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The African Times.

JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Vol. II., No. 22.]

LONDON, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1863.

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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 1,200/ or 1,300/. 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.

OBITUARY.

It was our painful duty to notice briefly, in our last number, the lamented decease of one of the founders and most liberal supporters of the African-Aid Society, Joseph Ferguson, Esq., late M.P. for Carlisle.

The further, and not less painful, duty now devolves upon us of recording the death of the widow of the late Mr. Ferguson, above mentioned. This most estimable and beloved Christian lady, who had strengthened and confirmed her husband in every good work, only survived him about seven weeks. Mrs. Ferguson departed this life on the morning of the 11th inst., also at 13, Devonshire-place, London. She died as she had lived—really in "the joy of the Lord." We particularly mention this because we have known but few who entered so fully into the future promised to the Christian, as to begin the spiritual realisation of it, as she did, in this life. We deeply mourn her loss, and the society has lost in her another ardent friend. Mrs. Ferguson was in her 72nd year.

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The African Royal Mail steamship Athenian, R. F. Lowry commander, arrived at Liverpool on the 11th inst. Her latest dates were: Benin, Feb. 24; Fernando Po, 28th; Cameroons, March 2; Old Calabar, 3rd; Brass River, 8th; Nun, 8th; Bonny, 7th; Lagos, 10th; Accra, 12th; Cape Coast Castle, 14th; Cape Palmas, 16th; Sierra Leone, 21st; Bathurst, 25th; Teneriffe, 31st; Madeira, April 2. She left at Benin, the Sunshine and the Sparkling Wave; at Fernando Po, Her Majesty's ships the Lee, the St. George, and the Hussar; at Cameroons, the Mary, the Sebina, and the Elizabeth Emily; at Old Calabar, the Elgiva, the Coquette, the Clan Gregor, the Blanche, and the St. Andrew; at Bonny, the Irene, the Grand Bonny, the Belzoni, the Dorothy Manor Sutton, the Tapley, the Iphigenia, the Belle of the Ocean, the Ben Ledi, the Ellen Jenkinson, the Annie Walk, the John Brooks, and the Ferozepore; at Lagos, Her Majesty's ships the Adventure, the Commodore, the Martha, the Kennedy, and the Susan Bailey. On March 11 she spoke the schooner Dart; at Accra she left Her Majesty's ships the Ranger and the Alligator; at Cape Coast Castle, the Just; at Sierra Leone she left the Fremont and the Regina; African Royal Mail steamship M'Laird left on the 15th; spoke the Armenian on April 1st; at Madeira, Her Majesty's ship Jekin (arrived 6 p.m.); the Armenian left the 31st of March. The Athenian brings 880 oz. of gold dust, and 1,500l. in specie. She brings the following passengers: Mrs. Hewan and child, from Old Calabar; Mr. R. Hemmingway, jun., from Bonny; Major Leveson, colonial secretary, from Lagos (wounded); Captain Knox, 2nd West India Regiment, and Mr. Hurrell, from Accra; Mr. Parsons, from Cape Coast Castle; Dr. McDermott and Lieutenant Jackson, 3rd West India Regiment; Lieutenant C. R. Forest, R.N.; Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Menzies, Rev. Mr. Blanchard, Rev. Mr. Berry, Miss Bywater, Misses Jones and March, Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Ferguson, and Mr. Wilkie, from Sierra Leone; Mr. Souzalin, Chief Constable of Kent, Mrs. Burton, wife of Mr. Consul Burton, from Teneriffe.

The trade in the rivers along the Bights of Biafra was very dull, but a good season was expected. Yellow fever had entirely left them, and they are now, comparatively speaking, healthy.

At Lagos, on account of internal wars, there was scarcely any trade being carried on.

The trade all along the Gold Coast is for a time virtually suspended.

At Accra, the blockade of the Croboe country is still strictly maintained, and with very satisfactory results, as more than half the Government debt has been collected, and there is every reason to believe that the remaining portion will be paid up in the course of a few weeks.

Governor Pine, who was suffering from a severe attack of fever at Accra when this vessel left that place, is considered to have shown great energy and tact. In order that the blockade may be thoroughly effective, small detachments of troops are stationed at Pong, on the river Volta, about twelve miles from the Croboe hills; at Pram Pram and Sashie, so as to command

the coasting trade; and at Quantanam (or the junction of the four roads), which latter force prevents supplies from entering the Aquapem country, and being thence conveyed among the Croboes.

The Sierra Leone coast is quiet, and trade is steady. On the 19th of March his Excellency Governor Blackall, accompanied by his son, left in Her Majesty's ship Rattlesnake to pay a visit to his Excellency the President of Liberia.

RIVER GAMBIA.

We have advices from the Gambia to the 25th March. Dr. Gunn has been relieved at M'Carthy's Island, and is expected to return to England on leave by the next mail.

The following letter gives some account of a late most judicious, though hazardous effort on the part of Governor D'Arcy to put an end to the war of extermination that was being carried on by the fanatical Mohammedan chief Maba, on the borders of the British territory. We are sorry to see that, although the praiseworthy effort was thus far successful, the war is still raging, and the work of extermination, or conversion to Mohammedanism, still going on a little further from our colonial boundaries. We fear that until some such measures as those which have proved successful in the French river Senegal, for enforcing peace among the population on the confines of the river, be adopted by the British Government in the Gambia, there will be no real and enduring pacification, and no constant and steady progress in industry and commerce. The Gambia, if systematically pacified, ought now to become, and would become, a great cotton-producer. From its nearness to England, it is most desirable that it should become so. But if the *laissez faire* system hitherto pursued be persevered in, all that we can reasonably expect is that even the trade in ground nuts, which has hitherto more or less prospered, will be destroyed. It has not increased of late as it ought to have done. And the causes are obvious. Insecurity among cultivators—uncertainty as to whether they will even be allowed to reap where they have sown, or to enjoy the fruits of their labours, should they succeed in getting in their crops—must be fatal to agricultural progress.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, River Gambia, March 24, 1863.

Sir,—I had the pleasure of perusing one of your recent numbers, in which reference is made to the unsuccessful attempts at rectifying the unsettled state of things in the neighbourhood of this Government. I think it will not be uninteresting to the public were you to allow a space in your correspondence for the following circumstances that have since transpired, relative to the praiseworthy and successful exertions of his Excellency Colonel D'Arcy, at the risk of his life, in putting an end to those bloody engagements which had disquieted the neighbourhood.

The kingdom of Barra, about the distance of three miles across the river which separates it from this colony, is inhabited partly by the Mandingoes, whose territory bordered on the British frontier.

These have long distinguished themselves into the two tribes of Marabout and Soninke. The former, who are strictly Mohammedans, were subject to the kings of the latter. Their kingdoms were often harassed with perpetual and intestine broils, attributed to the depredations of the latter and their king. Of late, a priest, by name Maba, a Mohammedan bigot, and now the dread of the nation, arose with the intention of swaying the Mohammedan sceptre over his heathen brethren, and excited his followers to resolve to break off all allegiance to any heathen sovereign. Hence war was declared last May as highly meritorious before God, into which his followers rushed with enthusiastic contempt of death, threatening the Soninkes with utter destruction. They erected stockades and burnt many towns unawares, murdering kings, killing and enslaving by hundreds, thereby disturbing trade and the usual supply of our markets. Thus they pursued their devoted brethren even near to the British possession of Berwick Town, which gave sanctuary to women and unarmed men.

The firing of guns, heard here distinctly, told the sad tale of

the calamities of war. The town of Bathurst was full of refugees, whose emaciated appearance excited the sympathy of all classes. At this critical period, when it was dangerous to attempt to proceed inland, the ways being hemmed in on all sides by warriors in ambush, appeal was made to his Excellency by the Soninkes to interfere. The Governor ventured into the forests to the stockades, with Mr. Primet as his aide-de-camp, and an escort of a few native interpreters, to effect peace.

A few days afterwards the continued sound of guns was heard, and the sight of burning smoke ascending to the skies led to painful doubts as to the success of so quiet an undertaking and the safety of the Governor and suite; but they were, on the contrary, signs of success. With mere conciliatory words of sense, instead of an armed force, his Excellency had prevailed on the belligerents to burn their stockades, and on the 25th ult. the large guns of Fort Bullen, Bathurst, and Cape St. Mary, echoed the story of his success to the British public.

On the 11th inst. a meeting was convened in the schoolroom, when his Excellency, the honourable members of council, several respectable inhabitants, and the late *contending chiefs*, were present to settle details of the peace. After very pathetic addresses, the chiefs were moved to agree to certain stipulations, and the Marabouts, for fear of treachery, were put on their oath, at his Excellency's desire, by a Foday.

In reply, these chiefs thanked the gentlemen, and expressed their appreciation of the Governor's kind service to them, wishing him every blessing.

Thus was the peace in Barra concluded.

Still Maba is making havoc of the heathen beyond our territory, and the consequence of his murderous proceedings is, the reflux of British territories by thousands of refugees, creating almost a famine. We hope the time is not far distant when Maba will be coerced to cease his bloody career.

SIERRA LEONE.

Our news is to the 21st of March. Rear-Admiral Sir Baldwin W. Walker had left for the South Coast. Governor Blackall had been on a tour of inspection in British Quiaha. Some of the late chiefs, and "the captains of villages," waited on his Excellency, who took pains to impress upon them that they were now all subject to English laws, customs, and taxes, and that they must appeal in disputed cases to the civil power. We are informed that the Governor has been much impressed with the capabilities of British Quiaha as an agricultural country, and has expressed a desire to see towns and farms established therein. This can only be done when an efficient civil force has been organised there. The country requires to be planned out for settlement; and if peace and order be preserved, as we have no doubt they will be, there is every reason to hope that British Quiaha will realise the expectations of those who so long advocated its annexation to the colony.

We have now to record one of the most disgusting and cruel cases of slavery ever known on the West Coast of Africa. On the 26th of January a very fast and splendid little fore and aft American-built schooner of 120 tons, commanded and manned by Spaniards, ran into some port on the south coast, and there embarked 542 slaves. After being out only fourteen days she got short of water, and put into Annabon (one of the South Atlantic Islands) for a fresh supply. On the 9th of February Her Majesty's ship Brisk, Captain Luce, ran into this place for a similar purpose. The schooner, being suspicious-looking, was boarded, and was immediately made a prize of and sent to Sierra Leone, in charge of Lieutenant Richard Evans. So many human beings being stowed in a small vessel, which was only 4½ feet between decks, running short of water, and fed upon bad rice, dysentery broke out among them, and from the date of the embarkation to the date of her seizure 180 fell victims to the complaint, and from the 9th of February to the 10th of March, the date of her arrival in Sierra Leone, 98 more died. The landing took place on the 11th. Such a fearful sight as those emaciated and deplorable-looking beings presented

was never before witnessed. That day six more died, making the total number of deaths 284 (more than half). The survivors are now in the slave depôt at Kissy, where they will be kept until such time as they are strong and well enough to hire themselves out as servants or to emigrate. The schooner was to be dismantled and broken up on the 25th March.

Since the execution of Captain Gordon, the slave-trader, in New York, American slavers have rapidly disappeared from the West Coast. The trade is now really carried on principally by Spaniards themselves for the supply of the island of Cuba; and the French flag is generally hoisted by them. As we find the French squadron now engaged in other duties on the West Coast, we hope it will have received instructions from the French Government to take effectual measures for preventing such outrages to the national flag, which is being continually dishonoured by those miscreants.

SHERBORO.

Hostilities had recommenced in the Kittam, the chiefs of the Boom, who did not take part in the late treaty, having invaded it. But the British authorities were about to send a commission to negotiate a peace between the combatants, if possible.

Rumours were in circulation that several war parties were collecting at different points on the rivers, with the intention to make another descent upon Sherboro Island. Had there not been a recent outrage of this sort committed, we should scarcely have deemed it credible that the native chiefs, many of whom are intelligent men, would pursue a course which must necessarily, if persisted in, bring upon them a heavy chastisement from the British Government.

Lieutenant Walsh, commanding the British troops in the Sherboro, has been made magistrate and manager for Sherboro Island district.

The Sherboro has recently been visited by a French steamer, the Etoile, which came down to Bonthe at the low tide, showing that, with proper care, this side of the river is navigable for vessels of considerable draft.

