conscience about truth and honesty, selling rum and tobacco—learn to make a man drunk and cheat him out of half his

honest dues, if possible. In short, his motto must be, 'Whatsoever things are false, whatsoever things dishonest, whatsoever things are unjust, whatsoever things are impure, whatsoever things are unlovely, whatsoever things are of evil report—if there be any vice, if there be anything that a devil can praise, think on these things.' And yet he must be strictly honest with his employer! Must strip himself of every principle of honesty, truth and justice, in dealing with one class of individuals, and be expected to act from those same lost principles in dealing with another. The thing is morally impossible! He who would take advantage of a countryman would soon learn to take advantage of any other man, and he who would cheat a customer, would surely cheat an employer, if he could get an opportunity. Do those who trade upon such principles make anything in the end? Is there not far more chance for a clerk to cheat his employer than for his employer to cheat him? Would not honesty be far the best policy? Deal honestly with the country people, get honest, upright clerks, and expect to make a good, reasonable profit. They that make haste to be rich fall into a snare. Where is there a man who has made himself rich in trading in the Sherboro? Echo answers, where? Some have been made bankrupt, and ruined, and when they came to reflect upon it, they have the consolation of knowing that they have brought all this evil upon their own heads, by utterly disregarding this command of God."

LIBERIA.

His Excellency the President arrived at Cape Palmas, from England, on the 16th November, by the African Royal Mail steamer Ethiopie. He landed under a salvo of guns, which was fired from the African mail steamers at anchor in the roads, and answered by the Liberian war schooner Quail and the shore battery. His Excellency spoke very highly of the British nation, and of the kind treatment he had received from us in England.

The following are from the *Liberian Journal*:—

"INDUSTRIAL MISSIONARY EFFORT.—The Methodist Mission has ready for shipment to the United States 1,000*lbs.* of coffee, the produce of the mission place at White Plains. It is a pleasure to notice this, as an evidence that the mission authorities are somewhat beginning to turn their attention to the right direction of their affairs in this country. The farm is at present under the superintendence of Mr. John Robinson, a recaptive by the Pons in 184—

"Mr. Louis Norfleet had a hen (Shanghai) that died a few weeks ago. He brought the hen from America; it was about seven and a-half years old, had been in this country about six years, and has yielded Mr. Norfleet over 250 dols. for eggs and progeny sold.

"A native (Day) man, by the name of Zamadoo, residing about a mile and a-half interiorward from Millsburg, last year cultivated about an acre and a-half of sugar cane, which, manufactured at Mr. Washington's, will produce a fair yield of sugar and molasses."

CAPE COAST CASTLE.

We have the pleasure to announce the safe arrival of his Excellency Governor Pine from England. He could not have entered upon his duties at a more important period; and animated, as we believe him to be, by a most sincere desire and determination to assist in remedying some of the many evils to which the protected territories are a prey, we shall watch with great interest for his adoption of measures calculated to produce so desirable a result. The work that devolves upon him is one of no small difficulty, because Governor Pine will find, we fear, his means of action very limited, when compared with the end to be attained. We called attention last month to the lamentable state of the Volta provinces as regards the slave-trade now carried on there with so much vigour, and with so much disgrace to Great Britain, which has a nominal control over the territory. We trust some remedy for this at least will speedily be found. We are bringing the weight of British public opinion to bear on these dark corners of the earth, where things cannot be allowed to go on as formerly.

The late Acting Governor, Mr. Ross, has left on sick leave, and, we understand, will not return to the Gold Coast.

The administrative evils brought under our notice from these territories are really of so very grave a character, that, although we know the testimony on which we have the information of them to be unimpeachable, it would seem impossible that such things could take place in a British possession, were it not for the idea of impunity which a previous absence of publicity in England regarding them engendered. But as the *African Times* now circulates in all the coast towns of the protected territories, we wish those who are outraging Christianity and disgracing the British name in the eyes of the natives to understand that such impunity no longer exists.

ANAMABOE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The temperance society here (so much needed in this as in other towns on the Gold Coast) now numbers 250 members. This is really a great victory over drink. So much good having been already accomplished here, the chiefs of this society have given notice for a meeting of the members and friends, to be held at Cape Coast Castle. It is devoutly to be hoped that success will attend their efforts against the awful drunkenness that prevails there.

The quarterly meeting of the Anamaboe Temperance Society was held on the evening of the 9th October, 1862, Mr. Gharthey, President, in the chair. The proceedings bore a very pleasant aspect, and were enlivening and interesting throughout. It closed with a collection of the quarterly contributions, and the amount subscribed was 7*l.* and upwards. The following are from the addresses of the gentlemen and friends present on this occasion:—

Mr. Penny narrated the following painful incident: A few years ago, in the town of Cape Coast, a number of young men formed themselves into a club, which went by the name of the "Tiger Society." Now, this strange society had for its sole object the fostering of drunken habits. In a very short time they were under the complete sway of the enemy; so much so, that, to say nothing of the miserable and wretched condition of those as yet unremoved by death, two of them, in the very prime of life, have ended their worthless career, and passed into eternity in the most hopeless manner—one by drowning, and the other by falling down headlong. Fellow young men who love the accursed drink, beware!

Mr. John B. O'Cran: I cultivated a love for liquor at the early age of seven, when on one occasion I got dreadfully drunk. Having formed an appetite for drink, I used to thirst after it so much, that on one occasion I ran a fair risk of poisoning myself by drinking what remained in a turpentine bottle, having taken the same for a rum bottle. I had once been imprisoned and put to irons for wounding some gentleman, and in the act I well remember that I was under the influence of drink. Many serious cases that we meet with in life have been directly and indirectly brought on by drinking intoxicating and maddening liquors. The injury done to mankind by it has been so great, that, with the sea as ink, the earth as paper, all the iron in the world converted to pens, and trees of the forests made holders, with the broad sky as a paper to blot up the writing—all these employed together would not suffice to describe it. But blessed be God, who has visited us also with the remedy so desirable as the pledge! Well did the Psalmist sing, "Worthy art thou, O Lord, to be praised, even from the rising up of the sun unto the going down thereof." Fellow-teetotalers, keep to your pledges, and God will bless you; for blessed indeed is the man who signs the pledge and keeps it, "He shall be like a tree planted by the water side, which bringeth forth its fruit in due season; but the drunkards are not so, for they are like the chaff, which the wind bloweth away."

Mr. Dawson: A member of the temperance society had a very tempting offer of a flask of gin from his master, as a present, the latter not being aware that the former had just signed the pledge. On receiving the gin, the poor man hastened to me and communicated to me what kind of present he had received, asking my

advice how to proceed with it. I advised it was no harm to send it back to the master, with the explanation that he was become a teetotaler; but the idea of returning it to his kind and well-meaning master could not be by him entertained, and keep it he would not. To cut the matter short, however, he opened the flask, walked directly to the beach, and poured out the once-loved, but now hateful, contents into the sea. Fellow-abstainers, go and do ye likewise!

Mr. Graham related the following dreadful anecdote: A certain man had occasion to go to the town of Dunquon from Abbakrampah, and got drunk in the course of the day. Towards evening he—under the influence of rum and palm wine, or either—insisted upon returning home. He was intreated to stay till the next morning, as it was rather late; but go he must; and at length he was left alone. Forthwith he took his way; but being overpowered by the drink, he went only half way, and laid himself down to sleep. But, alas! it was his last sleep. He had not been lying long in the path before a tiger came by the same way, and seized upon him as his prey. Lovers of the drink, here is an instance of the danger which awaits you!

IMPORTANT FROM DAHOMY.

We have received most interesting intelligence from our correspondent in this country, which has so grieved Christian England by its atrocities. He says that he is glad to be able to give some better news—news which, he thinks, ought to hasten the British Government in sending that commissioner which the African-Aid Society has been for now two years urging the Government to send. He considers the present to be a most favourable time for such a commissioner's visit to Abomey. The King, whose feeling he represents as having been greatly prejudiced against the English people on the coast for interfering in his affairs with Abeokuta, &c., now declares that he is prepared to receive the English, and to resume that kind friendship and the intercourse which his predecessors had with England.

