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OBITUARY.

It is again our painful duty to record the removal, by death, of one of the founders and earnest, ardent members of the Council of the African-Aid Society. Sir Culling Eardley Eardley, Bart., departed this life at his seat, Bedwell-park, Herts, on the 21st May, aged fifty-seven.

Sir Culling Eardley was so well known for his untiring energy in carrying forward those measures which he believed to be for the glory of God and the good of mankind, that his loss has been and will be deeply deplored. We also must be allowed to take this human view of an event which has added another to the blissful host of those who, having well employed the talents entrusted to them on earth, have entered into their rest. We cannot help grieving for ourselves while we rejoice for him. No one, we believe, felt more deeply than Sir Culling Eardley the great weight of our Christian responsibility as a nation with regard to Africa and the African race. His views for the industrial regeneration of a portion of the world we have so assisted in debasing by the slave-trade to our colonies and elsewhere were large and noble; and believing that in Africa alone the children of Africa could attain to real equality with other free people, his anxiety to forward the emigration of free coloured persons from America to Africa was very great.

Sir Culling Eardley was eminently a worker in the great fields of religion and humanity. He really gave himself no adequate rest; day and night he was engaged in his noble and useful labours; and it is believed that this self-devotion led to a premature exhaustion of his physical powers, and thus exposed him to the attack of that disease which removed him from among us.

Sir Culling Eardley had already made preliminary arrangements for a great African meeting at Bedwell-park, in the ensuing autumn, by which it was expected that the funds of the African-Aid Society would have largely benefited. His lamented death increases the duties and responsibilities of his fellow-labourers in this society, who deeply sympathise with the members of his family, suffering under their great and irreparable loss.

THE WEST AFRICAN MAIL.

The steamer *Armenian* arrived at Liverpool May 9, with the above mail, one box of diamonds, 407 ounces of gold-dust, 890 sovereigns, 2,500 dols in specie, and 29 passengers.

Her dates are—Benin, April 23; Fernando Po, 28th; Cameroons, 30th; Old Calabar, May 2; Brass River, 4th; New Calabar, 7th; Bonny, 7th; Lagos, 11th; Accra, 12th; Cape Coast Castle, 14th; Sierra Leone, 21st; Bathurst, 25th; Tene-riffe, June 1; Madeira, 2nd.

Fernando Po was healthy, and trade had much improved. No reduction had taken place in the prices of oil in the rivers. Trade was stopped at Accra owing to the Ashantee war. Five soldiers from Her Majesty's ships *Dart* and *Dove* were drowned at Accra on the 13th of May while attempting to land in canoes.

THE ASHANTEE WAR. LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

ASHANTEE INVASION OF THE GOLD COAST.

CAPE COAST, April 13.

Since my last the army described as the corps of observation, stationed at Akim to prevent the inhabitants of the eastern districts from joining the Fantees, have made a progressive move down towards the sea coast. Ajamen, chief of Western Akim, retreated as the Ashantee army advanced, endeavouring to decoy them into the plain. But the Ashantees took a course direct towards the coast, and marched through the country of the Agoonah. An army, composed of the Agoonahs and Goomoors, were collected at a little place called Essechoomah, to oppose them. A sharp encounter took place. It lasted for about six hours. The Agoonahs then retreated, leaving the Ashantees masters of the town. It must, however, be stated that the Agoonahs fought bravely, and but for the cowardice of some who ran away at the very name of the Ashantees, they would have withstood them for a much longer time. After this affair, the Ashantee army became almost masters of the Agoonah and Goomoor districts. The armed force collected to oppose their advance retreated before them. They captured village after village, pillaged and burnt some down, foraged on the plantations of their enemies, and, in a word, became masters of that part of the country.

The captain-general of the expeditionary force of the Ashantees in the eastern portion of the protected territory is Owosoo Koikoi, a man of great talent and generalship, between forty and fifty years of age. He has with him six junior captains. His movements are made with the greatest secrecy—he being heard of one day in one place, and the following day in another direction. He is son-in-law to his Majesty Quacoe Duah, and by birth, of near relationship with the Royal family of Ashantee. After the battle of Essechoomah, it is asserted that he was reinforced by the corps under Essa Ma Quanta, an able general who was distinguished as commander of the expeditionary force in 1853.