It seems probable that the Church Missionary Society will shortly establish a mission at certain points in the Sherboro country.

Jeongo and Bompby have been lately visited by their agent, the Rev. M. Menzies.

The need of Christian enlightenment was strongly shown a few days since. At Tour Yongoro, in the Bullom, a man who had been confined with great cruelty in the stocks for thirteen days was, on the 13th March, burnt to death. He was accused of having by witchcraft made a boat to upset; and all his denials were, of course, unavailing. This being a British territory, the chief, Bey Sherboro, will, of course, be warned against the repetition of such acts. An industrial Christian regeneration which shall lead to a discontinuance of such atrocities, is indeed greatly to be desired. There can be no doubt that progress is making. In the important article of cotton we are assured that systematic cultivation has begun, and that Messrs. Horton and Brooks have several hundred acres growing at Bendoo. What the Sherboro needs is a concentrated application of capital. We understand that the West African Company have purchased one of the mercantile establishments at the Sherboro; and there is no doubt that they could find there a full and remunerative employment for their capital, in developing the cotton and other resources of the Sherboro River country.

LIBERIA.

The Legislature closed its session on the 5th of March.

Some very important matters were transacted during the session, among which may be mentioned the ratification of the treaties of "Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation" with the United States of America, the Kingdom of Italy, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

These treaties will mark an era in the history of the republic; and as Liberia has a well-organised Government, and institutions

that work with admirable regularity, the country ought to make rapid progress. But it is only by a devotion of the citizens to agriculture—to the development of the rich resources of their fruitful territory—that this can be effected. This must necessarily be the origin of all stable wealth and progress in such a country. We are glad to see that the export trade of the republic is steadily increasing, and that her foreign trade now embraces Hamburg and Holland, as well as the United States and England. The following is the official list of produce exported during the fiscal year, ending with the 30th September last, from the Port of Monrovia:—

TO ENGLAND:			
135,962 Gal. of Palm Oil	dols.	32,704.02	
52 Tons of Camwood		2,209.91	
100 lbs. of Ivory		60.00	
2,058 Gal. of Syrup and Molass.		412.85	
14,892 lbs. of Sugar		868.64	36,255.42
TO UNITED STATES:			
39,998 Gal. of Palm Oil	dols.	13,832.76	
50 Tons of Camwood		2,972.80	
36 Bushels of Palm Kernels		18.00	16,823.50
TO HAMBURG:			
180,500 Gal. of Palm Oil	dols.	61,012.24	
11,134 Bushels Palm Kernels		7,367.00	
64 Tons of Camwood		3,428.15	
642 lbs. of Ivory		390.38	72,197.77
TO HOLLAND:			
50,724 Gal. of Palm Oil	dols.	17,907.02	
9 Tons of Camwood		434.87	
1,892 lbs. of Ivory		643.87	
7,884 Bushels Palm Kernels		3,942.00	22,927.76

dols. 148,204.50

TOTALS.—Oil, 407,184 gallons; camwood, 129 tons; molasses, 2,008 gallons; sugar, 14,892lbs.; ivory, 1,630lbs.; palm kernels, 19,054 bushels.

We must, however, express our regret that cotton does not figure among the exports, because we feel convinced that, under present circumstances, the cultivation of this staple would be a source of great prosperity to the republic, which, like the Sherbro Country and the Gambia, has great advantages in its comparative proximity to England.

The *Monrovia Herald* has the following on emigration from America: "By the reports of commissioners, Professor Blyden and Rev. Alexander Crummell, it appears that our brethren in America are, at last, beginning to realise that Africa is the only true home of the African. A few years back it was almost worth a man's life to speak in favour of Liberian emigration in any town or city in Pennsylvania, New York, and most of the other nominally free States; but now, everywhere our commissioners went they were heard freely and courteously. It appears that while the great mass of the people of colour in America are anxious to remain there and become assimilated to their white brethren, yet they seem to feel that, if they must give up their cherished idea of becoming merged in, and being considered as a part and parcel of the Anglo-Saxon race, then they prefer Africa to any other part of the world."

Among the measures of the late Legislature, we find one establishing "a pension fund for soldiers;" another "for providing for the purchase of a steam vessel for revenue purposes, and appropriating 30,000 dols. to that purpose;" an act "for giving certain land bounties of from five to thirty acres to every soldier, &c., serving a certain number of days in active war service;" an act "confining and restricting foreign vessels to ports of entry;" &c., &c.

This latter is an important measure, and one respecting which President Benson had frequent interviews with Earl Russell last year. Vessels have been accustomed to crawl down the coast and engage in barter with the natives wherever they could find a market. By this they avoided the payment of all duties to the republic. It was not likely that this could continue very long under a settled government. The revenue from customs duties is the chief among the Liberian revenues; and the Government

cannot find means for the growing wants of the public service without some regulation that shall bring all the imports and exports of the republic under the cognizance of the customs authorities.

This act, however, will not come into operation until the 1st January, 1865. But, as it is not likely to receive any modification (having been well considered and debated both in Liberia and in England), and is very stringent in some of its regulations, we think it necessary to give the text, which is as follows:—

"AN ACT CONFINING AND RESTRICTING FOREIGN VESSELS TO PORTS OF ENTRY."

"It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:—

"Sec. 1. That from and after the first day of January, 1865 (eighteen hundred and sixty-five), no foreign vessel or vessels arriving on the coast of Liberia, from any port or place, or Liberian vessels engaged in the foreign trade, shall be allowed to trade at any point or parts but at ports of entry that are now or may hereafter be created by the Legislature of this Republic.

"Sec. 2. It is further enacted, that from and after the first day of January, 1865 (eighteen hundred and sixty-five), all foreign vessels are by this act prohibited from landing or delivering any goods, wares, or merchandise, of whatsoever kind, at any point or part of the coast of the Republic of Liberia, except at such points or parts of the coast of this Republic as are now or may be declared by the Legislature of the Republic of Liberia to be ports of entry and delivery.

"Sec. 3. It is further enacted, that any foreign vessel or vessels violating any of the provisions of this act shall be seized by any revenue or naval officer of this Republic, and brought to the nearest port of entry and delivery (as in the opinion of the revenue or commanding naval officer may deem expedient), and delivered into the custody of the national officer of the Admiralty Court of the county into which said vessel or vessels shall be brought; and upon adjudication and conviction before said court the master of said vessel shall be fined in a sum of not less than five thousand nor more than ten thousand dollars.

"Approved February 4, 1863."

We are glad to see that the Liberia College was opened on the first Monday in February, under Professors Crummell and Blyden. With such men as Crummell and Blyden at the head of their college, ample provision is made for high class education in Liberia.

Monrovia bids fair to become a city of brick. We are told that brick-making is now becoming a favourite occupation on the St. Paul's River, and that at no former period has there been so many substantial buildings erected in this city as now. Good stone and brick houses. For the last eighteen months every mechanic has had constant employment. Indeed, labour has been, and is now, in full demand, at fair remunerative prices. And this demand for brick houses is not only a sign of increasing wealth and real progress in civilization, but the profits derived by the brickmakers on the St. Paul's assist them in extending, at the same time, their sugar-cane and coffee plantations. The planting this year exceeds by 50 per cent. that of any previous one.

We feel the deeper interest in the progress of Liberia because it serves as a criterion of what we may reasonably expect from a high-class, intelligent, industrial emigration from Canada to Amba Bay, British Combo, and other points to which the African-Aid Society is desirous of conducting emigration from Canada and the United States. The great future of the Africans is undoubtedly in Africa. This truth—which has been received but very slowly, whether in England or America, among whites or blacks—will, we are certain, ere long be universally admitted. The African-Aid Society therefore continues zealously to sow the seed of this truth in faith and hope, with full assurance of an abundant future harvest.

The expedition to colonise persons of colour has been indefinitely postponed by the President of the United States.

GOLD COAST.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Accra, March 10.

Sir,—The cotton seed you so kindly sent out has arrived and been disposed of according to instruction.

You can add the following, which have been paid here, to the list of subscriptions for that important work the "*Aquapem Mountain Road*":—

Mr. Clover	£1	0	0
Dr. Martin, S. S.	1	1	0
His Excellency Governor Pine	5	5	0

All that part of the road work which relates to the custody and disposal of the funds is at the charge of the treasurer, the Rev. E. Schnell, who will draw the balance of the subscriptions when the money is wanted, and will render a full account of the expenditure.

His Excellency the Governor has been up to Kroboe, and has just now returned to James Town. It will be a great blessing to this country if that Kroboe fine business becomes entirely settled, which I hope it will be, as the blockade causes the people, of course, a good deal of inconvenience.

The rains have set in already, and the people are very busy in planting their yams, &c.

There has been a meeting of the Temperance Society here on the 5th inst., in the Wesleyan Schoolroom. Mr. Ghartey, the president of the Anamaboe Society, presided, and the Rev. Mr. France and the Rev. Mr. Johnson, native Wesleyan ministers, addressed the meeting. Nine persons signed the pledge, and one who had relapsed renewed his pledge. Great good has resulted already from the temperance movement, though it is yet so new.

—Yours sincerely,

(From another Correspondent.)

James Town, April 11.

Sir,—I am sorry to have to tell you that there has been something wrong again with the Cape Coast artillerymen who have been sent up to the Kroboe country. They have been so mutinous and insubordinate, that although up there on duty, and in a position where it is possible that at any moment they may have to be called upon to act against some of the Kroboes, it has been thought right not to trust them with ammunition. They threatened Captain Holt's life, and Captain Knox, who commands a portion of the 3rd West India Regiment, was obliged to threaten that his men should fire upon them. They then returned to their duty.

I do not know what is to be done with this corps; but, as I have before told you, all this insubordination, &c., results from the grossest mismanagement. While discipline was properly kept up, in a proper way, it was really a fine corps, and the men could be depended upon as much as any men in Her Majesty's service. But all this is changed—it is not my business to tell you how; but if some officer who could be relied on was sent down here and to Cape Coast to institute an inquiry as to the way in which the corps has been managed, or mismanaged rather, I am sure that there would be revelations that would surprise the military authorities at home. Men never do get into such a state as the Gold Coast Artillery Corps is now in without some very strong reasons for it. There were many who thought that such an inquiry ought to have preceded the executions which took place a short time ago. That these executions have produced but little, if any, effect, shows that there must be some secret grievances rankling in the minds of the men; and it is but just to all that such an inquiry should be instituted as will lead to a thorough examination into their real or supposed grievances. British officers, as a general rule, make themselves beloved by the men under their command. The Africans, as a people, are notorious for the strength of their attachments when they are well treated. I cannot help thinking, therefore, that if these men hate some of their officers so much as they are said to do, and as exposes the officers' lives to danger among them, there must be a something that ought to be cleared up. Any further military executions among them, before some such court of inquiry as I

have suggested is held, would call down a very severe condemnation from persons who are not at all inclined to relax in any way the reins of military discipline, and who have no sympathy with insubordination, but who like to see equal justice done to all ranks in Her Majesty's service.

This matter is of the more pressing importance now because of the state of our relations with Ashantee. A serious misunderstanding has, as you were previously informed, arisen between Quacoodua, the Ashantee monarch, and the British authorities here. I explained the matter to you briefly before; but as there seems now some serious ground for apprehension that the Ashantees may be so wrongheaded and so ill-advised as to make a hostile inroad into the protected territory, I will give you more precise details. It is the custom that all rock gold (or gold in nuggets) found in the territory of Ashantee belongs by right to the King, gold dust only being retained by his subjects. Now, it appears that a certain chief, Quakoo-ganin, being suspected of having secreted some rock gold, was ordered by the King to present himself at Koomassie (the capital). Being apprehensive of danger, in order to gain time he sent a message to the King to the effect that he would comply with his order; but in the meantime he fled with some 400 to 600 of his immediate followers to the town of Denkerah, the inhabitants of which are a tribe who revolted from Ashantee under the chief Cheboo, some years ago, and are now under British protection. The King of Ashantee then sent a chief (his war-axe bearer) and messengers to Governor Pine, demanding that the absconding chief might be delivered up to him, in accordance with a treaty alleged to have been made in the time of Governor Maclean, to the effect "that all runaways on either side should be delivered up." As no such treaty could be found in the archives of the colony, and the Governor had reason to believe that the chief would be put to death, he refused to deliver him over, unless the King of Ashantee should either produce the treaty, or send witnesses to prove that he was a malefactor, and had offended against the laws. This decision has met with the universal approval of the inhabitants under British protection. Although the King of Ashantee professes that he has a copy of the treaty compelling the restitution of runaways, he has not produced it, nor have any witnesses been sent to prove the chief's guilt; consequently things are *in statu quo*. The last message from Ashantee is threatening, and indicates hostilities, as the King peremptorily demands that the chief, Quakoo-ganin, may be immediately given up, or he will not be to blame in case of disturbances arising. In the meantime the roads are all closed, the Ashantee people are not allowed to enter the territory under British protection for the purpose of trade, as heretofore, and all strangers have been ordered to leave Koomassie; so that no information can be given of what is there going on.