Our correspondent is not at all prepared to say to what this sudden change is to be attributed, and why the current which has so long set against it has now turned towards Christian England. But the fact is there. The King desires, for some reason or other, the visit of a commissioner, "to see," as he says, "some one who would undertake to explain his good feeling towards the Government of England, and to renew their friendship for him." Our correspondent then adds something which is very important. He says: "It would be necessary and expedient for the Queen's commissioner to come with one of the King's old English friends on the coast, who would be useful in many ways. I say so because he has expressed this wish, and mentioned the name of Mr. Freeman, who was formerly the General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission in the Cape Coast district, and who is now, I believe, near Accra."

We make no comment on this here, but beg to refer our readers to a few observations among our leading articles in this day's paper.

Our correspondent's letter is dated Whydah, October 27, 1862.

LAGOS.

We are sorry to be obliged to state that the trade communications between this place and Abeokuta have been interrupted during an entire month—viz., from October 7 to November 6. On the former day a considerable robbery with violence was committed on the river. A number of canoes, going up from this place for Abeokuta, laden with valuable produce, were attacked and taken by some of the warriors from the Abeokuta camp. All the efforts and demands made by the merchants to obtain a restitution of their stolen property have been fruitless. The chief authorities have promised that the merchants shall be repaid "after the war;" stating that they are unable to take any effective measures for recovering the property now, as "it would interrupt the progress of the war, and might lead to discord."

The merchants are, with reason, far from being satisfied; but, nevertheless, trade has recommenced.

Her Majesty's ship Investigator struck on the bar when coming

in on November 26. Guns were fired at intervals during the day, and it was feared she would have to be abandoned; but she was towed off late in the day by the Advance merchant steamer (Mr. McCorsky's).

Great complaints are made by the merchants as to the arrangements for vessels crossing the bar.

ABEOKUTA.

Cowries are falling rapidly in value. The loss in a fortnight has been nearly six per cent. It is to be hoped that coin will soon replace cowries, which are a most inconvenient and cumbrous medium of exchange in large transactions.

It is believed there will be a very good cotton crop. The price is now 22 strings per pound, with exchange 3 hds. 10 strings per dollar.

We are indeed sorry to say that war now prevails more generally throughout Egba and Yoruba than at any previous time during the last thirty years. Since the destruction of Ijaye, of which we gave so full an account, furnished by one who had been in Ijaye during the entire siege, the work of devastation and pillage has been constantly going on. A missionary authority, writing of the thousands enslaved at Ijaye and Ishagga, adds: "The small farming towns between Abeokuta and Ijaye are forsaken and destroyed; the fields have returned into wilderness; kidnappers and wild beasts infest the bush; and where corn, cotton, indigo, &c., were produced, there are now briars and thorns." Away, a town of several thousand farming people, has been taken by the Ibadians, destroyed, and the inhabitants carried away as slaves. The rage of war, the hate of tribe against tribe, is increasing. Makun, a town of 8,000 people, was taken by the Abeokutans, after a siege of three months. The people were all made slaves. An eye-witness says: "Thousands of them were carried to Abeokuta, many in a miserable state, necessitating their being carried in baskets by their captors. It was a heartrending scene to see these poor people carried along—husbands without their wives, mothers without their children, the latter without their parents; and most of them destined to spend the remainder of their lives in slavery."

The Ibadians are now encamped at Ipara, a small Ijebu town, about a day's journey south of Ibadan; the Ijebus and Egbas have their camp in Makun, a short day's journey south of Ipara, and only one day's journey from the coast. It is said that the Ibadians have pressed the Dahomans to attack Abeokuta under these favourable circumstances.

The same authority says that there seems to be no hope at present of any pacification. Men's passions are inflamed; there are many who love war for the sake of plunder; the love of man-stealing, of catching slaves, is increasing. And yet, in consequence of the favourable position of Abeokuta as regards Lagos, of the successful efforts of missionaries during the last twenty years, and the constant demand made by merchants for produce, "food in Abeokuta is abundant, the markets are well stocked, the farms well cultivated, a considerable quantity of cotton is going forward to Lagos for England, and more cotton seed has been sown than in any former year."

The picture is a terrible one; and we cannot conceal our apprehensions as to the danger in which the town of Abeokuta now is. That such a nucleus of Christianity in Africa should be destroyed in consequence of the insatiation and wickedness of the heathen portion of its population, would be for ever to be deplored. And that the sword of the atrocious Dahomey should be now suspended, as by a thread, over the precious heads of so many Christian converts as are to be found there, may well cause us the most painful apprehension.

By Her Majesty's ship Urgent, arrived at Portsmouth, we learn that the Narcissus, flag ship to Sir Baldwin Walker, K.C.B. (commander-in-chief at the Cape of Good Hope station), Ariel, and Rapid, screw sloops, were at Simon's Bay when she left; and at Ascension was Her Majesty's paddle steamer Bloodhound, with yellow fever on board.

ABYSSINIA.

We have received the following, dated Gondai, Abyssinia, 23rd September, 1862, from a British resident in that country. Abyssinia is so little known, that we give it with real pleasure:—

"Abyssinia has these advantages over every other African power, that she has not only been Christian for many centuries, but has fought successfully for that Christianity ever since the tide of Mohammedanism swept away her empire on the opposite coasts of the Red Sea, and finally hemmed her in among her own mountains; also, that Christianity early developed the peculiar civilization of the Middle Ages in her midst, and to this she still clings.

"All we have to do is to work on these two elements. Elsewhere in Africa we have to begin at the very beginning. There can be no doubt of its wealth and power, even so late as the ascendancy of the Portuguese in these parts, as attested by the castles, palaces, and churches built here by European skill, at the cost of the native princes. Since then, however, it has been literally torn in pieces by internal convulsions, and might possibly even have disappeared from the list of nations, but for the sudden rise of its present king, who, in the course of a few years, has not merely put down all the contending chiefs who perpetually fought for the ascendancy in Amhara and Tigre, but reduced the late sovereignty of Shoa to its original subjugation to the rule of Gondai. Thus Abyssinia is so far become one.

"The King is at the same time rapidly prosecuting internal reforms. He has at this moment lay missionaries at his court attached to the Jerusalem Mission. They are making roads, teaching carpentering, and so forth, and are very well treated. This shows his good will to Europeans.

"I shall have to write to you further, but will you kindly tell me whether the African-Aid Society, or any other, would undertake to give a medical education to a certain number of lads from this country, at Malta or elsewhere? Other questions may stand over for the present, but pray answer this as soon as you can."

Our friends will see that a vast field of Christian exertion is opening in all parts of Africa, and we do earnestly hope they will feel the necessity of supplying the African-Aid Society liberally with funds for its efforts at the Christian civilization and industrial regeneration and development of Africa.

MADAGASCAR.

King Radama II. has been crowned at his capital of Antananarivo. The Rev. Mr. Ellis has sent home a very detailed account of the ceremony, which we hoped to have had the pleasure of laying before our readers this month. Circumstances have unfortunately prevented our doing so. The French papers say that mass was performed over the crown, before the latter was used for the coronation. If this be true, our impression is that it must have been done clandestinely. There is no tendency toward the religion of Rome in Madagascar; and the King is known to incline toward the Protestant faith.

The following appeared on Sunday, the 14th inst., in the *Moniteur* (Paris), immediately after the announcement of the coronation:—

"A treaty of commerce, on the largest basis, has been concluded between France and Madagascar. All other nations have obtained equally favourable terms.

"The treaty makes no mention of territorial concessions—a subject which might have given rise to grave difficulties."

We were very glad to see this, and hope and believe it was intended as an official contradiction of an article which appeared in the Paris paper, the *Opinion Nationale*, of the previous Thursday, as follows: "King Radama II., King of the Hovas, has ceded to France the Bay of Diego Suarez, a magnificent anchorage, where the world's navies might ride quietly, while storms and typhoons rage in the ocean. The surrounding country, which is, of course, also ceded, is described as being clad with primeval forests of magnificent timber, and pouring forth plenteously the richest produce of the tropics.

"At the instigation of England, in 1822, the King of the Hovas assumed the title of King of Madagascar, but France energetically protested against the usurpation of the right to reign over

an island which belongs to her. In 1840, the Slave princes of the north, our old and faithful allies, driven to desperation by English attempts to oust them, came in a body, and offered to cede their territories to Admiral Tell, Governor of the Island of Reunion. This offer was accepted in 1841, and since then France has occupied the islands in the vicinity of Diego Suarez—viz., Mayotte, Noja Bé, and Nossi Comba; and the Bay of Diego Suarez therefore belonged to France already. Our claim is undoubted. We cannot understand why *La France* should speak of the King's 'generosity' in ceding to us what was already ours, nor that this cession will in any way vitiate our claims to the Island of Madagascar."