Report says that the Ashantee army at Assim has been removed to reinforce the Akim army, and that a new expeditionary force has been sent down to Assim. These troops have done nothing whatever. They have remained stationary, and seldom fire a shot, although they are constantly molested by the scouts of the Fantees. I have hitherto said nothing of what we ourselves have been doing. No sooner did the intelligence of the engagements at Essechoomah reach head-quarters than the Major commanding the troops was ordered by the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief to march in that direction. They found great difficulty in obtaining carriers for ammunition and rations for the men. Women and boys were employed. At the review parade at Anamaboe, held by Major Cochrane, there were about 400 Regular troops, and about 70 Volunteers. Our little army looked cheerful and in high spirits. The 2nd West India Regiment looked remarkably well, and spoke with delight of the coming struggle. They marched for Mankassin at noon on the 19th April. They remained some time at Mankassin, owing to want of carriers. A portion of the troops was detached under Captain Brownwell to Winnebah, to assist the King, and organise the native

force. Subsequently, another detachment, making in all 100 men, under Captain Williams, was ordered to join Captain Brownwell. The troops at Mankassin pushed on to the place where the Ashantee army is reported to be stationed, and a battle is now daily expected to take place. While the Major attacks the Ashantees in front, Captains Brownwell and Williams are to act on their rear.

Interior from Anamaboe and Cape Coast there is a large army collected at a place called "Monsoo," composed of the Fantees—viz., Accras, Assins, Denkeras, Cape Coast, and Anamaboe. His Excellency Governor Pine has appointed Captain Wood, Receiver-General of Revenue, to be commander of the combined force at Monsoo. The Governor has conferred on Captain Wood the temporary title of major. Major Wood has left for the scene of action.

THE MERITS OF THE ASHANTEE WAR.

Under the above title, we have received the following from a most esteemed correspondent on the West Coast. It is valuable for history of the war, because it seems to show both sides of the question with great impartiality:—

"The ostensible cause of the war is the detention by the British authorities of the runaway captain and eight men from Ashantee, who took refuge in the protected territory. The King of Ashantee was determined to have this man given up to him; but the conditions required by his Excellency Governor Pine, which were just and humane, the King of Ashantee was unable to comply with. Viewing the case impartially, one is led to conclude that both parties are justified in what they have done—the Governor for protecting the man, and the King for declaring war by crossing the Prah, the boundary of the respective territories.

"The Governor is perfectly justified, because, according to the British law, a refugee who cannot be proved to have committed any crime, and who claims protection from our Government, cannot legally be delivered up to a tyrant or a despotic Government, where will is arbitrary in actions. It is well known that the life of these men, if they had been delivered up, would have been sacrificed. No sooner would they have crossed the frontier, than their heads would have been taken off and sent to the King of Ashantee at Comassie. No mercy would be shown to them, and no promise of sparing their lives that might be made to the Governor would be worthy of the least consideration.

"The King is right in declaring war, because—

"Firstly, the very throne on which he sits is at stake. Should he not have acted promptly in this affair, his people would have branded him as a coward unworthy to occupy the stool of the long-famed and brave Kings of Ashantee.

"Secondly, should he have allowed the refugees to remain quietly with us, without making any demonstration regarding them, more important men would also have soon crossed from his territory to seek protection and security under the quiet rule of our Government. It behoved the King, therefore, to show that they could not do this with impunity.

"Thirdly, the peaceful traders of the King of Ashantee had, before there was any commencement of war by him, been molested by the Fantees, their goods seized, and the men themselves put in irons. They were only released by order of Governor Pine, and no compensation was given to them.

"Fourthly, the King of Ashantee's generals and captains will, on such an occasion, swear the great oath—viz., that the King has received an unpardonable insult, and that they are deterred to avenge it. They will swear to perform certain exploits, and, on being permitted, will raise and march with a large army in an almost incredibly short time.

"From the foregoing it seems to me that the Governor could not do otherwise than retain the men who had sought protection with him, and that the King of Ashantee could not do otherwise than follow up his demand of their restitution, by war."

* We have been informed that the King would have given ample time for negotiation, if the followers of the captain, whose lives might have been secured, had been sent back to Ashantee. But we do not know that this is correct. [Ed. A. T.]

SIERRA LEONE.

May 20, 1863.

We are glad to learn that his Excellency Governor Blackall has lately sent a messenger up the Sierra Leone river, on a mission to the various chiefs, and to examine into the state of those war-afflicted districts. The latter is miserable enough: there is scarcely a town anywhere remaining. Mr. Lawson, the gentleman despatched on that mission, reports that all the towns have been destroyed by fire, and are at this moment heaps of ruins, presenting a lamentable sight for any one who has previously known them. Quite depopulated, with the exception of here and there a few huts, occupied by starving people, the dense and solitary forest is rapidly enveloping them. This sad state is the result of continual wars among the chiefs since 1858.