You will perceive at once how difficult the position is in which Governor Pine is now placed. He has shown great energy; but it cannot be matter of surprise that anxiety should have brought on an attack of African fever, from which he is now suffering. The governorship of these settlements is no sinecure just now. I hope to have better news for you in my next. But things look gloomy.—Yours, &c.,

DAHOMEY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Whydah, March 4, 1863.

Sir,—I was sorry that I could not get the enclosed particulars of Commodore Wilmot's visit to Abomey off by the last mail, but you know how uncertain our communications with Lagos are.

The Commodore going up to Abomey has done away with that improper feeling which previously existed; and I trust the British Government will find it worth their while to do some thing at Whydah, as you will see by the enclosed account that the King has requested the Commodore to acquaint Her Majesty's Government that they may occupy the English fort at Whydah.

About three weeks ago the French Commodore also arrived here, and desired to go up to Abomey to see the King; but as the King was just preparing to start on a war expedition, he re-

fused to receive him then, but said he would do so when he returned from the war. The Commodore made M. Dumas, the agent of M. Regis, of Marseilles, consul here. The Yevogan* made a grand day, and gave Mr. Consul Dumas a great reception. The Commodore has gone down to Porto Novo with the Consul.

March 8.

Since writing the above we have heard that the King of Porto Novo has delivered his kingdom to the French Government, and now the French flag protects him.

It is nearly three weeks since the King of Dahomey left his capital on a war expedition. It was in everybody's mouth that they were going to break Abeokuta. He took all his troops with him, and we are now every day waiting to learn the fate of some town, if not of Abeokuta. I am obliged to close this hastily, or you would not get it by this month's mail.—Yours truly,

(Enclosure.)

Commodore Wilmot's Visit to Abomey.

Whydah, Feb. 3.

According to my promise, I will now give you as full an account as possible of what took place at Abomey when the Commodore Wilmot was there with the King. As I have myself been there, and heard always all that happened, you may be sure that every word of it is correct. The King kept the Commodore rather a long time before he gave him a reception, but then he was very well received indeed. The King, his chiefs, and everybody, seemed pleased. It was all that anybody could have wished, and shows that a very favourable impression has been made. I assure you that it is my firm belief that if the British Government will send some one up occasionally with such sort of presents as they may have been told will please the King, all the changes you desire might be got in the course of time—slave-trade and sacrifices put an end to, and a good regular trade set up instead. And I am sure that the Commodore will have received the same impression.

The King and chiefs were most flattering in their remarks to him, and said: "No one could have been better selected." The King said: "I do not like you; but I love you. You seem to have been sent from heaven, to make me and my people happy. You may have Whydah. Take it; and repair the fort, and let Englishmen build houses and set up trade there. From henceforth all rogues and vagabonds shall be sent away. I only want to be friends with the English." And a good deal more in the same way. Everybody who was present says they never saw the King so much pleased as he was on this occasion. But he would not listen to anything the Commodore had to say in behalf of Abeokuta. The Commodore said to him that the Queen of England would be very much pleased if he would not make war there any more; but he replied, "No, I must go there; they burned my father's behind, and I will burn their mouth;" meaning that his father was defeated there, and obliged to run away and show his back, as he was hotly pursued. You may depend upon it, that the late exercise of the army at Kannab, of which I before told you, was a preparing for war with Abeokuta, and that nothing will prevent his going there, as he believes now that he is quite strong enough to take it.

It was grand in its way when the Commodore gave the King the Queen of England's picture. I cannot tell you how pleased he was with it. He held it up above his head, told all the chiefs, army, &c., that this was his great white sister; and they all smothered themselves in the dust, covering themselves all over with it, the same as if she had been present.

Then the King made a long speech to the Commodore, and said, among a whole heap of things, "Now the King of Dahomey and the Queen of England are one. You shall hold the tail of the kingdom, and I will take the head. I am the King of the blacks. Queen of England—greatest Queen in Europe: King of Dahomey—greatest King in Africa. Why do not English come to Whydah and settle? Why do they go to Abeokuta? What has Abeokuta done to make England their friend more than my father and myself? I will take Abeokuta, and give it to you,

* Dahoman "Governor."

and punish them for being hostile to you now. My father was always the friend of Englishmen: so am I. Why did you break Porto Novo? I would have done it, if you had asked me. He [meaning the King of Porto Novo] is my brother. Do not let white men fight with black men. Do not let them interfere in our wars. Let them go away, and see who is the brave man."

You know so well all about it, that I do not need really to tell you why the King, &c., are so inveterate against Abeokuta, and why Ishagga was destroyed. You have already informed your readers on these points. Ishagga, no doubt, behaved very treacherously, and fearful has been the retribution. Those of the captured now alive in Dahomey are all doomed to be sacrificed. They only await their turn. "Meanwhile they are employed in cultivating the ground, and in many ways to make them useful; but they are all doomed to appear in succession at the Customs, when the King thinks proper to offer them up as human sacrifices."

A man was thrown from the platform at the Custom, and given to Commodore Wilmot, his life being spared for his sake. Two women were also given to him. These were all from Ishagga. CAN NOTHING BE DONE TO SAVE THE OTHER POOR CREATURES?

Abeokuta is three weeks' march from Abomey for an African army, which suffers great privation on its march, many dying from hunger and thirst. They live on nuts, beans, &c., scarcely sufficient to sustain life—and their power of endurance must be very great.

The King gave a command in his Life Guards, Amazons, to Commodore Wilmot and to Captain Luce. These women are indeed the very flower of the population, being the *élite* of the Amazons, and numbering about 1,000. Without any ferocity in their look, they are most sanguinary in their habits and desires, and from their great bodily vigour and activity, are most formidable troops in African warfare. As I gave you in one of my late letters an account of their practice at Kannab, in firing at goats, shortly before the Commodore's arrival, it is not necessary for me to tell you of the like practice witnessed by him. But he said that although the male troops fired remarkably well with ball at 100 yards, the Amazons were by far the most skilful. They are armed with musket and sword, and some with blunderbusses and very large knives for chopping off the heads of the slain, wounded, and what are held to be worthless prisoners—that is, the old people and very young children. All their thoughts are of war and of chopping off heads; they dream of it, and tell you every moment how they should like to be doing this for their master. It is astonishing to see what power the King has, and in what veneration he is held. But he is afraid of his chiefs, and they are afraid of him. The Government is despotic. Everything belongs to him. Every daughter of every man in his kingdom is his, if he chooses. He may select which he likes, and give away the rest, or sell them. But the Government is well administered—that is to say, everybody knows his place, and does his duty. Life and property are perfectly safe. He never sacrifices or sells abroad any of his own people, only slaves or prisoners of war; and the laws are justly enforced. It is marvellous to see how regularly and quietly everything goes on. Every chief has his followers, and holds certain rank. It is curious to see how they prostrate themselves before the King. "I am but dust before thee," and suiting the action to the word, they grovel in the sand, and cover head, face, arms, and body over with it; then kneeling, they kiss the ground many times, the King, surrounded by his wives, quietly smoking his pipe the while.

Although Commodore Wilmot has not obtained anything from the King, except that very important *desire* on his part that the English should occupy their fort at this place, I hope the British Government will not neglect to do all that the King has expressed a wish for. He asked the Commodore to request the Queen to send him out a carriage and horses, with a silk tent, &c., and other things. I think if this were done it would strike a blow at the slave-trade and the sacrifices which would astonish everybody. Everything depends upon a second visit in six months' time to the King, with presents from Her Majesty. What is

1,000l., when such vast interests are at stake? Everything might be done without striking a blow, and the English would get the confidence of the King! He will permit a consul and superintendent of trade to reside in the fort. But whoever is sent for this purpose must be a man that understands the African character, and is a friend to the black race.

There are some very fine men among the Dahomans, and the King is himself one of the finest, being about six feet one inch high, broad-shouldered, powerful, and active. You may have a chance of seeing some of them in England, if the Commodore comes back again, as the King has most strongly pressed him to do; for although no people of rank are allowed to leave the country, he has promised to send a chief of high rank to England the next time he visits him. He and all his chiefs do not believe you are sincere unless he comes back. The King said: "You say you will come again: do so, and everything you ask shall be done. I shall then know you are in earnest. People promise many things, but do not perform them. I love you; come again, and you shall see what I will do."

As I was closely connected with the expedition, I am sure that Commodore Wilmot and Captain Luce would confirm all I have said. I repeat, that the visit has been an important one, and if it is followed up, as it ought to be, great good may be done for this part of Africa.

You know how much I long to see civilization and Christianity, not only in this country of Dahomey, but all over those parts of Africa which are so rich, if the people would leave off war, and which are so near to England as tropical countries.

Commodore Wilmot and his party were fifty-one days at Abomey, and all enjoyed uninterrupted good health. There can be no doubt of the climate in the interior being very far superior to that on the coast; and your efforts for the industrial and moral regeneration of Africa ought to be made as much as possible in that direction. For this reason I rejoice to hear that you are trying to get a British consul placed at Rabba, up the Niger.

I have not given any details of the Custom. You have had too much of such things already. The King and army are going out to war directly—they say towards Abeokuta.—Yours truly,

ABEOKUTA.

The *Iwe Irohin* has the following particulars relative to Epé and Ejirin, of the destruction of which, by order of the Governor of Lagos, notice is given in our Lagos letter:—

"CRADOO LAKE.—The large sheet of water called in various maps Cradoo Lake, probably a corruption of Korodu or Ikorodu, a market town near the mouth of Ogu River, which flows into the lake, has several market towns on its northern bank, where the people of Lagos meet the Ijebus to exchange their various articles of traffic. Of late years Ikorodu and Ejirin have dealt largely in palm oil. Epé, another town more to the eastward, has also brought into the market large quantities of that desirable article for European commerce, trading chiefly with Palma, a town on the seacoast about thirty miles east of Lagos. These towns form part of the dominions of the King of Ijebu. Epé has been celebrated of late years as the place to which Kosoko fled for refuge, on being driven from Lagos, and where he resided until his recent return to his native place. He was a refugee there by the favour of the King of Ijebu; it formed no part, according to the accounts given by the natives, of the Lagos territory."

The following, with regard to the invasion of Dahomey, is interesting, as showing what had occurred up to the 5th March, and the general feeling that prevailed. Our private information assures us that the women of Abeokuta take a very prominent part in the defence, keeping the men constantly on the alert, and urging them to watchfulness and the most desperate resistance. This is an important feature, and will not, we should think, be without its influence as regards the issue of the combat, should any take place:—

"DAHOMEY, March 5.—An attack from the Dahomans has been expected, and nothing has been done these three or four days past but works of preparation to meet and repel the assault.