We repeat, we hope that the announcement in the *Moniteur* was intended to be an official disclaimer of the above. We are positively assured that there is a full understanding between the French and English Governments relative to Madagascar, and that no occupation of any part of that island will be attempted by France. And the Bay of Diego Suarez is so important a position in those seas, that its fortification by France would be a manifest preparation for hostilities with England. Madagascar, if left alone, may now be speedily civilised and Christianised; but if any portion of the island were occupied by a foreign power, it would lead to most disastrous consequences. We hope and believe there will be no departure on the part of his Imperial Majesty Napoleon III. from the understanding with England above alluded to; but as the above is not the first feeling put forth in the French press, we confess to some little anxiety on the subject, and should have liked to see a more direct contradiction by the official organ of the French Government.

SIERRA LEONE COTTON COMPANY.

We noticed in our last the formation of this company by Africans for the cultivation of cotton near Sierra Leone. We insert with pleasure the following observations from the *Sierra Leone Weekly Times* relative to this company:—

"The extension of British territories on this coast must be regarded by every reasonable and intelligent man not only as the means of bringing the surrounding tribes under the influence of the British Government, but also as opening a pathway for the further spread of the Gospel, and the establishment of legitimate commerce and other important auxiliaries of religion.

"The Quiah country recently ceded to this Government undoubtedly affords the inhabitants of this colony an excellent opportunity of turning their attention more particularly to agriculture (the most important of all pursuits), upon which it is said the wealth of a country depends. There is no question about the fertility of the soil on which the agriculturist has to operate, for many have testified as to its capability of yielding spontaneously; we would therefore urge upon the agricultural portion of the community the importance of embracing so favourable an opportunity of enriching themselves by the production of their country, and thereby relieving their fellow-creatures from starvation, by giving them work to do.

"We are exceedingly glad of the formation of the 'Young Men's Cotton Association,' and heartily wish them success in their noble undertaking. Indeed, the object contemplated is of vast importance to the colony: and if the principles upon which it is formed be properly carried out, great and astonishing would be the result. This colony has been stigmatised by ill-disposed men as being unproductive; but we are confident that in course of time the stigma will be removed, when a good supply of cotton and other native productions shall have been shipped for the English market. The spot selected is in every way suitable for the operation, and capable, we understand, of producing luxuriantly."

DOWNING-STREET, Dec. 13.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Robert William Gifford Watson, Esq., to be Chief Magistrate for Her Majesty's settlement of Lagos.

DEATH.—Died on the 23rd of October, at Igbein, Abeokuta, the Rev. T. King, native missionary of the Church Missionary Society.

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The African Times.

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The African Times.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1862.

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

For the second time we beg leave to offer to our kind friends and readers the felicitations of the season. Since December, 1861, the circulation of this journal has largely increased, and we are greatly indebted to those who have endeavoured to add to the number of our subscribers. One of our great primary objects is to extinguish the native wars which desolate Africa and plunge the country deeper and deeper in poverty and degradation. We are therefore marching under the banner of the Prince of Peace, whose advent the Christian world is now once more about to commemorate; and in His name we offer our thanks, congratulations, and good wishes to all. For our sorely-ried Lancashire friends and others injured by the scarcity of cotton we beg to express our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy, and the hope that the supply of cotton from other countries than the slave States of America may speedily alleviate their condition, and gradually place their important industry on a secure and sufficient basis.

AFRICAN FIBRES.

THERE can be no doubt that the future industrial prosperity of Africa will depend, in a great measure, upon its cotton; but as auxiliary to this, its fibres will exercise an important influence in the progress of civilization. Hitherto cotton, silk, wool, and a few well-known fibres, have had the important field of textile manufacture entirely to themselves. But the calamity which has fallen upon Lancashire has roused the spirit of inquiry, and every country under the sun has been, or is being, consulted as to the fibrous treasures it may possess. The world wants them. The incumbrances of tropical vegetation have received marked attention. It has been discovered that they are not valueless, and science has set to work for utilising them. Very important results have been obtained. The great difficulty as regards most fibres was that of preparing them, by a cheap and simple process, for manufacturing purposes. The old steeping system rotted and discoloured them; their beauty and strength were impaired by it, and it was a tedious, laborious, and unhealthy work. It could only be owing to such impediments that the many beautiful fibres of Jamaica which were so admired at the recent Exhibition had been hitherto neglected. And those sent by Liberia showed unmistakeable evidence of the great need of mechanical invention for cleansing them rapidly from their pulp, and preserving them

from the deterioration caused by the employment of an inefficient and dilatory process.

We have now before us specimens of plantain fibre, of which one is worth 10% per ton more than the other. And this difference in value is simply owing to the one having been cleaned without steeping, and the other by steeping; the one by a rapid, the other by a slow process.

It is difficult, therefore, to over-estimate the importance of the late inventions in simple machinery for the preparation of fibres. By one of these the pulpy leaves or stalks of fibrous plants are crushed, and the pulp and colouring matter thoroughly washed out, in the short space of a few minutes, leaving the pure natural fibre free for any further process that manufacturing industry may devise. We do not hesitate to say that the fibrous wealth of tropical regions—and especially of Western Africa—has been doubled by this and other inventions. We are not about to particularise the many African fibres that will become abundant in our markets as the industrial regeneration of Africa shall progress. In alluding to three only of those wealth-bestowing products, we can give a tolerable idea of what may be expected to result from the employment of capital and of mechanical appliances in their preparation. Palm, wild pineapple, and plantain, are those three. Few persons have seen specimens of the exquisite palm muslin or cambric produced in small quantities in the convents of Manilla. We can assure them, from our own personal knowledge, that it is almost incomparably beautiful. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that African palm-leaf fibre—extracted by the process we have above described, and further prepared by other inexpensive means—has been valued at above 100% per ton. And although all the palm-leaf fibre could not be made of such a quality, we may place it safely at an average value of from 40% to 50%, wild pineapple at 30% to 40%, and plantain at 25% to 30%. And in appreciating these values it must be borne in mind that there are no expenses of cultivation to be deducted. The more the palm-nut tree is cultivated for oil, the more abundant will be the palm-leaf fibre—the more plantain is grown for food under a reign of peace and prosperity, the more plantain fibre will be produced from the hitherto almost worthless stem; while the spontaneous growth of the wild pine is in many parts only too abundant. Again, it should be remembered that those fibre-producing plants are nowhere more plentiful than on the coasts and rivers; so that very large quantities may be supplied by districts having the advantage of cheap communication with the sea. We expect soon to have a valuable collection of African fibres in the now infant museum of the African-Aid Society; and venture to express the hope that those who feel that we owe a vast debt to Africa for the evils inflicted by that slave-trade we so long guiltily pursued on her coast will not allow this society to be impeded by want of funds in supplying the more intelligent natives with that simple mechanical assistance which will enable them to co-operate for the industrial regeneration of their respective districts.

HOPE IN DAHOMEY.

We should almost as soon have expected to find sweet odours issuing from a charnel house, as to get just now a ray of light from Dahomey. During the last two or three months we have been recording the crucifixion of Christians and the massacre of heathen captives from Ishagga. The friends of Africa have been brooding over the menace of an invasion of Abeokuta in November. A new crop of horrors seemed ripening on that soil which has proved so fertile in atrocities—when lo, instead of the deep growl of the human tiger thirsting for more blood, we have soft accents of peace and promise!