It is said that, having destroyed and almost depopulated their country, they are now tired of war and bloodshed, and desire influential mediation among them. Can nothing be done for the permanent tranquillity of these districts? The scattered people are selling the members of their families and their dependents in order to obtain food and supplies of articles which they need. Surely it would be in the interests of humanity to obtain the voluntary consent of all the chiefs to an acknowledgment of a supreme authority, whose counsels and commands should maintain peace and order among them. If, as the Sierra Leone journals assert, there are large supplies of palm-oil, beniseed, camwood, African teak timber, &c., to be procured in those parts of the river, notwithstanding the melancholy state to which the country is reduced, it is evident that, with assured peace and order, and the increase of population which would accompany these, wealth and happiness might soon abound in those districts. The trade of Sierra Leone would increase by measures being taken to make those people prosperous. Civilization ought to be pushed forward up the river from Sierra Leone. It is evident that something more than the mere occupation of the mouth of the river and the immediately contiguous territory is indispensable to order and progress.

Sierra Leone, like the Gambia, has been almost stripped of troops, in order to furnish what, after all, is the miserably insufficient regular force now available at the Gold Coast for the Ashantee war.

The colony is in a very healthy state.

We are glad to see by the journals that the Rev. J. W. Davison, who was lecturing for some time about London and in other parts of this country, had arrived out. It is said that he has been offered the superintendence of the Baptist connexion in the colony, and has accepted it. We always understood his proposed destination to be the Gold Coast, on the ground that his wife is the sister of an influential chief there. We are sorry to find that Mr. Davison, his wife and child, were all suffering under the acclimatising process.

Much anxiety prevails in the colony as to the Ashantee war on the Gold Coast. There seems to be great doubt felt as to the troops there being sufficient for a war with the Ashantees.

Commander Wildman and Major Jones, 2nd West India Regiment, are the commissioners appointed by the Governor of Sierra Leone for arranging the boundary question with Liberia.

SHERBORO.

The editor of the *Early Dawn* says: "It is believed that at the present time there is more peace, good order, and quietness, on all the rivers that flow into the Sherboro, than at any time for the last two years. In consequence of the wars which have prevailed during the last year, there is a great scarcity of rice, and the price is high; but we believe that the quantity planted will be large, and the scarcity but temporary. Trade is uninterrupted, but is not active, as this is the season when the people are making farms."

"CORROX CULTURE.—We have gathered—some two weeks since—some cotton of the Sea Island variety, from seed planted the 15th of December. The quality is excellent, and we feel sure that it can be advantageously raised here."

CORROX.—As we never make an intentional misstatement for

any purpose, however seemingly important, we hasten to correct an error into which, as we are informed on what seems to be the best authority, both the *Sierra Leone Free Press* and ourselves had been led. We stated two or three months since, that a ton of cotton in the seed had been sent down by one of the Sherboro chiefs as a sample. We are assured that this is incorrect. Our friends of the *Early Dawn* say:—

"A little cotton in the seed is frequently sold to the traders here, and somewhat more is brought down from the rivers, but the whole quantity is small, and is nearly all used in caulking the various water craft which are being built and repaired in the Sherboro; and for this purpose is almost always in demand. We believe that there might—and at some future time will—be developed here an important cotton trade, but there are at present several obstacles which ought not to be overlooked. Among these we enumerate—1st. That the people of this part of the coast have never given their attention to the culture of cotton, as they have not been in the habit of making country cloths, but have depended for their clothing partly on the tribes of the interior, and partly upon the traders in imported cotton goods. 2nd. On account of the want of facilities for cleaning cotton, and of the small quantities offered for sale, the traders have not given their attention to the cotton trade, and have not offered a price sufficient to divert the attention of the people from the trade in palm oil and palm nuts. 3rd. And mainly, the people of a barbarous country have but few wants, and will therefore put forth but little exertion to supply those wants."

LIBERIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monrovia, April 15.

Sir,—Since my return I found, in two or three quarters, a deep interest in the subject of fibre preparation. Can you give me some information as to the best machine for cleaning fibre, the cost, &c.? I am myself strongly inclined to enter upon the manufacture of the article. Plantains by thousands grow everywhere, and in nine or ten months could be produced by hundreds of thousands.