On Monday evening a great alarm was given; women went about the streets singing; men hastily armed themselves, and hastened to their appointed stations behind the wall or at the gates; very soon thousands were ready to meet any attack that Dahomey may make. The morning of Tuesday dawned, but no enemy appeared in sight. Various reports were brought in from time to time that they were seen somewhere near Ishagga, then they were seen in some farm there, that they had divided, and one division was seen marching northward towards Iberekodo, with two Ibadan horsemen at their head as guides; a double attack was therefore expected, one from the south, and the other from the north. These reports served to keep attention alive, and up to this hour they are expecting and awaiting an attack, being aware of the character of Dahomey warfare; they approach with caution, sometimes leave again, professing to be going somewhere else, and when suspicion is not felt, suddenly return and make their spring on their plunder. Perhaps after all this noise we shall hear that Dahomey has caught some small town asleep, and made sufficient slaves to sell and to kill until another season shall come round. Dahomey does not like hard fighting more than other native tribes; craft and cunning are their best weapons, and most relied on. Several chiefs returned from the camp at Makun to take part in the defence of this town. Whether the Dahoman army will come or not, is uncertain, but a state of preparation will prove the best means of preventing an attack; for doubtless the Dahomans have their spies, to report what is doing, from some quarter or other. That they should not come, is to be earnestly desired, for there will be a great loss of life in such a battle as must take place. Besides which, should Abeokuta be destroyed, it would prove a heavy blow to civilization and progress of religious truth; and should Abeokuta conquer, it would strengthen war principles and feelings, and make them much less inclined to peace. If the Dahomans do not come, we expect the Ibadans will be more ready to listen to overtures for peace. It is generally supposed that a hope of help from Dahomey made them evade the offer recently made. In every respect it is most desirable that the Dahomans should not attack."

Were it not for the blockade and the Dahoman attack, considerable trade would now be doing with Lagos in palm oil and cotton. But in addition to the blockade, the authorities here have issued an order that all trade shall be discontinued during the Dahoman invasion. Prices, therefore, are almost nominal. But some cotton has been disposed of at 18 strings per pound, and palm-nut oil at 7 heads per 10 imperial gallons. Exchange is 3 heads 15 strings per dollar.

It appears that several towns, Ilaro, Okeadan, &c., received messages in advance from the King of Dahomey, calling upon them to provide guides for his army to Abeokuta. Some people infer that he uses this means to beguile the towns into false security, and that he may surely be expected to attack one of them.

The latest news by letter to the 7th shows that, with increased activity and watchfulness on the part of the chiefs and people, some apprehension was felt that there had been established an understanding of some sort between the Dahomans and Ibadans relative to the attack on Abeokuta. We hope, however, that this is not the case, and that the Ibadans will remain quiet while the Egbas are acting against the invading Dahomans. It is scarcely necessary to say that the Christian missionaries in Abeokuta have elected to stay in Abeokuta, and share the fate of their flocks, in the event of attack by Dahomey. The Christian natives will see that although British protection is withdrawn from their European teachers, they cast in their lot with those whom they have been endeavouring to rescue from heathenism. This must greatly endear them to one another after the danger has passed away, and perhaps lead to a more extended usefulness, there being so many native Christians already in the community.

TRADE REPORT.

Cotton continues to command the same high prices. Our African friends have every inducement to proceed energetically in its cultivation.

PALM-OIL.—Best Lagos, 37l. and 37l. 10s. Market very weak. Lower prices expected.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 5s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance. AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY, 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, W.C., London.

N.B. Post-office orders for Subscriptions to the *African Times* to be made payable to Wm. J. JOHNSON, 121, Fleet-street, at the General Post-office, London.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Our Friends will perceive that we have enlarged our Number of this month to Sixteen Pages. We desire to make such enlargement permanent. The advancing interests of Africa require it; and if every one of our Subscribers would obtain us a new annual Subscriber, we could accomplish it. We hope that our efforts have established a claim on them for this assistance, and that we shall find immediately the desired result of these exertions on our behalf which we now earnestly solicit.—THE EDITOR.

The African Times.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1863.

AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

LIKE most other philanthropic and charitable societies, the African-Aid Society finds its funds considerably diminished, as a consequence of the great cotton-manufacturing distress, any future recurrence of which it is endeavouring to avert, by stimulating, in every possible way, an adequate cotton production in Africa. We are therefore instructed to ask those who take an interest in the industrial advancement of Africa for help. The present is a most important period for Africa. Great questions, in which the future welfare of Africa and the African race are deeply involved, demand the constant attention and efforts of the Society. The Gold Coast, Dahomey, Lagos, Abeokuta, the Niger, Delagoa Bay, the Zambesi, the Oxford and Cambridge Mission, and other matters in which its interposition and influence may be most beneficial, require attention and effort. It has also to arrange for the nucleus of another Christian civilised African nationality at Ambas Bay and the Cameroons Mountain district, for which it raises a special fund.

The total expenses of the administration and management, rent, printing, postage, &c., of the Society, including the editorship of the *African Times*, are now kept within the limit of 400l. a-year; and all beyond that amount will be available for emigration, roads, and other aids to the advancing civilization of Africa.

We therefore beg most earnestly for help to the Society from its old friends, and from all who take an interest in the good government of our African settlements, and in the complete bringing in of Africa and its people to take their due place in the great industrial league of the civilised world. Subscriptions will in future be announced in this journal.

SUBSCRIPTIONS SINCE OUR LAST.

The Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe (ann.), 21l.
His Excellency Governor D'Arcy, Gambia (don.), 5l.
R. N. Fowler, Esq., Cornhill (don.), 5l.
The Rev. J. Robin, Acting Colonial and Garrison Chaplain, Gambia (ann.), 1l.
A Friend, by the Editor of the *African Times* (don.), 5l.

THE NIGER COUNTRIES.

We wish the great THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON were alive at this day. How his big heart would rejoice at the efforts now making to realise his eminently practical views. These were based upon the vast mineral riches, agricultural and animal wealth, and natural capabilities of Africa and its varied peoples. He maintained that the interior, by way of all the great rivers, and by that of the Niger especially, would prove an enormous source of

wealth to those who might bring in commerce to aid in its development. And he was right. There were difficulties in the Niger to be overcome; and they have been overcome. Their power consisted much, if not chiefly, in our ignorance. Wisdom has been learned; and there is no longer any Cerberus there to guard the golden fruit of that modern Hesperides. Our vessels can now go up to and return from Rabba, without danger, impediment, or sickness.

The important preliminary work in the Niger, which has been fully done, only seems to have been slowly done because the civilised world lives now at a very rapid rate. Twenty years seem of more account to us than did centuries to the ancients; and for this reason the great work may well appear to have lingered. There was an awful gap between the unfortunate expedition of 1841 and the subsequent successful attempt. And no wonder. The cost had been great—the loss of life still more deplorable. People measured the expedition by these sad results, and not by the unavoidable ignorance which produced them. It is remarkable that no new and sound theory was deduced from the experience gained in that expedition by the persons who took part in it. On the contrary, they pronounced that where they failed no success was possible. And the Golden River—for such it will soon prove to be—the Golden River was tabooed. Death stood monarch over her stream, till a young lieutenant in the Navy, who had seen arduous service in other African rivers, and had deduced a theory from his experience, told how the sceptre might be wrested from him. Your M'Leod was pooh-poohed, of course. But the Royal Geographical Society wisely listened where naval seniors condemned. He appealed to the Admiralty returns. They substantiated his theory. Experience had demonstrated, as he said, that the sickly time for the native was the healthy one for the European; and he then showed how by proper precautions the Niger might be navigated as well as any other river. Another ten years of tentative trials have at the same time confirmed the truth of Lieutenant M'Leod's theory and of Thomas Fowell Buxton's assertions. The Niger can be navigated with entire safety; it is a river highway to a marvellous tropical abundance. And now that same M'Leod is engaged in organising a company that shall permanently navigate that river, and reap as its reward the glorious harvest that we are confident, with Mr. Buxton, awaits those who do this work for God and man in a proper business-like manner.

If men were as they were in Thomas Fowell Buxton's day, there would have been no difficulty now in organising such an enterprise. But they are not what they were. As wealth increases hearts contract. Men have smaller views than they had then. There is more examination, and less devotion. Principles do not sway as they then did. They are asserted or admitted, and that is deemed sufficient. A narrower egotism prevails. People look toward great objects, and wish them to be achieved. But good wishes, without the practical effort to which they ought to conduct, are of little avail. Still there are some who work as well as wish, who come nobly forward in support of prudent and practical efforts. And thus the far interior of Africa by the way of the Niger will soon have to rejoice in a commerce, not only unconnected with, but the determined and deadly foe of slave war, the slave-trade, and slavery.

It must needs be a great consolation to those who are engaged in the difficult preliminary work required, before such a commerce can be adequately established—to those who have to overcome the timidity and apathy, even of those whose hearts are desiring the Christian civilization of Africa—that they are preparing, by means of the Niger and Chadha Company, the great practical blow to a slave-trade that has deluged vast regions of the interior with blood and tears. The commerce across the desert from Tripoli, &c., to Kano, was based upon a slave-trade which has surpassed in its enormous cruelties the worst horrors of the ocean one. The slave ship was a paradise compared with the slave caravan. The establishment of trading depôts, the constant visit of the company's steam-boats, the residence and visits of a British consul at the several influential points between the confluence of the Niger and Chadha and

Rabba, will give the final blow to that accursed trade. We long for the time to arrive when we may have to announce in this journal the successive arrival of cargoes of the rich produce of the interior, not only because of the great pecuniary reward which we feel certain will be reaped by those who have participated in this great commercial work. More—much more than this. We shall behold in every cargo the growing triumph of peaceful industry, civilization, and Christianity, over slave war, barbarism, and Pagan and Mohammedan cruelty and error. Of course, wherever that company has a trading establishment there our great missionary societies will establish their missions, assured of that assistance and support which it will be really to the pecuniary advantage of a commercial company to give. For the work of the missionary is an invaluable adjunct to commerce in heathen lands. As people become Christians they acquire a proper self-respect, which leads to an important demand for the ingenious and useful produce of our manufactories.

It is with heartfelt joy that we express the conviction that the agencies now at work and preparing for Africa will, within a few years, produce a mighty change in lands where evil has for so many centuries triumphantly reigned. The African-Aid Society will have had no mean share in bringing about such result. It has let in light upon Africa; it has stimulated efforts for her industrial development; it has marshalled the hosts for future industrial and commercial triumphs. And Christianity will go hand-in-hand with these, scattering its inestimable benefits in the road of material progress.

There can be no doubt that the war in America, which all men, we believe, out of America regard with pain and horror, will assist in many ways in the great work of African regeneration. We are never tired of reporting the great truth, that Africa is the natural source of supply for cotton to Great Britain; never cease to assert that, if properly encouraged, she can produce it in any quantity our manufacturers may require. We have the firm conviction that, by judicious encouragement, the Niger and Chadha Company will, within a few years, be able to obtain scores of thousands of bales of cotton annually from the Niger countries. And we have also the conviction that the West African Company, already established, will find it to be its interest to concentrate its efforts for stimulating production, and especially cotton production, in the more northern rivers and regions between Senegal and Cape Palmas; that, under their auspices, the Gambia, Nunez, the Pongas, the Sierra Leone, the Sherboro, Gallinas, the St. Paul's, and other rich intermediate rivers and regions, will compete in the supply of cotton, coffee, and other rich and valuable produce, with the Volta, the Niger, and Chadha, and their tributaries, under the not less energetic, stimulating influence of the Niger and Chadha Company. Then, with the increased development of the coast districts by the London, Liverpool, and Bristol merchants, who have so long been labouring in that great palm-oil field, Africa will indeed begin to lift up her head, and will be doing her part, so long neglected, toward the accomplishment of that work assigned to the human race 6,000 years ago—that subduing of the earth by which all its vast and varied resources may be exhibited in its great Maker's praise.

THE GOLD COAST AND ASHANTEE.

THE news we give from the Gold Coast shows that there is at least a possibility of a war with Ashantee. The cause, should there be one, will be simple enough—viz., our refusal to deliver up a number of persons to certain and horrible death. We do not wish to prejudice or to anticipate events. But one thing we must do. We have no adequate words of condemnation for a system under which so many years have been allowed to pass without a good military road having been constructed from the coast to the Ashantee frontier. Such a road ought to have been carried as far as possible toward Comassie. The development of the productive resources of the country that would have followed upon the creation of such a road would soon have repaid tenfold the cost of its construction. But as it has not been made, there is no time now to be lost. Let the work be undertaken at once. The Basle Mission at Accra, who are constructing the Aquapem

Mountain Road, toward which the African-Aid Society has supplied resources, have a few practised men who can assist in directing the work.

Should a war with Ashantee—in defence of the lives of those men who have sought shelter under the protection of our power—unhappily take place, we feel that the whole question of the position of this country on the Gold Coast must come under consideration. Our present position there is one that in many ways brings disgrace upon England. Sooner or later there must be a change. Under the restrictions we at present impose upon ourselves there, we compromise the national honour, and are unable to effect that good which should always attend the rule of the British Government in uncivilised countries.