The interesting intelligence in our fourth page will be joyfully received by the friends of Africa and of humanity in this country. We do not wish to give it too much importance. We are not convinced of any serious intention on the part of King Badahung and his people to depart from their evil ways; we dare not form very high expectations of Dahomey becoming immediately peaceful, and entering heartily upon a career of agricultural development and of legitimate commerce, for which

she has been so richly endowed by nature. In this number of our journal we have also to record the painful news of an active foreign slave-trade at Whydah—of the shipment of nearly 1,000 poor wretches in one steamer, destined for the disgusting shambles of the modern plantations of Cuba, there to be used up in eight or ten years in the production of sugar for the British market. We cannot forget that, on those 1,000 slaves alone, the King obtains a fancied profit of some 10,000%, which we enable the Cuban planters to send him, through the slave-traders, for the supply of the raw material out of which they manufacture sugar for us. We are compelled to bear in mind that at the rate of duty he levies on palm oil shipped at Whydah—viz., one dollar per puncheon—there must be a very large exportation of produce to compensate him for relinquishing the slave-trade. We have also recently obtained a new insight into the dreadful "Customs" of Dahomey—of the supposed obligation on the part of the monarch to continue them during his life; and Abeokuta, though a hard nut, perhaps, to crack, has in its numerous population a delicious kernel for the wholesale butcher and slave-dealer. Nevertheless, we hail with joy this manifestation on the part of the King of a desire to enter into some amicable relations with the Christian civilization of this country. And we do indeed earnestly hope that advantage will be taken of it by Her Majesty's Government. We stated in our last that Commodore A. Eardley Wilmott had been furnished by them with the presents that would be requisite should he attempt a visit to Abomey. And we know his earnest desire to detach the King of Dahomey from the slave-trade. We have, therefore, reason to believe that when he receives, by the mail which leaves Liverpool to-morrow, this interesting intelligence, which has been communicated through us, he will lose no time, but proceed to Whydah as soon as his other duties will permit. The King asks for the light to be brought to him; and such a desire ought to be immediately gratified. It may be only curiosity on his part, or a desire for the presents which he well knows he will receive; or to raise himself still higher in the opinion of his people, through that acknowledgment of him as king by this great nation; or it may be only a ruse on his part, to lull the Abeokutans into a fancied security, so that they may become an easier prey. Still, his desire ought to be complied with; the wishes, and, if necessary, the demands, of this Christian country ought to be diplomatically placed before him. The person whom he has named as interpreter should accompany the British negotiator. And then, should all fail—should no good result be obtained—we shall have at least the satisfaction that we performed our duty. We are not sanguine of any immediate good result, because we have no reason to believe that the negotiator has any power to promise a subsidy on the part of this country, which might compensate (until legitimate commerce should be largely developed) for the fancied pecuniary loss the King would sustain by the abandonment of the slave-trade. But we might expect to learn the amount of subsidy that would induce such abandonment; and it would then be for this country to determine whether it would be our duty or our interest to pay the price.

STOP THE CUBA SLAVE-TRADE.

THE momentous question of the Cuba slave-trade is continually pressing on our mind. To put a stop to that trade is one of the great objects that the friends of the industrial regeneration of Africa have primarily to accomplish. We therefore willingly give prominent insertion, as requested, to the following remarks and suggestions for the consideration of our readers. As they will have to be brought before the Council of the African-Aid Society for discussion, and for a decision upon them, we shall feel greatly indebted to any of our friends who will send their opinion on this subject, in writing, to the Secretary of the African-Aid Society, 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, W.C.

(Communicated.)

WHY SHOULD WE PAY ONE HALFPENNY IN THE POUND INCOME-TAX EVERY YEAR FOR THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE WITH CUBA? IT MUST BE PUT AN END TO.

THE continued importation of slaves from Africa into the Island of Cuba demands the serious attention of the Government and

people of Great Britain, with a view to a practical remedy. The trade thus carried on by virtual permission of the Spanish Government is an outrage to humanity, is disgraceful to Spain, and an insult and injustice to this country. It has yet another aspect. Spain received an indemnity for putting an end to that importation forty years ago. She pocketed the cash, but has not performed the work of which it was the covenanted price. She turns a deaf ear, or replies with vague promises and weak excuses, to every remonstrance addressed to her on the subject. The answer to deputations that have waited on Her Majesty's Government has been that the latter have exhausted every diplomatic resource to obtain from Spain a fulfilment of the obligations she has contracted by treaty to discharge, and has received the payment for discharging; and that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to commence hostilities with Spain on this ground, although they would clearly be justified in doing so.

We believe that the whole Christian public of this country take the same view. They would not that this should be made a cause of war. But are we then powerless to obtain at least pecuniary justice for ourselves? This is a financial question of no small moment for the nation. In 1818 Spain received 400,000% from Great Britain, as her price for the extinction of the slave-trade with Africa in her dominions, and other matters connected with the suppression of that trade. We hold her to her bargain. We will not have any return of this money. She must perform the obligation she undertook to perform. *Her non-performance of it costs us nearly 500,000% a year.* The whole of our slave-trade suppression expenses are caused by her. All other countries have now effectually abandoned and prohibited the importation of Africans into any portion of their dominions. All our expensive machinery for putting down the slave-trade is therefore forced upon us by Spain. Every year brings with it a new pecuniary sacrifice of 500,000% by us on her account.

Now rich though we are, no doubt, we are not rich enough for this. IT IS NEARLY A HALFPENNY INCOME-TAX. Why should we pay an income-tax to Spain? If she forces us to expend that money, which she does, because we cannot set aside our Christian principles, as she sets aside her pecuniary and honourable obligations, *let us exact it from her.* It can be done; and as it can be done, it ought to be done. The universal voice of the country ought to demand of the Government that it be done. They must put on the screw, or that halfpenny income-tax for Spain will stick by us for ever. And the mode of applying the screw is simple enough. We must take the money out of the profits that the Cuban planters are making by this infamous employment of the African slave-trade.

Why do they use the African slave-trade and import slaves? To force, on their rich soil, the growth of sugar for the English market. This is past all doubt; it is established by undeniable facts. About 1845 the prosperity of Cuba was at a low ebb. Spain advances slowly as a consumer of sugar. She advanced so slowly, that the Cuban planter, not having access to the English market, had no inducement to increase his production of sugar. Plantations were going out of cultivation. Not more than 2,000 slaves were imported from Africa in a year. It was hoped in England that Spain was really preventing the importation. But it was no such thing. The importation was no longer very profitable; it was, therefore, being gradually discontinued. The slave-trade to Cuba was dying away, because Spain did not increase her demands for sugar.

The period arrived at which we made those great changes in our fiscal system known as the general application to it of the principles of free trade. Under this wise system the sugar of Cuba obtained admission to our markets, and at the same rate of duty as that levied on the sugar of our own colonies. We offered this great advantage gratuitously upon Spain. It was hoped that the prosperity this would necessarily bestow upon the Island of Cuba would induce the Spanish Government and the people of that island entirely to suppress and discontinue the importation of slaves. But the greed of gain prevailed over humanity, honour, and justice. The English market for Cuban sugar was a mine of wealth for Cuba. She determined to work it with all her might. She set at defiance every other consideration.

tion but that of wealth. The importation of African slaves into Cuba rose to 40,000 a year. The importation of Cuban sugar into England, within ten years after England was opened to it, reached nearly 2,000,000 cwts. a year! last year it rather exceeded 2,000,000 cwts. Our whole importation, from all sources, is now 10,645,259 cwts., and we consumed last year 9,400,765 cwts. a year. Cuba is revelling in wealth. Spain is deriving a large increase of revenue from that island, in consequence of the admission of sugar from Cuba into England; and the means which one has adopted, and the other has connived at, for enabling that wealth and that increase of revenue to be obtained, costs Great Britain 500,000*l.* a year. Instead, then, of a halfpenny income-tax in England to raise this 500,000*l.* a year, let us levy it upon the wealth of Cuba and the revenue of Spain derived from that island.

There is no living free trade advocate—whosoever he may be—that would more strongly deprecate any abandonment of the principles of free trade than we should do. But we have yet to learn that they bind us so rigorously, hand and foot, that we cannot suspend their operation, in any one instance, in order to obtain that justice which we may have appealed for in vain. No one would denounce more strongly than we should do the imposition of a special duty on Cuban sugar, in order to prop up sugar cultivation in our own colonies. But a special duty on Cuban sugar, in order to obtain this 500,000*l.* a year, is a different matter. It bears no resemblance to the other. It cannot be confounded with it, as we shall show.

A duty of 5*s.* per cwt. on Cuban sugar would produce this 500,000*l.* a year. We say, then, impose this duty, not for protection, not for general revenue, not as a reprisal for any prohibitory or excessive duties in Spain, but to pay for the expenses which Spain forces us to incur for the suppression of the slave-trade: this duty to cease whenever that slave-trade with Cuba is entirely put an end to; and not till then.