But what presses at this moment, in view of the possibility of a war with Ashantee, is the military road we have already mentioned, and the reoccupation of the Fort of Quittah. This fort, which is only a short distance from the mouth of the Volta, on its left bank, ought never to have been abandoned. The withdrawal of the British flag from its walls has led to a reopening of the old slave-trade from Ashantee by the Volta. Quittah stands at the extremity of lagoons, which lead to Great and Little Popo, &c. The slaves, many hundreds a-year, have been carried by this route to the slave ships, since the few British soldiers were removed from the Quittah Fort. On this ground alone, the African-Aid Society has been pressing for the reoccupation of the fort; but now that there is a possibility of a war with Ashantee, such reoccupation becomes, on many grounds, an imperative necessity, and we hope to hear of its being ordered to take place immediately.

One of the results of interruption of trade with Ashantee, that great gold-producing country, which in the hands of Europeans would no doubt rival or surpass California, became immediately apparent. The last mail brought only 880 ounces of gold dust, instead of the usual quantity of about 3,000 ounces. The great gold deposits, from which washings spread the finer portions of the metal over the whole country, even to the sands around Cape Coast Castle, are in Ashantee. It is most likely that they will some day be found to occupy the southern slope of the Kong Mountains there, and that very large quantities of the precious metal will come to us from that country, now only second to Dahomey in bloodshed and horrible cruelties.

THE BIGHT OF BENIN.

THE news from this portion of the West Coast fills us with apprehension and dismay. The natural results of misgovernment are showing themselves in all directions. We mean general as well as local misgovernment. While part of what is happening may be fairly laid at the charge of those who have represented, or who now represent, the British Government in those parts, much, and we must say the chief portion, lays at the charge of the principal authorities at home. We abstain on all occasions, when it is possible to do so, from any unfavourable comment upon the decision or acts of either the home or local authorities. We endeavour to estimate the difficulties of the situation; we make allowance, and large allowance, for the obstacles that oppose the forming or carrying out of good and wise decisions; and we are therefore never hasty to condemn. But there are occasions when we should be guilty were we silent. There are occasions when the interests involved are such as make it a duty imperative upon us to hold up a vacillating, or an aggressive, an incomprehensible, or a mistaken policy to reprehension; to censure acts that compromise our national prestige and honour, that threaten us with disgrace as a Christian nation, and that hazard the prosperity of the merchants and traders who may have established themselves where the hope of legitimate gain invites them, under the belief that the British Government was there in presence for their protection, and that it would never wantonly place their interests in jeopardy.

The present is one of those occasions. We are dishonoured as a nation in the eyes of the Africans, without leaving to ourselves any hope of redress, because it results chiefly from our own acts. It is not long since this journal denounced the in-

clusion of Badagry and Porto Nova in the proclamations of Her Majesty's authorities at Lagos, without any open and declared annexation of those places having been previously made. We said plainly that we could understand a policy of annexation as regarded the coast from the vicinity of Lagos, or, if necessary, from the Niger to the banks of the Volta, but that a filching process of isolated portions, such as seemed to us to be going on, would only lead to dishonour and disgrace. We have since learned how the secret annexation of Badagry was accomplished. But as it was accomplished, and we believe it to be beneficial to the natives, we abstain from further allusion to it. We confess that individually—for we do not wish our opinion to compromise any one else—we consider it to be a great blessing for the African to come under direct British rule, and to be protected by British laws. Could the whole of Africa be suddenly thus placed, the great work of its industrial development, and of its Christian civilization, would necessarily receive a mighty impetus. But we do maintain that this is too great a nation to be able to condescend, without dishonour, to make territorial or other acquisitions, by subterfuge. In carrying out a great, a humane, a Christian policy—such as that, for instance, of the suppression of the slave-trade—it might find it necessary to claim and enforce supreme authority over a long line of barbarous coast—an authority only to be employed for good—an authority to be relinquished whenever the work of civilization had placed the natives in a position to dispense with our presence without loss of security, happiness, or prosperity thereby. But to put forward claims to territory and dominion on the slightest possible grounds, or on no grounds at all, merely to increase the revenue of a colonial possession for multiplying offices, and paying services that ought never to have been employed, is a very different matter. And that is the course we seem to have been pursuing at Lagos, with such questionable results as might be expected to attend it, seeing that the colony has no military establishment intended for aggressive purposes, but simply for defence.

Porto Novo has been taken under the protection of France. The French flag is hoisted in a town the exports of which we lately assumed a right to tax, as being a dependency, or included in the territorial possessions of Lagos. Porto Novo, where we made a sacrifice of human life, with the expressed determination that she should no longer carry on a slave-trade, has passed into the hands of another Power, which has at the same time established itself with peaceful relations in the great slave-exporting town of Whydah, and which, so far as we can learn, has not employed its naval forces that have been engaged in this service for preventing in any one case the dishonouring abuse of the French flag by slavetraders, who now hoist it with impunity.

We never blame a subaltern authority where the superior authority has had time for the examination of its acts, and has not condemned or repudiated them. They then become the acts of the superior authority. Whatever, therefore, there may have been wrong, in our opinion, about Governor Freeman's procedure in the matter of Badagry or Porto Novo, we no longer hold him in any way responsible for it. What he has done has not been disallowed, therefore it has been approved. We look upon what has happened at Porto Novo as the corollary of the vacillating, undecided, mistaken policy pursued with Dahomey. We have called again and again for the occupation of Whydah. It might at any time have been effected without the loss of a single life, and by it the slave-trade would have been annihilated in the Bight of Benin. Now we have lost our opportunity. The war expeditions of Dahomey will continue to be made—the bloody shambles of the Dahomey Customs will be abundantly supplied—the great slave-trade steamers will embark their huge cargoes of human misery for the slaughter pens of the Cuban plantations, or for the sugar estates of the French islands. For we do not believe that the French authorities have gratuitously committed these unfriendly intrusions upon a policy so dear to the people of Great Britain. True, there is at present a treaty by which France has engaged not to permit the importation of Africans, under any name or pretext whatever, into its colonies. But we know that the compensation granted to France under

that treaty, in a supply of coolie labour, is considered at the Tuileries to have been unsatisfactory. The coolie labour in French colonies, with a right of visit by English consuls to the properties on which they are employed, is thought not to work well; and we know that since that treaty has been in force the former contractor for the supply of *African free labour emigrants* to the French colonies, whose agent now hoists the consular flag of France on the *Free Labour Slave Baracon* at Whydah, has been instructed to keep all his establishments on the African coast in a state of efficiency. We therefore believe that we have good grounds for apprehending a return by France to the former system. And if this be done, there is yet a great future of woe in store for Africa.

The intrusive protectorate of France at Porto Novo, which she had, we suppose, a perfect right to assume, but which is not the less a breach of good taste, compromises our position at Lagos. The consular establishment of France at Whydah neutralises our policy, or what ought to be our policy, with regard to Dahomey. The blockade of Abeokuta, whatever cause of complaint we may have against that place, is to say the least an impolitic and ungenerous act, at a time of threatened or actual Dahoman invasion. The military expedition against Epe and Egina, unsuccessful in execution, and unjustifiable in purpose, has cut off our merchants from the trade of Ijebu, and placed us in hostile relations with a people who ought to contribute largely to the commercial prosperity of Lagos. And all this is the result of an undetermined, hesitating policy in London, and the appointment to offices of trust and responsibility in Africa of persons, who, however talented and distinguished they may be in other respects, are so ignorant of African character, or so determined to ignore and override its inveterate peculiarities, as to treat these with absolute disdain; and who inaugurate a policy of their own with regard to territorial acquisition such as it would be difficult for a country like this deliberately to adopt. We do not hesitate to say that with a little management the King of Porto Novo would have become frankly English; and we are quite sure that any really legitimate and proper object might have been similarly attained with the King of Ijebu. Instead of this, we have lost the one, and it is not our fault if we have not alienated the other. We expected Lagos to be a life-giving light, and not a cloud charged with destructive fire.

AMBAS BAY.

If we have not called attention of late to that very important position on the Western Coast of Africa, Amba Bay, it has not been because of any change of views respecting it. We know of nothing that is likely to be more interesting in results than a judicious emigration from Canada to that place. The capabilities of the Bay and of the Cameroon Mountains have now been fully established, and we hope that funds will be forthcoming during the present summer to enable the African-Aid Society to carry out its plans for placing the civilised nucleus of a future important community at the foot of the Cameroon Mountains. The almost persecution to which the free coloured population in Canada have been lately subject invests the question of their emigration with a new interest. They have now not only an unfavourable climate to contend with, but also the growing prejudices of the white population. We feel our former conviction strengthened by what is passing in the United States and Canada with regard to the coloured people. Africa is the great home of the race. It is only in Africa that the great qualities of the race can fully develop and exhibit themselves. And we look forward to the time when there shall be two or three civilised Christian African nationalities, with a certainty that they will show themselves in no respect inferior to Europeans, although they may, and will doubtless, differ from these in many particulars as strongly as they do in colour. God has bestowed varied characteristics on the different branches of the one great human family, and the world is not complete until all have come more or less under the influence of that Christianity which has given to the population of Europe the especial pre-eminence which they now indisputably possess.

LAGOS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

March 10, 1863.

Trade is now very dull here, and it is uncertain when there will be a renewed activity. Everything of late has tended to a complication of affairs most prejudicial to commerce. The blockade of the River Ogun and the adjacent coasts of the mainland have, of course, led to the cessation of legitimate trade in the direction of Abeokuta; while, as was pretty well foreseen by men of long experience in African affairs, it has not at all impeded the supply of arms and ammunition to the interior, which it was intended to prevent, in the hope that as these would be of the very first necessity to the Abeokutans, it would lead to some satisfactory arrangement of the existing difficulties. There can be no doubt, I should think, that this measure of blockade was adopted by the Governor of Lagos with very great reluctance. Whatever the faults of the Egba people, no one here (or in England, I am sure) could contemplate for a moment the possible occupation of Abeokuta by the Dahomans without a thrill of horror, and without feeling that it would be a dreadful blow to the spread of Christian civilization in these parts. We are therefore generally here far from sorry to find that arms and ammunition were never more plentiful in Abeokuta than at this time; and although the Egbas are hampered with that Ibadan war which they persist in carrying on with the most stupid obstinacy, I hope and believe that the Dahomans will meet with such a failure before Abeokuta, if they do venture to attack it, as will tend greatly to break their power, and prevent any future inroads by them into the Egba and Yoruba countries. They are a common enemy that all ought to unite to repel and to destroy.

All the representations of Commodore Wilmot and Captain Luce to the King of Dahomey, whether on the subject of the slave-trade or of Abeokuta, during their late visit were fruitless. They met, it is true, with a very kind reception from him; but he told them unhesitatingly that he should be obliged to attack and try to take Abeokuta, as he had sworn to his father before he died to do so. He said that he could not break his word, but that after taking the place he would give it back to them. Commodore Wilmot describes the Amazons as being a very fine body of women, in the prime of life. They are capital shots with rifle or musket, and the discipline in their corps is very strict. They are not allowed to marry, and when one appears separately in the streets a bellman walks in advance of her; this is a signal for the people to retire inside of their houses until she has passed. Commodore Wilmot and Captain Luce were appointed, the one a colonel, the other a captain of one of the King's crack regiments; they were promised that should Abeokuta be taken, their share of the spoil should be sent to them. Two slave girls were given to the Commodore for the Queen of England, and two for himself. They were left with the missionaries at Whydah. The King also said it would be absurd of him to take money to do away with the trafficking in slaves, as it was an old custom of the country, and were he to put it down, he would be immediately poisoned for his pains. But as if the blockade of the coast on the side of Abeokuta, and the hostilities in the interior, were not sufficiently prejudicial to our mercantile interests, already charged with customs duties of a very onerous amount, an expedition has been sent against Epe, which has resulted in a deplorable loss of life, and tended to produce fresh bitterness towards us in the native mind. After the cession of Lagos by King Docemo, the former King of Lagos, Kosoko (who was expelled by the British when they installed Akintoye, the father of Docemo, as King of Lagos), who had been ruling at Epe, as tributary of the King of Ijebu, returned to Lagos with some of his chiefs, and was permitted to reside there. It is stated that when Kosoko was driven out of Lagos, and established himself in Epe, he asked the English whether he might levy duties in Epe, and was told he might do so if he chose. Now it has been maintained that, as he has returned to Lagos, no duties of any kind ought to be levied in Epe unless by the British authorities, whose right, it is contended, was acknowledged when Kosoko thus asked to be allowed to levy them some twelve years

ago. Governor Freeman, hearing that certain dues were being exacted there by Possoo, the war chief of Kosoko, went down to Epe on the 14th March. The Investigator, Commander Lefroy, was employed in this service. Major Leveson, the Colonial Secretary, had gone before him to Palma (to establish a custom house there), with some Mohammedan soldiers from the interior, who have been taken into the pay of the Colonial Government at Lagos.

Possoo was ordered to come on board the Investigator. He very reasonably, I think, refused to do so. It is said that he was persuaded by some foreign traders thus to disobey an authority whose right it appears he did not recognise. Three days having passed, and he being still refractory, Commander Lefroy and Major Leveson were ordered to make a final summons to obedience. Intelligence had been received that Possoo intended to fight rather than yield. The result was as might have been expected under the circumstances, a most fruitless bloodshed. Commander Lefroy and Major Leveson, in executing their orders, had with them three officers and eleven sailors, in addition to the forty Mohammedan Haussas. They advanced with caution; but a fire opened upon them from a concealed enemy, and one sailor was wounded in the throat. The sailors, of course, returned the fire. Meanwhile, Major Leveson and his Haussas, advancing unseen through the bush, came upon some 300 of their opponents, collected in an open space, and poured in a volley, taking them completely by surprise. Eighteen were killed on the spot, and several others wounded. The rest, panic stricken, took to the adjacent bush; some desultory skirmishing then took place, in which the enemy brought to bear two iron guns, loaded with rivets, but, after a little irregular firing, they ceased and retired further into the bush. Major Leveson, although severely wounded, was still able to keep the field. He then withdrew his men, who had behaved very well, and joined Commander Lefroy's party, which was advancing to his aid. It was then decided to return to the beach and embark. This was accordingly done without further molestation. Commander Lefroy was the last man in the boats. In this affair, although the enemy had over 600 men engaged, and fought on their own ground, they were thoroughly repulsed and beaten by a force less than one-tenth of their number. The British casualties were comparatively small. They consisted of one Haussa and two camp followers killed; Major Leveson, one sailor, and three Haussas wounded. Major Leveson's wound was severe, and nearly fatal. An iron bullet entered the head below the right ear, within half an inch of the carotid artery, and fractured the jaw. It remains in the bone. On the return of the boats to the Investigator the wounded were sent on to Lagos in a canoe, and the Governor gave orders to bombard and burn the town, which was effectually done. The people had, however, removed all their goods and property some days previously, and so suffered but little damage. The sheds in which the Edjina market is held, about four miles nearer Lagos, were also destroyed. The Council have voted 500*l.* out of the Colonial Revenues to Major Leveson as compensation for the injuries received.

I have thus given you the account as current here. The last paragraph will of course attract your notice. You must think we are becoming a very rich colony; but I assure you the greater part of it is *only on paper*, and in perspective. I leave you to form your own opinion upon all these events, and I have little doubt that it will be a correct one.

I am sorry to say that small-pox has broken out among the natives here. This disease is a dreadful scourge in Africa.

I am sure you will be glad to hear that that active young officer, Lieut. Dolben, who commands the *Handy*, has discovered very deep water over the bar. He went out over the bar in the lifeboat, taking soundings in the Boat Channel. He found depths from 3½ fathoms *minimum* to 4 and 5 fathoms right out. This is of great importance to us. The Governor has made him assistant-harbourmaster, at 100*l.* per annum. Since Commander Glover's departure Commander Lefroy has been appointed harbourmaster. The harbourmaster has 150*l.* per annum.

The hull of Her Majesty's ship *Brune* was put up for sale by

auction a few days ago. The engines, &c., had been taken out of her, but the iron hull was in good condition. She was knocked down at 25*l*. to Mr. McCorsy, who was astonished at having become the purchaser at that price.

The Governor's farewell dinner has been duly eaten here; but it now appears that, in consequence of the wound of Major Leveson, he cannot leave by this mail, it being necessary that Major Leveson should go home. As the principal hero, he will bear with him, I suppose, the despatches relative to the important action in which he was engaged, and which has had such splendid results.

And now we have a new and very disagreeable complication. The French naval authorities have been very active of late on this part of the coast. I do not mean in preventing slavers from disgracing the French flag. I do not hear that they have done anything in that way. But there is evidence of their desire to place themselves side by side with us here. It has been long said that the French Emperor felt great affection for the King of Dahomey. I thought it was a calumny. But the French Commodore, the Baron Didelot, has been to Whydah, and made a consul of M. Dumas (the agent of Regis, of Marseilles, who had the *free emigrant contract* for the supply of slaves to French colonies). M. Dumas was acting before as Vice-Consul. The tricolour now floats on the old fort that the King gave to M. Regis while he was working the free emigrant scheme. Free emigrants from Whydah! Since then the Commodore and the Consul have been down to Porto Novo, and the King of that place has given himself and territories into the protection of France. The French flag now flies there also. This may have very serious results as regards the revenue of Lagos. It is to be presumed that, under the French protectorate, the impediments that have been purposely created in the Lagoon, on which Porto Novo is situate, will be removed, so that small vessels may enter and unload. Hitherto Porto Novo has been supplied from Lagos and Badagry, so that the goods paid Customs' duty to Lagos.

Altogether we have a pretty kettle of fish, I think. What the French Commodore will do next nobody knows. Accept the protectorate of Ijebu, perhaps, and then place Lagos between two of their protectorates.

Report says that there has already been some skirmishing between the Dahomans and Abeokutans, but I do not think it is true. Of course that matter will be decided one way or the other before next mail leaves, and I hope then to have to tell you that the Dahomans have been glad to scramble back anyhow to their own country. But I fear that the Abeokutans will then become so conceited and elated, that their pretensions in the little misunderstanding with us will be enormous. Anything, however, is preferable to any portion of that population falling into the hands of the Dahomans.

[The following exhibits a case for inquiry and immediate compensation, arising out of the late destruction of Epé and Egina by the Governor of Lagos. The Governor's mode of encouraging trade and rewarding faithful service seems to be a very strange one. It will be rather hard upon our merchants to be subject to an excessive scale of duties at Lagos merely to create funds for paying for property wantonly destroyed. And it certainly looks like a very wanton destruction to send this person from Egina Market on a message to the King of Ijebu, and while he was gone, without waiting the King of Ijebu's answer, to burn this very man's property.—Ed. A. T.]

To the Editor of the African Times.

Lagos, March 2, 1863.

Sir,—I beg to state for your information that at the returning of his Excellency H. Stanhope Freeman from destroying Epé, he sent a messenger to me with his staff, to be taken up with me to the King of Ijebu, on the 19th February. And in order to please him I took the staff, with the message, and proceeded to Ijebu, and in my delivering the message, the King of Ijebu laughed at me most shamefully, stating that the Governor, whom I was doing my best for, had burnt down my place already. I replied, "No!" and when I returned back, to my great surprise, I found all my property in ashes. He (the Governor) had never

given me any previous notice to remove my property from the place, or I would have done so without the least delay; and at my returning from Ijebu I did not meet him there. I immediately ran down to Lagos, went over to him, and delivered the message brought from the King of Ijebu. After which I inquired from him, why was the place burnt, with my property, without the slightest notice to me, and while I was sent away on an errand from himself to the King of Ijebu. He replied, "Yes; I am the person who set fire in the place." I wrote twice afterwards for redress. He gave me no answer. I suppose if the native people wished to do me any injury, the Governor would be the person to interfere for my protection. I cannot imagine the Governor's opinion, to have pursued such unnecessary measures against me.—Your most obedient servant,

SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

The following additional article to the Treaty signed at Washington, April 7, 1862, between Her Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, for the suppression of the African slave-trade, was signed at Washington on the 17th of February. The ratifications were exchanged at London April the 1st:—

"Whereas by the first article of the treaty between Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America, for the suppression of the African slave-trade, signed at Washington on the 7th of April, 1862, it was stipulated and agreed that those ships of the respective navies of the two high contracting parties which shall be provided with special instructions for that purpose, as thereinafter mentioned, may visit such merchant vessels of the two nations as may, upon reasonable grounds, be suspected of being engaged in the African slave-trade, or of having been fitted out for that purpose, or of having, during the voyage on which they are met by the said cruisers, been engaged in the African slave-trade contrary to the provisions of the said treaty; and that such cruisers may detain, and send or carry away such vessels, in order that they may be brought to trial in the manner thereinafter agreed upon; and whereas it was by the said article further stipulated and agreed that the reciprocal right of search and detention should be exercised only within the distance of 200 miles from the Coast of Africa, and to the southward of the 32nd parallel of north latitude, and within thirty leagues from the coast of the island of Cuba; and whereas the two high contracting parties are desirous of rendering the said treaty still more efficacious for its purpose, the Plenipotentiaries who signed the said treaty have, in virtue of their full powers, agreed that the reciprocal right of visit and detention, as defined in the article aforesaid, may be exercised also within thirty leagues of the island of Madagascar, within thirty leagues of the island of Puerto Rico, and within thirty leagues of the island of San Domingo.

"The present additional article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted word for word in the treaty concluded between the two high contracting parties on the 7th of April, 1862, and shall have the same duration as that treaty. It shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London in six months from this date, or sooner if possible.

"In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have thereunto affixed the seal of their arms. Done at Washington, the 17th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1863.

"LYONS.

"WILLIAM H. SEWARD."

THE UNIVERSITIES' MISSION TO CENTRAL AFRICA.—Intelligence has been received by the honorary secretaries of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, dated Cibisas, 17th September, 1862. The members of the mission were generally well, but Dr. Dickinson had suffered so severely from fever, that he contemplated returning to Europe. The correspondence mentions Dr. Livingstone's kindness and good feeling towards the mission as unremitting. A later letter from Mr. Horace Waller, dated "Quillimane, October 5, 1862," describes his safe arrival there, for the purpose of purchasing stores and arranging a canoe service between that place and the mission station, now located at Cibisas.

SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

By the Union Company's mail-steamer Athens, advices have been received to the 7th February from Natal, 20th February from the Cape of Good Hope, 28th February from St. Helena, and 4th March from Ascension.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—At the Cape drought had entirely disappeared. Rain had fallen in all parts of the colony. It came too late, however, to save the harvest in some parts of the colony, although sufficiently early to ensure good winter crops. There had been several fatal accidents by lightning in some districts. Considerable damage had been done by floods.

Parliament was to meet in Cape Town on the 16th April. Some Eastern Province members, because Parliament was not convened at Graham's Town, recommended their colleagues not to attend the session. It was not, however, expected that more than two or three would absent themselves, as many important questions affecting Eastern interests had to be discussed.

The principal business expected this session was that relative to Kaffrarian annexation. It was believed that this measure would be passed. The terms on which this annexation is to be effected will, however, have to be discussed.

The judicial reform, to provide greater facilities for the administration of justice in both provinces, and the three acts upon railways, will have to be discussed anew. The latter had been allowed to lapse through the dispute about surveying expenses.

Public opinion was in favour of any further extension of railways in the colony being constructed for the Government to become its property, and be either worked by an Executive Railway Committee or be farmed out.

Great dissatisfaction prevailed at Graham's Town through the removal of head-quarters to Cape Town.

All was quiet on the frontier, but cattle stealing by the natives had become so frequent, that the settlers threatened to take the law into their own hands.

News had been received from Dr. Livingstone and the Zambesi to Nov. 20. Dr. Livingstone had just returned in the Pioneer to Quillimane, after a trip to Johanna for supplies.

Drought had reached the Zambesi highlands, and caused want of supplies.

The weather in the colony was fine. Trade was dull. Extensive failures had occurred in the Eastern Province, through depression in the prices of wool.

The harvest was not so abundant as had been expected. The vines were generally healthy, but the crop was light.