There is no fact better established at the present day than that they who hold the purse possess the power, if they choose to exercise it. We, as a people, hold the purse that feeds Cuban prosperity. If we do not choose to exercise the power this gives us, we do really carry on, by her hands, the slave-trade that she delights in, and that we denounce; we become hypocritical accomplices in the enormous iniquity. Spain throws the blame upon the Cuban planters; she says she would control them if she could, but that she has not the power to do so. Let us, then, who really have the power, do for Spain what she says she desires to have done, but cannot herself do. All we have to do for this is to stop the supplies.

An exceptional duty on Cuban sugar of 5*s.* per cwt. will stop her supplies. Let this duty be called "The Cuban Slave-trade Duty."

In reply to any possible objections by alarmed freetraders, we have already said that the imposition of such an exceptional duty, for an exceptional cause and purpose, is no infringement or suspension of the principles of the most unlimited free trade. Let us prove this. What is free trade? Free trade is the admission in our ports, upon equal terms, of sugar, or all and every other colonial or foreign production, without regard to origin. An exceptional temporary duty on Cuban sugar, for the cause and purposes herein mentioned, cannot therefore be an infringement of this principle. It will not be imposed because of origin, nor even because of the iniquity in the cultivation, but only for the payment of the expenses to which this country is subject because of the nonfulfilment of the duties Spain has bound herself by treaty to perform, and been paid for performing, as regards Cuba. It is a special duty to raise a special revenue to defray a special expenditure, or, in other words, an application by Spain of Spanish money to pay a Spanish debt.

May we be urged that Spain will make fiscal reprisals? She cannot. Any exaggeration of her at present enormous protective duties would not affect us, but only her own subjects.

It may again be urged, we shall be taxing our own people, and not Cuba, by this exceptional tax, because the consumer pays duties. As a general rule he does. But every general rule has its exceptions; and this exceptional duty on Cuban sugar would be

one—because Cuban sugar does not rule and govern the British market.

In Spain, where only Spanish sugars are admitted, the imposition of such a duty would necessarily fall on the consumer. The only way in which it could affect Cuba might possibly be by diminishing the consumption in Spain, and thereby decreasing the demand. But in Great Britain sugar is admitted from all parts of the world. The importations from Cuba, although large, are only to the extent of one-fifth of our consumption; and the price of Cuban sugar in the market is therefore governed by the price of sugar of other origin. The duty, therefore, will fall upon Cuba. The Cuban planters as a body will be vitally interested in preventing the landing of another African negro slave in the island; and the Spanish Government will have a like interest.

Under these circumstances, we do not believe that there would be any increase in the price of sugar in England in consequence of the exceptional duty on that of Cuba. But should there be, it would not exceed 1*s.* per cwt. If such an incident of taxation as this is to prevent our adoption of the only pacific means we possess for accomplishing the annihilation of the African slave-trade with Cuba, the world will be entitled to say that we are, as a nation, the most exalted and unblushing hypocrites of the earth. Many in this country denied themselves the use, and enjoined the disuse, of sugar before our slaves were emancipated, because the sugar was produced by slave labour, though slaves had long ceased to be imported into our colonies. But now Cuban sugar, not only cultivated by slaves, but by slaves being constantly imported from Africa for that especial purpose, and mercilessly worked to death in eight or ten years, is used without compunction, and almost without remonstrance. We call, then, upon Her Majesty's Government—upon the members of the House of Commons—upon every Income-tax payer—upon every consumer of sugar—and, above all, upon every Christian who abhors the African slave-trade—we call upon each and all for—

A Cuban slave-trade duty on all sugar imported into this country from Cuba, directly or indirectly, of 5*s.* per cwt. Cuba will thus pay the 500,000*l.* a year. The Income-tax may then be reduced one-halfpenny in the pound, and the last and most infamous remnant of the slave-trade, carried on by so-called Christian nations on the coast of Africa—the African slave-trade with Cuba—will be annihilated. May God mercifully vouchsafe to make this effort instrumental to that great end! V.

DESTITUTE NEGROES IN ENGLAND.

The number of destitute negroes arriving in England is constantly increasing. For the most part they have recently escaped from slavery in America, or been liberated by the Federal army. They arrive here quite destitute, and their absolute necessities are such, that the few persons whose known sympathy for their race marks them out as givers of relief are unable adequately to supply them. Their sufferings are sometimes very great; and being very scantily clothed, and compelled to seek shelter in the vilest haunts of the metropolis, they are exposed to sickness and evils of the worst character.

Meanwhile there is, on the West Coast of Africa, a Christian negro nation, which will gladly welcome these poor people, and place them in a position where they may, by their industry, lead happy and independent lives. There can be no doubt that the time has come when the Christian philanthropy of this country must bridge over the distance for them between England and Liberia. We have made inquiry, and find that there will not be any disinclination on the part of merchants and shipowners in the Africa trade to take the men at easy rates, on condition of their working on their passage out. Our friend, Dr. Hodgkin, has lately been instrumental in sending out one man (accustomed to forge work and agriculture) with his wife and child. There are others (one a shoemaker with several children) now requiring similar aid. This man, Macaulay, is really deserving of it. Endeavours are being made to arrange for the proper and economical management of a special fund for this purpose, so that all the money contributed may really be devoted to the object for which it is given. Until other Christian African nationalities are established, Liberia is the proper home of these poor

victims of oppression—Liberia wants them; and the cheapest and best thing that can be done here, is to ship them off as soon as possible after they report themselves as destitute. We shall be glad of assistance in this; but our friends must not fancy that in so doing they are giving to the African-Aid Society, which will only be an agent, conjointly with others, in this good work.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

The New York *Principia* says of this:—

"The Proclamation of the President proposes to enter into alliance with slaveholding states, guaranteeing to them their right of slaveholding. Now, we have flamed with indignation and wrath against Great Britain, on the assumption of that nation being ready to enter into alliance with the Confederate States, a slaveholding confederacy. We have rebuked and satirised the English without stint for this disregard and renunciation of all their antislavery professions, on the supposition that they intended to recognise the slaveholding confederacy. But if it be hypocrisy in them to sympathise with the South, and enter into alliance with enemies of the human race, what must it be for us to do the same thing—nay, to set the example of doing it?"

"Had we said to the rebel states, 'You have gone out of the Union for the sake of slavery; you shall now return into it only on condition of putting away your slavery; or else you shall be held by us as conquered territory, and we ourselves will put away your slavery—that would have been an example for the world. But we ourselves, who have been raging at the idea of any nation on earth entering into terms of communion with this confederacy of slaveholding, slave-breeding, slave-trading rebels, now propose to receive them, with their slavery, to our embrace, if they will return, we and they constituting one grand slaveholding government.'"

The same remarks would apply to the President's Message to Congress, which has just arrived in England. This proposes to receive back the South into the Union, and give it until 1900 to emancipate its slaves. We so entirely dissent from such a deliberate perpetuation of slavery for another thirty-eight years, that we do not think it necessary to insert a document which our readers will, no doubt, have seen in the daily papers.

There is, however, one portion of it respecting which we cannot forbear making a few remarks. The President is contemplating the reabsorption of the Southern States into the Union; and then, to show what a magnificent nation the United States will be, computes that in 1900 it will contain about 103 millions of people, and in 1930—only seventy years hence—251,680,914! We like to give the exact figures. So close an estimate of future population is admirable! We ask seriously, would it ever have entered into the head of any other individual than a citizen of the United States, that 250 millions of people would have so little personal ambition among them as to be satisfied that one president only should be elected every four years out of so vast a multitude. Alas! we fear that the United States are far from having yet learned that lesson of national humility which such events as are now passing there ought to teach their people.

EXTRACT FROM A JOURNAL KEPT ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—No. II.