DEATH OF A COLONIAL MILLIONAIRE.—Mr. R. A. Zeederberg, sen., died at the Paarl last week, at the very advanced age of ninety-one years. His remains were conveyed to town and interred in the Lutheran burying-ground on Friday afternoon. Mr. Zeederberg arrived in the colony considerably more than half a century ago. For many years he toiled hard to amass a fortune; and ultimately, by increasing application and integrity, raised himself to a foremost position among the wealthiest capitalists and most respected inhabitants of the colony. He is supposed to have left property to the value of about 1,000,000*l*. sterling.

NATAL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

February 7.

The growing importance and prosperity of this fine colony ought to be a matter of interest as well as of thankfulness and rejoicing to everybody in England. Its capability of absorbing a large enterprising emigration is surely of great moment with you. It needs, too, that class of emigrants with whom success in England is becoming yearly more and more difficult—viz., practical agriculturists of small capital. Farmers, sheep-farmers, &c., who have two or three hundred pounds to begin with, have only themselves to blame if they do not thrive and make fortunes here. Natal will doubtless extend its influence and its territory far beyond its present borders; and I hope you believe that it is destined to effect very much in the work of Christian and industrial regeneration in Africa. Mechanics and artisans are also

always welcome, and can always do well in Natal, if they determine to do well.

I am sorry to say, however, that with the increase of agriculture, &c., in the colony, the want of dependable labour makes itself more and more felt. The Kafir performs from time to time a large amount of useful work. He seems to be particularly adapted to clearing and preparing a new property. But when it comes to the patient, watchful labour of agriculture, he only submits to it in cases of great necessity. The influence of the present fine season is making itself seriously felt in this respect. Mealies, or maize, which forms the staple corn of the natives, and food generally, is so plentiful, that employers are placed in great straits by a general exodus homewards. The Zulu never works for another longer than he can help it. When the wolf threatens him at home, when the corn baskets are empty, and the cows dry, then he offers his services with most commendable readiness; but when the converse holds—when the fields are thickly clad with heavily-laden corn-stalks, when cows are lavish, beer abundant, and game frequent—he sees no fun in labour, and speeds back to his kraal, quite regardless of the inconvenience or loss he may thereby entail upon his employers. So far as the labour market is concerned, a fruitful season is no advantage in Natal.

It is not a matter of surprise that under these circumstances a large number of coolies have been applied for, and it is understood that Government is, or ought to be, making arrangements for their speedy introduction—at a less cost, it is to be hoped, than their predecessors, the outlay for whom was 22*l*. per head. At Mauritius the amount is 9*l*. Twenty-two pounds per head does indeed seem to be a most exorbitant figure for coolies from Madras to a point eastward of the Cape of Good Hope.

With regard to the abundance of fruit at the present season, the *Natal Mercury* says truthfully, in its number of yesterday, the 6th: "Lovers of fruit, however, would find a paradise in Natal just now. Peaches are far more plentiful than blackberries; pineapples are cheap and juicy; bananas and plantains abound; granadillas—that most delicate-flavoured and little known of all vegetable luxuries—are too common to be saleable; lemons and citrons are already hawked in our streets and byeways. Kind Nature, thus to accommodate her bounties to the season."

But as the weather during the last fortnight had been unusually and excessively hot, the thermometer in Durban has averaged 85 to 90 in the shade. This oppression in the atmosphere, combined with close nights and superabundant mosquitoes, had not popularised the seaport in the estimation of new comers, of whom 130 had lately reached, by the Pharamond, from England, after sixty-nine days' voyage. Most of them were consequently anxious to get away from Durban, and go to the cooler upland districts.

The great stride making by this colony cannot be better evidenced than by giving a list of exports during the month of January. It must be borne in mind that last year was a year of deficient harvests, the sugar crop having been so short, that there was only 845 tons for export, whereas the present crop is expected to afford upwards of 3,000 tons for that purpose.

To St. John's River: 40 cwt. sugar, 50*l*., and a variety of imported goods, valued at 356*l*.

To Port Elizabeth: Sugar, 440 cwt., 618*l*.; mealies, 435 qrs., 745*l*.; mealie meal, 174 qrs., 193*l*.; onions, 3*l*.; butter, 15 cwt., 90*l*.; fruit, 3*l*.

To Capetown: Sugar, 814 cwt., 925*l*.; mealies, 308 qrs., 432*l*.; meal, 270 qrs., 317*l*. 10*s*.; wool, 336*l*. 15*s*.; arrowroot, 5 cwt., 10*l*.; ostrich feathers, 37½*l*bs., 320*l*.; butter, 45 cwt., 270*l*.

To London: Sugar, 1,861 cwt., 2,026*l*.; ivory, 43,419½*l*bs., 10,615*l*.; ox hides, 5,252, 1,846*l*.; buffalo hides, 73, 80*l*.; skins, 2,520, 446*l*.; arrowroot, 102 cwt., 182*l*.; wool, 72,243*l*bs., 2,233*l*.; rhinoceros horns, 292, 292*l*.; ostrich feathers, 27*l*bs., 320*l*.; cotton, 8 bales, 113*l*.

New produce is beginning to make its appearance, and shipments are expected to be much larger during the next few months. But it must be a matter of congratulation that sugar in such quantity as 1,861 cwt. should have been sent to England

in one single shipment from this colony. If abundant labour can be obtained, the tropical coast-belt of Natal will yet play an important part in the sugar supply of Great Britain.

The following table of imports for 1862 shows one part of the value of such colonies to the mother country:—

Countries from which the Goods have been Imported.	Declared Value of Goods Imported.	No.	Ships Inwards.
	£ s. d.	No.	Tons.
EUROPE—			
Great Britain	331,020 0 0	59	15,488
Sweden	580 0 0	1	168
Hamburg	994 0 0	1	Port Elizabeth.
ASIA (British Possessions)—			
Calcutta	2,264 0 0	2	928
Rangoon	201 0 0	1	392
AFRICA (British Possessions)—			
Cape Colony	88,539 0 0	22	3,973
British Kaffraria	3,035 0 0	3	437
Mauritius	1,473 0 0	2	429
OTHER PARTS OF			
St. John's River	758 0 0	2	78
Kerguelan's Land (whaling voyage)	435 0 0	1	197
AMERICA (North)—			
United States	10,170 0 0	3	858
Totals	£449,469 0 0	96	22,948

And the table below gives the rate of progress in imports and exports since 1843:—

	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1843 ..	11,712	7	8	1,348	3	3
1844 ..	41,141	5	0	11,387	3	2
1845 ..	40,591	19	8	10,400	5	9
1846 ..	41,958	10	3	17,142	15	9
1847 ..	46,981	8	3	14,376	14	6
1848 ..	46,204	6	10	10,866	17	4
1849 ..	55,921	14	11	11,921	12	3
1850 ..	111,015	11	5	17,106	5	3
1851 ..	125,462	6	8	21,817	5	0
1852 ..	103,701	5	4	27,845	14	9
1853 ..	89,534	13	2	36,458	15	10
1854 ..	112,492	6	11	43,661	2	0
1855 ..	86,551	9	9	52,073	8	4
1856 ..	102,512	4	7	56,562	13	5
1857 ..	184,945	0	6	82,496	11	3
1858 ..	172,832	0	0	100,587	0	0
1859 ..	199,917	0	0	110,413	0	0
1860 ..	354,987	0	0	139,698	0	0
1861 ..	402,698	0	0	119,207	0	0
1862 ..	451,093	0	0	127,228	0	0

Some who did not know the peculiarities of the colony would look with distrust at this table, and say that such a colony, with imports more than treble the exports, must be in a state of progressive impoverishment; but Natal is, on the contrary, in a state of rapidly progressing advancement.

There has been much comment in the colony on a late Kafir dance of armed Kafirs in the presence of Governor Scott, Mr. Shepstone, and other official personages. A Kafir, it is said, was allowed to possess and discharge a gun; thus exciting the cupidity of the other Kafirs. And this in a colony where the most stringent regulations are enforced against the possession of firearms by the Kafirs; so that even immigrants from England, on arrival, have their rifle or fowling-piece taken from them, and it is only restored after registration, from which time the possessors remain under a species of Government surveillance.

It is, no doubt, most desirable that the Kafirs in the colony should not be allowed to possess firearms, and any restrictions that prevent their doing so ought to be cheerfully submitted to. But while the Portuguese, from Delagoa Bay, are allowed to flood the Amalzul country with guns and ammunition, limited only by the ability of the natives to purchase, it seems absurd to prevent the colonists from any traffic in these warlike stores beyond the

border. It only serves to throw a monopoly into the hands of the unscrupulous Portuguese, whose presence on the East Coast is a deplorable calamity for the native tribes—an almost insuperable impediment to the annihilation of the slave-trade, and the spread of Christian and industrial civilization.

The following remarks on the exports which appeared yesterday in that able paper, the *Natal Mercury*, shows the industrial state of the colony at the present time, and will, I think, be read with interest by many in England who have relatives in Natal, or who think of emigrating to this colony.

"The exports for the year do not suggest much. They amount to 127,228*l.*, as against 119,207*l.* in 1861. The advance on them, therefore, is only tantamount to 6*½* per cent., while the advance on the imports has been 12*½* per cent., or, in other words, we have imported twice the value of produce that we have remitted. There is very slight alteration upon the face of this side of the account, and what changes have taken place are represented in the following abstract of variations between the two years, in all the exports of any importance:—

Article Exported.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrowroot.	—	3,137 0 0
Butter	—	3,201 0 0
Ostrich Feathers.	1,946 0 0	—
Maize Meal	662 0 0	—
Grain	4,830 0 0	—
Hides	—	4,302 0 0
Ivory	4,234 0 0	—
Potatoes (sweet).	588 0 0	—
Skins	—	341 0 0
Sugar	1,777 0 0	—
Wool	5,545 0 0	—

"If our export returns for a year of unusual adversity and calamitous visitations show no retrogression, but rather reveal a certain amount of progress in the right direction, we may safely indulge a hope that the result of the present year's enterprise and industry will far exceed any past realisations. There are symptoms manifest on every hand that the colony has started upon a period of unusual progress. We have on the coast the assurances held out by the vast acreage now under cane, by the large appliances for manufacture at command, and by the unexampled luxuriance of vegetable growth during the last few months. We have in the upper districts the increased number of the sheep flocks, the universal confidence expressed by the farmers in the success of sheep-farming, and the accessions of superior stock that are continually taking place from Overberg and from seaward. We have the diversion of trade in this direction from interior states, the location of the Griquas in Nomansland, and the settlement of new farmers in the districts bordering upon our inland frontier. All these influences must tell in a very sensible degree upon the commerce of the colony."

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

We are informed that Commander J. St. John Glover, late of H.M.S. *Handy*, on the West Coast of Africa, leaves England by this mail, in the capacity of Acting-Governor and Acting-Consul at Lagos, to which he immediately proceeds, Mr. Governor and Consul Freeman's state of health rendering his return to England advisable.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint William Hackett, Esq., to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements, and Assessor to the Native Chiefs within the Protected Territories on the Gold Coast; and Thomas Lewis Ingram, Esq., to be Her Majesty's Advocate and Police Magistrate at the Gambia.

NEGRO PERSECUTION IN CANADA.—A serious riot occurred at Oil Springs, Canada West, on the night of the 14th March, between the whites and the negroes. The whites organised a force, marched to the negro quarters, ordered the blacks away, destroyed their property, and burned their houses. The negroes fled to the woods. Three of the rioters were captured. Several were wounded.

THE ZAMBESI AND DELAGOA BAY.

We perceive that the annual grant to which we had become accustomed for the Zambesi expedition no longer figures in the Estimates. All that remains is the 500*l.* a year for the consul at Quillemaine, Dr. Livingstone. This involves considerations of very grave importance. Is that noble effort of Christian zeal, the Oxford and Cambridge Mission to Central Africa, to be left in those barbarous regions without any other material support from the Government of Great Britain than the presence of a consul at Quillemaine, without funds for any active effort? Upon what principle should Portugal be allowed to shut up the rivers leading to the interior of Africa, where she holds no possessions? For she virtually excludes the whole civilised world from any industrial effort in the interior. Her presence on the East Coast of Africa is an abomination and a curse. Under the auspices of her corrupt officials, the slave-trade incites to slave wars that are depopulating extensive districts, and causing a vast amount of human misery. The time has come when the British Government must insist upon a change of system on the East Coast.

The want of a consul at Mozambique has been severely felt of late. The enterprising colonists of Natal, who know what wealth of ivory, &c., exists in the interior, sent a trading cutter, the *Agnes*, some time ago, to Delagoa Bay, and thence up the King George's River, for trade. She had just returned to Natal before the last mail left, after many months' detention in that river. The *Natal Mercury* says: "The Portuguese authorities at Lorenzo Marques built a fort at the river's mouth, apparently to prevent the vessel's egress, and used their influence with the natives to prevent any trade being done with the party of Natalians. After much privation the vessel moved down again, when it was seized by the rascally Portuguese, who turned the goods out, and kept the whole of the party exposed in the open air to burning sunshine, drenching rain, and heavy malaria, for two or three days. The report of a British cruiser approaching is believed to have induced these miscreants to let the party go, after one of their number, Mr. Stearns, had died, from the effects of fatigue, fever, and exposure. In a terrible state of physical prostration, the party arrived on the 17th ult., the mercantile objects of their trip having been baulked by the vagabonds at Delagoa. The Portuguese Government at Lorenzo Marques pretended to disclaim any hostile intention, but there is evidence to show that they were implicated."

We do not care whether they were implicated or not, although we have no doubt they were. If they were not, a Government that cannot control the scum of its population, and prevent these outrages on British subjects, ought to be made to pay for it, or move out of the way altogether. Earl Russell, who dealt so energetically with the Brazilians lately, will surely apply to the Portuguese Government for redress. Things cannot be allowed to go on in this way. When a similar outrage was committed some years ago on a vessel belonging to a Mr. Duncan, the British consul then at Mozambique demanded and obtained a heavy compensation from the Portuguese authorities.

We have not space at present to enter at large upon these important questions of the Oxford and Cambridge Mission in its present unsupported position, of the shutting up of the rivers by the Portuguese, and of the pretensions and outrages of the latter at Delagoa Bay. We expect fuller details from Natal by the next mail relative to the latter, when we shall resume the consideration of subjects which affect the strongest sympathies and the material interests of the people of this country.

NEGRO PERSECUTION IN CANADA.—We are informed, on good authority, that since the President's proclamation of freedom there is an increasingly bitter feeling against the coloured people in Canada. "It seems (he says), as though four-fifths of the people were in favour of the South." They seem to apprehend, as a result of the present conflict in this country, that there will be a general irruption of the negroes into Canada. As if to forestall this, the people generally refuse to give the coloured people work, and renewed efforts are being made to exclude them from the privileges of the common schools, even where they have for years past been freely admitted.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES, 1863-4.

SLAVE TRADE.
Salaries of Commissioners, Arbitrators, and Registrars of the Mixed Commissions for the year ending 31st March, 1864, 7,550*l.* (In 1862 it was 8,150*l.*) The Commissionship at Loanda has been reduced from 1,800*l.* to 1,000*l.* per annum; and the office of Arbitrator, salary 800*l.* per annum, having become vacant, has not been filled up; contingent expenses of ditto estimated at 3,400*l.* Total, 10,950*l.*
Bounties on Slaves and Tonnage Bounties and Captured Negroes' Support; estimate for 1863-4 to 31st March, 1864.
For Slave and Tonnage Bounties, &c. £50,000
For Support of Captured Negroes, &c. 36,000 } £86,000
NOTE.—The Slave and Tonnage Bounties, &c., for 1862 amounted to 20,817*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; and the sums expended for Support and Conveyance of Captured Negroes amounted to 30,628*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* Total, 51,439*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA.
Estimate of the amount of aid required to defray the charges of the Civil Establishments on the Western Coast of Africa for the year ending 31st March, 1864.

Sierra Leone.	
Governor	£2,000
Gambia.	
Governor	£1,000
Judge	800
Secretary	300
Commandant	130
"Dover"—Steamer for Service of the Colonial Government	2,000
	4,230
Gold Coast.	
Maintenance of Forts and Establishments	4,000
Arrears of Expenditure	1,000
	5,000
Lagos.	
Pension to the ex-King Docemo	1,000
Civil Establishments	2,000
	3,000
	£14,230

The Local Revenues of the above places were, in 1861—

Sierra Leone	£33,382
Gambia	11,431
Gold Coast	5,148

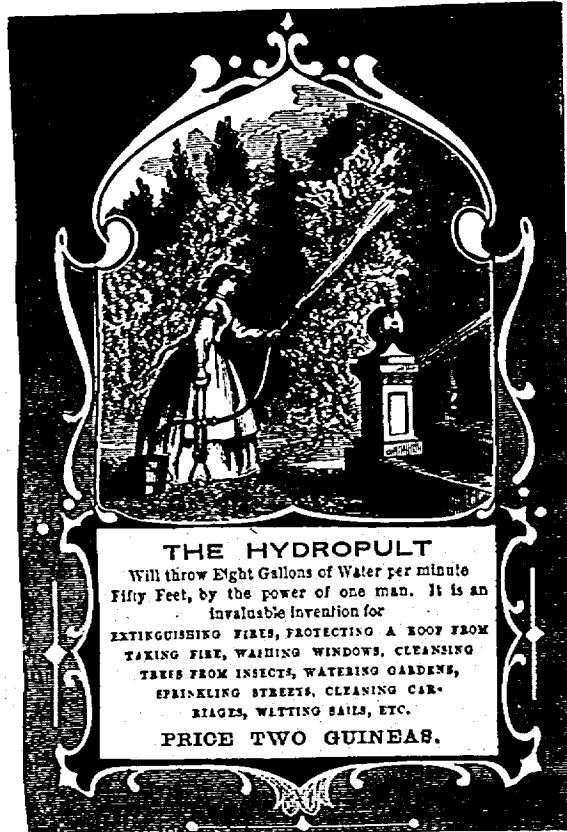
ESTIMATE OF CONSULAR SALARIES ON THE COAST OF AFRICA FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1864.

	Salary.	Allowances for Office Expenses.
Bight of Benin—Lagos, Consul	£500	£200
" " Abokuta, Vice-Consul	400	100
Bight of Biafra—Fernando Po, Consul	500	200
Comora Islands—Johanna, Consul	150	...
Madagascar—Tananarivo, Consul	800	150
Egypt—Agent and Consul-General	1,800	750
" " Alexandria, Consul	1,000	600
" " Vice-Consul and Chancellor	300	...
" " Second Vice-Consul	300	...
" " Surgeon	100	...
" " Legal Vice-Consul	620	...
" " Law Clerk	300	...
" " Cairo, Consul	600	400
" " Damietta, Vice-Consul	60	...
" " Suez—Vice-Consul	200	...
Tripoli—Consul-General	800	...
" " Vice-Consul	350	...
" " Bengazi, Vice-Consul	400	100
" " Mourzoull, Vice-Consul	40	...
Tunis—Agent and Consul-General	1,600	...
" " Delta, Vice-Consul	450	...
" " Susa, Vice-Consul	300	...
Quillimane—Consul	600	...

NIGER EXPEDITION.

For maintaining the Establishment organised by Dr. Baikie at the Confluence of the Niger and Chadda Rivers £1,000
For Salary of Dr. Baikie 500
For Arrears on account of Dr. Baikie's Expedition 2,000
To complete the discharge in full of the Claim of the late Mr. McGregor Laird, under the agreement entered into with Her Majesty's Government in 1860, for the Navigation, &c., of the Niger 3,000
£6,500

THE HYDROPULT,



An Invention for Throwing Water by Hand Power.

Secured by Royal Letters Patent.

PRICE TWO GUINEAS.

Complete, with 2½ feet Suction and 3 feet Delivery Hose, Galvanised Wire Strainer, Rose or Sprinkler, and Small Jet. Weighs but 8lbs. Recommended as an efficient and useful Fire Engine by the principal Fire Insurance Companies of Great Britain.

ORDERED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT AS FIRE ENGINES.

THOMAS RIVERS, Esq., the eminent Florist, SHIRLEY HIBBARD, Esq., and other well-known Gentlemen, recommend it as an invaluable Garden Implement.

CAUTION.—Important to the Public.—The extensive sale of the HYDROPULT has excited the cupidity of so-called respectable, but in reality unprincipled, Manufacturers, who are now palming on the Public worthless imitations of the Hydropult, and through their connexions are enabled to place said devices on exhibition, and for sale, in many of the principal Ironmongery and Seed Establishments throughout the City and Provinces. These devices resemble in many respects the Hydropult in appearance, and are calculated to deceive the unsuspecting, as they are often placed under or near the Hydropult Show Card. The Proprietor, therefore, issues this caution, and respectfully intimates that parties wishing to purchase the Hydropult should examine the Machine offered for sale, and see if it has attached thereto a label, with the following words: "The Hydropult, a Portable Fire Annihilator and Garden Engine; Griffiths and Browett, Manufacturers, Birmingham; Charles P. Button, General Agent (Vose's Patent)." Unless this label be attached, the Machine is not the Hydropult. The Hydropult is made of Brass and Copper, weighs but 8lbs., and will throw Eight Gallons of Water per minute Fifty Feet, when worked by the power of one man. Public and Private Buildings have been saved from destruction by its agency. T. Spencer, Esq., Inspector of the Royal Society for Protection of Life from Fire, certifies to its efficiency in saving valuable property at Bayswater from destruction.

CHARLES P. BUTTON, Proprietor,
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West End Depot, 309, Regent Street.

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Ports.	Ships.	Tons.	Masters.	Dock.
Sierra Leone	Trade Wind	166	R. Pring	West India
Ditto	Leopard	271	G. Beer	Ditto
Lagos	Sir C. Campbell	248	O. F. Andrews	Portsmouth
Ditto	Abbot	248	Barnett	West India

Cargo will be taken at a through rate from London to Lagos. For freight or passage apply to George Fuller, 2, Riches'-court, Lime-street, E.C.

PORTABLE WOOD HOUSES, STORES, &c., for AFRICA, Easily erected. An Exact Model in a box sent with each House. Price, 20l. per Room, 12 feet square, 10 feet to eaves. Also **IRON HOUSES, CHURCHES, &c.**

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Established 33 years. Drawings sent.

LAMPLOUGH'S EFFERVESCENT PYRETIC SALINE.

Effervescing and tasteless, its constant use is especially calculated to maintain health and vigour.

Her Majesty's representative, the Governor of Sierra Leone, in a letter of request for an additional supply, states, "It is of great value; it should be in the hands of all Europeans visiting the tropics."

It is an agreeable effervescing remedy, of great efficacy in all kinds of Fever and Blood Diseases, especially those occurring during hot weather.

Dr. Gibson, Staff-Surgeon in the Crimean War, in his Report, states "that European residents in hot countries find that the use of this refreshing beverage prevents exhausting perspiration, and its alternative—deadly fever. It acts by purifying and lowering the temperature of the blood, hence its great importance to all persons seeking to reside with safety and comfort in tropical countries, or subject to unusual heats."

The elegance, purity, and usefulness of the preparation has been certified by some of the most eminent physicians in the Army, Naval, and Hospital service of Great Britain.

Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, 1st West India Regiment, Sierra Leone: "I have enjoyed uninterrupted health since I have taken your Pyretic Saline."

Dr. Sparks, the Government Medical Inspector, Port of London, bears cordial testimony to its efficacy in chronic forms of Gastric Complaints and Febrile Dyspepsia.

William Stevens, Esq. M.D., D.C.L., states in his work on West India Fevers, "that wherever the Saline treatment is adopted, the fatal yellow fevers are deprived of their terrors. Out of one thousand cases treated by the Saline, the astonishing number of 989 recovered."—See Dr. Stevens' Work on Fevers, p. 37.

Testimonials and directions for its use in disease accompany each bottle. To be obtained from H. LAMPLOUGH, 113, Holborn Hill, London, and Messrs. Biden and Gardner, Capetown, in Bottles at 4s. 6d., 11s., and 21s.

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VOL. II.

The West Coast
Sierra Leone
Sherboro
Gold Coast ...
Cape Coast ...
Accra
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African-Aid S
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[Ed. A. T.]