AMBRIZ, August 4, 1843.—We arrived here on the 29th of last month, and have been hard at work ever since getting our cargo landed. We have not had to build a house, as at Loango, but succeeded to the one lately occupied by the captain of one of T.'s ships, who has been on this coast sixteen months, and is now ready for departure. The house is a very large one—a single storey, consisting, as usual, of three rooms. We are going to enlarge it still more, and make a private sitting-room and otherwise improve it, and I expect in a month or two it will be a delightful residence, and very picturesque. Ambriz is a beautiful spot, more fertile and lovely than Loango. Every one says it is a healthy country, and I should think so from its appearance—high and cool, exposed continually to a fine sea breeze. To-day I have been left alone. Mr. M. has gone to Mozula,

to see about establishing a factory there, and I, having nothing to do, determined to have a long walk, and to think of my own dear, far-off home. Without considering, I naturally and irresistibly was led to the sea-shore. When I go out of our door, the wide ocean is right before me, about a quarter of a mile distant. Could I do else than go towards it? There is, almost without exception, a continual succession of breakers along the coast. The sea breaks first about 300 yards from the beach, in a long line of foam; then that white surf rolls onwards towards you; another breaks and follows, till you see seven or eight parallel wreaths of boiling foam, one succeeding the other to the shore. It is a grand sight to witness, and the deafening sound—equalling the falling of ten thousand houses—is awful. After sitting awhile I went onward, and the land changed its aspect, and became more beautiful—steep and lofty cliffs, white sand, and rock, extend for miles along the coast; and turning more inland, I came to a small green valley. Now, generally, the country here at present appears sterile and bare, white sand being the most prevalent description of ground (though I believe rich earth lies underneath). Well, but here everything was delicious and fresh, and I was not long in discovering the reason: a little spring bubbled up, half hidden with leaves, and, running on, gave life and fertility to the soil. It was a sweet spot, and I could have stayed for hours. I took a drink, and determined that henceforth our water should be brought from there, what we get at present not being very good. I went a mile or two further, and seeing that the sun was going down, I thought it advisable to return, and in trying to cut the road short I lost my way, and got into jungles and long grass that I could not see over; wandering about, first one way and then another, and a fear of wild beasts or snakes crept over me, and I wished myself snug at home. After some time I came again upon the beaten path, and glad I was.—August 23.—Some days ago we had an expedition to visit the King of Ambriz, who has his *palace* in a small mud village about eight miles distant. It is customary for all who come here for the first time to go and see him, and take some present for his Majesty, by way of insuring his protection and goodwill. A day or two previous to our intended journey we sent him word that he might be prepared for our reception, and not be taken unawares. He then gave us notice that on such a day he would be happy to receive us, not at his own town, but at one nearer, and, as he declared, more suitable. One morning, soon after sunrise, off we set, each reposing luxuriously in a hammock, borne by two men, one trotting before the other. We went along at a tolerable speed, having relays of bearers at certain distances; and in about two hours' time we made out, from the signs and half-English jabber of our men, that we were near the village where we were to meet the King; and presently we saw peeping through the trees some dark countenances, which we presumed were the inhabitants of the city. We deemed it advisable to call a halt, as our headman and interpreter was some distance behind, and we wished to consult upon the most approved fashion for our progress. So we got out, dived into the depths of a basket for certain good things which we had provided, and waited for the arrival of our guide. In good time he came, and we determined to walk forwards, as we were given to understand it was not etiquette to ride. Mr. M. observed that there must be something wrong, as no one came forth to meet us excepting a few curs and screaming children; and here and there one of the fair sex might be seen running to get out of the way of the "white man." Mr. M. declared from these appearances that we were on the wrong scent, or that we were not expected; and we were giving our man a blowing up, and upbraiding him with deceiving us, when half-a-dozen old greybeards came marching along the path to meet us. They shook hands, and were about to apologise, I suppose, but we unceremoniously passed by them and entered the town—I say town, but if you want to picture to yourself the appearance of it, fancy a lot of huts, built of wood and mud, with pigsties adjoining, confusedly mixed, without the slightest order. Well, we stepped on at a good pace, gradually collecting a large retinue, and every one singing out in their language, "White man, white man!" One fellow, who could talk some English, led us along until we came to a hut rather

arger than the others, and we were told that it was the House of Audience, where his Majesty would receive us, but that by some mischance or mistake he had not arrived from his residence at the other town. We were invited to sit down under a large tree on two old chairs, which perhaps once had seen better days, for they were English. Mr. M. exclaimed at the want of punctuality, and declared we would only stay twenty minutes, when, if the King did not arrive, we would return. Now, imagine us sitting side by side (I in my best blue jacket and a pair of scarlet plaid trousers, and a fireaway cap; Mr. M. in a costume of equal splendour), with a few hundred blackies round about, one face behind another, like an assemblage at a circus. We did our best to contain ourselves and behave with due gravity, seeing that all were silent and respectful—the elders who came forth to meet us at our feet reclining on mats. I looked at my shoes, and Mr. M. ditto; but accidentally raising his eyes, they fell on the countenance of an old woman, who was sitting smoking a pipe. He touched me, and whispered, "Look on your left, in the second row, at that old woman." I did look, and it was too much; I burst out laughing, and he also. Such a funny face I never beheld—so serious and yet so comic. She was puffing out smoke through her nose, and seemed so absorbed in contemplating us, there seemed such a mixture of absurdity and consequence about her, that it was inimitable. I exclaimed, "O for Hogarth's pencil! What would I not give for a sketch!" The ice being broken, we both looked about us, and certainly we had a rich treat in quizzing them. Our twenty minutes being nearly up, we determined to give them only ten minutes more of our company, and then off. At the stated moment up we jumped, and a great scamper there was. I suppose they thought we were going to eat them, for they fled in all directions, except some of the older and wiser ones, who pressed us to stay, for that the King was certainly on the road, and would shortly arrive. We would not; for I wanted to proceed further, and view the country, especially as a high hill was at no great distance, and I wished to mount it, and feel again as if in my own country. None can imagine how dear a hill is, when long used to flat plains, or the monotony of the sea. We mounted our hammocks and went in the direction. Our guide told us we should have to pass through another town, where dwelt a former king (now deposed) but still retaining the title "King Tom." In this country the monarchy is elective, and one man cannot reign beyond four or five years, when the throne is put up for auction, and knocked down to the highest bidder, if the rest of the people are satisfied; but if two parties arise, then there is a small palaver, and a small war—a few men get killed, and the victorious chief is made king. Well, this old King was at home, and after we had sat down at the entrance of the town, to give him time for dressing, he sent us word he was ready, and we must proceed. We went forward, and was soon in the presence of his august Majesty. He wore an old faded blue and red cotton velvet cloak, trimmed with brass lace, a present from some former trader in slaves, I suppose. He was sitting at the door of his hut with a mat spread, and a low bench placed for us to occupy. He shook hands, and said in good English, he was glad to see us. He was a fine old man, with a flowing white beard, and the most intelligent native I have seen. He could converse well; spoke, in addition to English, French and Portuguese. He told us how many presents he had received from different white men when he was in power, and amongst other curiosities showed us a small Bible which an American captain had given him. It was half eaten away with ants and worms, and he certainly had no more idea of its contents or knowledge of religion than a stone. We gave the old King the presents we had intended for the other, and we told him we wished to ascend the hill and view the country. He immediately tried to dissuade us, and told us no white man had ever been up. One only (a Spaniard), a long time ago, attempted it, and for his temerity he got his reward—"he never came down to tell what he saw, for a snake chopped him." We were highly amused at this story, and if we needed any further spur to induce us to be off, this would have been enough, for we felt that there was some hidden cause for his objecting to our going, and our curiosity was

excited to the utmost. We had no sooner declared our determination, than plenty of volunteers were ready to accompany us, and we found there was no cause for any fears. A tolerable footpath led right up to the top, and half-an-hour presented us with the noblest scene I think I ever beheld. Far down below our feet was the river which we now saw for the first time winding along, its banks verdant with corn and every production of a tropical clime. Oranges and limes, cotton and sugar cane, all growing wild in great luxuriance. We could trace it far inland, now hidden with trees, and then again shining bright like a sheet of silver. It seemed not like a continued stream, but a succession of small lakes, each one more beautiful than the other. Sometimes it was lost for a long distance by wooded hills, and then again you caught a peep of it afar off, until, at last, it was hidden beyond a range of lofty mountains. We were both entranced, and could only say, "How beautiful!" "How beautiful!" Our next wish was that we could trace it to its source, and sadly lamented that business would not allow it at present. After we had drunk in all the beauties of the prospect we descended to the river's bank, and a difficult task it was, all rocky and thick bushwood. I led the way (for I flatter myself few can excel me up or down a mountain track). Every moment we started a monkey, which would skip about from pinnacle to pinnacle, and chatter and grin as if in derision of our clumsiness. After many hairbreadth escapes we got to the bottom, regaled ourselves with some wild water melons, and continued our course down the river side. Not far off we discovered a canoe anchored near the bank. We determined to embark, and find out the depth of the water in the middle of the stream, and if it were navigable for a vessel of any burthen. In we jumped, Mr. M. taking one paddle and I another. We went along famously, and found, by the aid of a long stick, that the depth was considerable, being upwards of twelve feet. Having landed again, we journeyed on, a few of the natives who had kept with us being our guides. By a long, circuitous route we reached the town where our own men, hammocks, &c., were in waiting. His Majesty sent his compliments, and would be glad if we would stay and dine with him; but being tired, and a long way from our house, we declined the honour, and once more got into our hammocks, and went off on a gallop, pursued by all the idle boys and dogs in the village, and (shall I tell it?) the ladies had lost their bashfulness, and came scampering along laughing, and evidently highly amused. At last, making an exceedingly ungraceful curtsy, they said, in their language, as our interpreter informed us, "Farewell, white man." We got safe home, and I need not say, we were ready for dinner.

APPOINTMENTS.—Lieutenant Mackworth Dolben, R.N., who so successfully ascended the river Volta last year, with the boats of Her Majesty's ship Bloodhound, has been appointed to the command of Her Majesty's steamship Handy, the late Lieutenant-Commander J. St. John Glover, harbour master of Lagos, who navigated the Handy to the Coast of Africa, and who has now attained the rank of commander, returning to England. Lieutenant Dolben leaves for Lagos by to-morrow's mail. We feel certain that this zealous and prudent young officer will do good service for Africa.

SPECIFIC FOR SMALLPOX.—As this disease is one of the great scourges of Africa, we rejoice to learn that a specific is said to have been discovered. The *Saracenia purpurea*, or Indian Cup, a native plant of Nova Scotia, found in swamps and moss-bogs, has the wonderful reputation amongst the Mec-Mac Indians of curing smallpox; and of being as great a specific in this dire disease as quinine for ague. It is supposed to act by neutralising the virus in the blood, rendering it inert and harmless; and that this is its action may be gathered from the fact, that if either vaccine or variolous matter be washed with the infusion of the *Saracenia* it is deprived of its contagious property. Moreover, the eruption, even if confluent, on its disappearance leaves no trace behind. The root of the plant is the part employed. The dose, when reduced to powder, is about a dessert-spoonful, simmered in a pint of water down to half a pint; and divided into two doses, to be taken during the day. Sugar should not be used with it.

CAPTAIN BURTON'S ASCENT OF THE CAMEROONS MOUNTAIN.

Our readers have been made aware by our advertisements relative to a proposed emigration of Christian coloured families from Canada to Ambas (or Amboises) Bay, on the West Coast of Africa, that immediately behind the small settlement of the Baptist Missionary Society at Victoria, in that bay, there rises a magnificent mountain, more than 13,000 feet in height, and which appears to have been known to the ancients under the name of "Theon Ochema." This mountain is part of a range that has been already seen to extend some ninety miles into the interior, in a south-easterly direction. In modern times its summit had never been reached; and the statement of the ancient writer, that it exhibited flames of fire by night, has been regarded as doubtful: for although the natives of the district affirm the same thing, Europeans have never witnessed this remarkable phenomenon. All doubts of the volcanic character of the mountain are now, however, set at rest, its peak having been lately visited by Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul, in company with a Baptist missionary, the Rev. A. Saker, the Government botanist, Mr. Mann, and a Spanish gentleman from Fernando Po. Captain Burton is the well-known traveller in the East and among the Mormons; and it is from his report to Earl Russell that the following particulars of the ascent are derived.

Captain Burton states that only two attempts to reach the summit had been made for four centuries at least; one in 1847, by a Baptist missionary, the lamented Merriek, failed through want of water, after he had emerged from the belt of forest which covers the lower slopes of the mountain. Mr. Mann attempted it in 1860, but time failed him. It remained for the present party "to scale the glorious pinnacle which never yet felt the foot of man."

On the 18th December, 1861, all being ready, Captain Burton, with the Spaniard, entered the "lovely bay of Victoria," where he found Mr. Saker awaiting him. Mr. Mann had started in advance. Early the next morning the party set out with Mr. Johnson* as an interpreter, and several Kroomen to carry the luggage. The route lay through a noble forest of palms, acacias, African oak, and other fine timber trees, and through a country admirably adapted for cocoa, sugar, and coffee. Twice they forded the "bright little mountain stream which supplies Victoria with the purest water," passing west of Mount Henry, "a site," says Captain Burton, "which I at once fixed upon as a provisional sanitarium, to be prepared before the grand institution near the summit of the mountain."

After four hours' walking, they halted for breakfast at a village of the chief Miyombi, 23,420 feet from Victoria, and 1,000 feet above the sea. The thermometer stood at 67 deg. 5 min.

At half-past four they entered the district of Mapanya, the highest village on this part of the mountain. Here they met Mr. Mann. The chief Botani received them with great ceremony. Habited in his royal garb, a tall black hat, an old scarlet and gamboge coat of the Royal Marines, and a pocket-handkerchief, he performed a lively dance, apparently borrowed from the movements of the excited poultry. In Africa, when the king dances, you have to pay for the honour. The natives here bear a bad reputation. Mr. Mann's scarlet blankets greatly excited their cupidity. They offered successively in exchange for one a pig, a goat, a small boy, and a large girl.

The party remained at Mapanya the whole of the next day, waiting for a supply of provisions from Victoria. For a short time the natives, under the influence of liquor, became very quarrelsome, drew their long knives, and threatened their lives. Mr. Saker being unarmed, the defence lay with his three companions. However, as the fumes of the rum left their brains, the people became quiet. But a new difficulty arose. The chief Moyambi came and demanded 500*l* for permission to ascend. Of course he was refused, and he then lowered his demand to 300*l*. The travellers laughed at him, declined to obey his order to descend the mountain, and showing their guns, told him they should start at once.

* Mr. Johnson is a clever coloured mechanic, who assisted in founding the now prosperous settlement at Fernando Po.—Ed. A.T.

At noon, on the 21st, Mr. Saker and Mr. Calvo set out, and the other two followed at the close of the day. They bivouacked in the forest, at a place afterwards called Ridge Camp. Here the palm and the plantain had disappeared, and they saw the first of the graceful tree-fern. The night was comfortless. The ungrateful natives had refused them water. The ground was uneven. They passed a sleepless night.

Before dawn they were on their way. The characteristic of the scenery was now the fern—fern, fern, everywhere; some like palm-trees, ten to twenty feet high, others dwarfs. "There were beds of ferns upon the ground, and others running creeper-like up the trunks." It was a beautiful fernery, set off by the huge tropical growth around it.

Passing under a natural arch of fallen trees, which they called Fern Gate, they emerged on a region of tall grass. Then came a broad green slope of small moss and fern based on a rugged bed of old and degraded lava, half a mile wide, the banks on either side girt with giant trees. Here they breakfasted and feasted on blackberries. A hunter's path now led them up the western side of the lava river, among huge blocks, which endangered their ankles. The ascent became rocky and bare. Salvias scented the air, and the surface was spangled with the bright blossoms of an unknown flower. Bees settled upon them, but did not sting; and the heat of the sun became terrible.

The last part of the ascent was the most rugged of all, the lava nearing the place of its issue being broken into most irregular heaps. Before attempting it, Captain Burton lay down to sleep, the rest of the party going on. The "Black Crater" was at length reached; it is about 100 yards in diameter, with a lip 200 feet above the level platform below. Water was obtained near at hand; and here the travellers encamped. The high north-east wind roared all night, and a change of temperature from 78 deg. in the plains below to 40 deg. had to be endured. At six in the morning the thermometer stood at 48 deg.

During the day the party proceeded to the place where water was found, which they called "Mann's Spring." It is a little runnel of pure cold water, embowered in blue flowers, and surrounded by nettles. Here a place was cleared and the camp was formed, as they intended to stay for some time. The altitude was 7,000 feet above the sea, and they found the temperature to be 65 deg. Captain Burton made up his mind that it would be an admirable spot for a sanitarium or colony. Materials for building lay all around. "Pestilent Lagos will require a 'sick bay,' and where can a Lebanon be found equal to the beautiful, the majestic Cameroons?"

Christmas-eve and Christmas-day were spent in taking bearings, rambling about the hills, and in naming the places. The topmost heights were christened "Victoria and Albert." "Earthwork Crater," and "Mount Helen," named after Mrs. Saker, who had supplied the Christmas plum-pudding, showed a wonderful prospect of wild scenery and wondrous confusion. Twenty-eight deep crevasses were counted, with numberless thick lava beds and ribs of scorificaceous rock. The main peak was divided into a pair of distinct heads.

On Christmas-day Mr. Saker left for Victoria for a season, while Mr. Mann was laid up with sickness. On the 27th, therefore, Captain Burton and the Spaniard proceeded by themselves to explore the great mountain. More lava beds and steep volcanic cones were passed. Reaching the last ascent, the Spaniard fell behind, and our adventurous traveller proceeded alone, with a single Kroo-boy to carry a flask of anisado and water. Walking became troublesome, and recourse was had to all fours. As the summit was neared, the boy sank down with thirst, and glazed lips. A few moments more saw Captain Burton upon Theon Ochema, where a new and unexpected set of objects met his sight.

Victoria Peak was but the outer walls of a double crater, 250 feet deep, opening northwards, where a prodigious lava stream had been discharged. To the north-west lay Albert Crater, a far smaller formation, but remarkable for its high back wall. The two craters were parted by a curious V-shaped dyke of compact grey-stone in large blocks, and at a little distance was a third crater, by far the smallest of the three.

After building a small cairn of stones, the traveller descended. It took half-an-hour to get down the cone, owing to the cinders

and boulders being loose and rolling. Seven hours had been occupied in finishing the last five miles of the ascent, and he hoped to return in three. The mercury fell to 40 deg. as he passed Mount Helen. Twilight came on, then a darkness that could be felt. He was compelled to halt. The cry of the Kroomboy was heard at the spring, and soon firesticks marked the place of the camp. After the supper of hungry men, the party retired to rest, but not to sleep; the sun and wind had sorely burned their hands and faces, their legs ached, and spasmodic cramps seized their limbs.

A variety of expeditions followed this first exploration. Mr. Saker returned, with Mr. Robert Smith, on the 5th of January, and on the 13th he made the third ascent, and was the first to boil the thermometer upon Victoria Peak. On the 15th Mr. Saker again returned to Victoria.

A final ascent was begun on the 27th January. The night following the cold was so intense, that the mercury fell to 33 deg. 5 min. The waterproof coats of the travellers were white with hoar, and the peak was powdered with frozen dew. Before leaving the peak Captain Burton was able to discover a complete solfaterra, lying to the north-east of Albert Crater. Smoke arose in long puffy volumes from long lines of white marl and sulphur. This discovery accounts for the many detached reports of flames seen issuing from the mountain by the cloth merchants of Cameroons River and the people of Fernando Po. A hailstorm signalled the day of descent.

On the 31st January the camp at Mann's Spring was broken up. On the 2nd February the scattered bungalows of Victoria were reached, where the travellers were hospitably received by Mrs. Saker, who had purposely remained till their return.

"These lines," says Captain Burton, in conclusion, "will show the adaptability of the Cameroons Mountain for a sanatorium, a colony, or a convict station.* A locale which shows every morning hoar-frost during the hot season, in a region removed but 4 degs. from the Equator, is not to be despised in the days when it is proposed to remove Calcutta to Simla. The Anglo-Scandinavian race cannot, it is true, thrive in all climates; but there are few, and those are valueless, in which choice of site could not make him a cosmopolite."

Our readers will, we are sure, be glad to receive the disinterested and most valuable testimony of this celebrated traveller to the truthfulness of all that our pages have contained of the salubrity and fitness of the vicinity of Amboises Bay for a missionary or commercial settlement. It is the very place of all places for Christian industrial coloured emigrants from Canada.

MASSACRE OF FIFTEEN OF THE CREW OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP PENGUIN.

We lament having to record the massacre of an officer, twelve seamen, and two marines of Her Majesty's ship Penguin, 5, screw gun vessel, Lieut. J. G. G. McHardy, employed in the suppression of the slave-trade on the eastern coast of Africa.

It appears that in September last, while the Penguin was in the Mozambique Channel, four boats were detached from her for the purpose of watching some slavers along the coast, after the usual manner of the British cruisers. It was the intention to pick them up again at Fort Durnford, about sixty miles south of the line. The boats were, however, blown so far north by the trade winds as 1,200 miles from where they started, and arrived, on Oct. 25, at an Arab village called Bunder Feluk, near the entrance to the Red Sea. There, on landing to replenish their expended supply of provisions and water, they were set upon by the natives, and the whole of two boats' crews massacred.

The names of the unfortunate deceased are: Sub-Lieutenant Fountaine, W. Mitchell (quartermaster), J. Carpenter (gunner's mate), J. Kemp, H. Stote, C. Kennedy, J. Watson, J. Childs, M. Jolly, R. Heath, H. Williams, A. Matthews, and J. Pratt (seamen), and G. Hutton and C. Foley (marines).

When the news left the Penguin had arrived on the spot to make reprisals, and had secured twenty of the murderers, whom it was resolved to hang.

* We protest against the latter. We have done evil enough in Africa already.—Ed. A.T.

METROPOLITAN LIGHT COMPANY, 447, STRAND.

PALM CANDLES and PALM SOAPS.—Perhaps there is no produce from any other portion of the earth which, in importance, equals that yielded by Africa. Its Palm Oil is incalculably valuable, and, from the vitality which Science instills into Matter, great results are obtained for the public good.

This Company's Composite Palm Candles, at 8½d. and 10d. per lb., and their Translucent Sperm Candles, at 1s. 6d. per lb., are unquestionably the most surprising production in such Manufactures of the day, and they need but to be known to take the highest position in public approbation. Palm-oil Soaps, at various prices, according to the quality, for the Toilet and Household.

JOHN CLARK, Manager.

ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS to the WEST COAST of AFRICA, MADEIRA, and TENERIFFE.—The African Steamship Company's vessels (carrying Her Majesty's mails) leave Liverpool on the 24th of every month, except when the 23rd falls on Sunday, when the departure is on the 25th, with goods and passengers, proceeding direct to Madeira, Teneriffe, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Lagos, Benin, Nun, Brass, Bonny, Fernando Po, Cameroons, and Old Calabar. Goods for Cameroons must be taken from alongside at Green Patch.

For further information apply to Laird, Fletcher, and Co., 23, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 1, Leadenhall-street, London.

AQUAPEM MOUNTAIN ROAD.

SPECIAL FUND OF 200L.

Opened by the African-Aid Society, 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, London, for the formation of a road over the Aquapem Mountains, in the Gold Coast territory.

This road is necessary to unite two extreme sections already made of a road which, when completed by this mountain portion, will extend from Akrapong, a great palm oil district, to the seaport town of Accra.

All the aid required for this work is about 200L.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to the order of Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee, at 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, London, under cover to the Secretary of the Society.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY SECURED.

William Schofield, Esq., M.P.	£5	0	0
Henry D. Seymour, Esq., M.P.	2	0	0
Messrs. Mallalieu and Co.	5	5	0
Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, Bart.	10	0	0
Messrs. F. A. Swanzy and Co.	10	10	0
Messrs. Foster and Smith	20	0	0
Ford Penn, Esq.	2	2	0
John Dyer, Esq.	2	0	0
Messrs. J. E. Barnett and Sons	5	0	0
A Friend; being a sum equal to the amount subscribed up to the 11th October	62	0	0
Amount still wanting to make up the 200L. required, 76L.			
Further subscriptions will be most thankfully received.			

EMIGRATION FROM CANADA TO AMBAS BAY.

We beg to refer our readers to the last page advertisement in our August and September numbers. The sum required for this most important operation is 1,200L. or 1,300L. Several hundred pounds are already raised and promised, and we appeal earnestly for the remainder, as the emigrants are quite ready to leave Canada so soon as the seasons will permit.

Cheques and Post-office Orders to the order of Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee, at 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, London, under cover to the Secretary of the Society.

(By order of the Council),

F. FITZGERALD, Secretary.

8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, S.W.

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