You will be glad to hear that thrift and progress are visible everywhere. New cane-fields (sugar) are being opened, old cane-farms enlarged, the demand for steam sugar-mills increases, the quantity of sugar manufactured exceeds yearly by 33 per cent. the previous year's production. Our colonists have passed through the period of thatched houses to that of framed buildings; and the frame buildings of the country are giving way to brick mansions; nor do I doubt that, ere the close of this generation, we shall see grand palatial residences on our rivers and in our towns. During the last three months upwards of 2,000,000 of bricks have been manufactured in the county of Montserrat alone.

For the first time, we have been visited by a Governor of Sierra Leone. His Excellency Major Blackall was accompanied by Commodore Wilmott, and we gave them the very best reception in our power.—Yours, &c.

The *Monrovia Herald* says: "The cultivation of coffee, sugar-cane, and cotton increases, and the supply of the two first staples, this season, will far exceed that of any former one. Our Mr. Hines still continues to cultivate the cotton plant. Last year he lost a very extensive field of cotton from the heavy rains, but he is not discouraged. The Careysburg road is a valuable acquisition, and the labour of that settlement is transported to the St. Paul's over it. Waggoners are not used. The demand for African lumber for building purposes is so great, that it is now being brought to this city from Careysburg. The plank is of excellent quality and finely sawed. Shingles well made, and of durable timber. We are pleased to learn that the industry of the people in that region meets with a fair recompense. It is ascertained that two millions of bricks have already been made on the St. Paul's during the present dry season, and the making is still going on. Arrived on Saturday, Her Britannic Majesty's steam frigate Rattlesnake, bearing the broad pennant of Commodore A. P. Eardley Wilmott,

C.B., and Her Majesty's steam sloop Philomel, Commander Wildman. National salutes were exchanged between the Rattlesnake and Fort Norris Battery. The vessels sailed on the 25th—the Rattlesnake direct for Cape Coast Castle, conveying troops to strengthen that fortress; and the Philomel for Sierra Leone, with his Excellency Governor Blackall."

CHRISTIANSBURG, ACCRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

May 12, 1863.

Sir,—The Ashantees are still threatening us with war; but, like our arch-fiend, they act up to the old proverb, "*divide et impera*." They have sent a messenger to the Accra people to tell them that the King of Ashantee has no palaver with them, only with Aggemany. Of course, the Accras were "cute" enough to see the trick, and will help Aggemany as soon as he has retired to a plain west of Accra, beyond the small river Sakumo, as the Accras do not understand bush-fighting. Thus the tribes of the "Protected Territories" keep together for their common safety. We hope they will receive every possible assistance from Her Majesty's Government in this emergency, as the war is really an English war. A few guns, with a few hundred mariners, would do a great deal to give a lesson to the Ashantees, who are not a bit better than the Dahomans, only they keep quiet, because they look to the coast people to supply them with their other wants and with salt; and we have, I believe, to thank the peaceable mind of the King, Quacoe Duah, that we have lived in peace so many years. His war captains wanted to fight long since. I hope there will soon be an opportunity to induce the Ashantees to engage in lawful commerce, and to show them that by cutting the heads off the people they waste their strength and prosperity.

There is great dryness at present on our plantations; but I am glad to see that our people are not discouraged to plant, as I am told the Akims are, because of their fear of war; so that they will have to suffer from hunger, even if no war should disturb them.—I remain, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

DAHOMEY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Whydah, April 29.

The King arrived here from his war expedition toward Abeokuta, about three weeks since. A day or two ago he sent down his messengers, usually sent on such occasions, to summon or invite all here to a Custom at Kanna, now about to be held.

Mr. William Craft, from England, *et* Lagos, arrived here on the night of the 25th. He is invited up to Kanna. Mr. Bernasco is to go with him, as introducer, interpreter, &c. His presents, intended for the King, have all been opened here by the Dahoman Governor—repacked—and sent off up the country. Mr. Craft will find them there on his arrival, and will then have to arrange them for presentation to his Majesty.

I have had a good deal of talk with Messrs. Craft and Bernasco since the former arrived. He has been very well received everywhere on his way. He went from Lagos to Badagry in a canoe, on the 16th April. He describes the Lagoon between the sea and Badagry as having tens of thousands of palm trees (oil) about it. Two Dahoman King's messengers were there, and took Mr. Craft under their protection, as is customary when a stranger arrives anywhere in the country seeking the King. On the 18th he left Badagry in canoe for Porto Novo. There he was received by the King, who expressed great friendship for him. The King told him he had given over his country to the French. He offered, however, to send a messenger up to Abomey with him; but the French authorities did not approve of this, and would not allow it.

On the 21st he left Porto Novo in a large canoe for Godomey, which is in Dahomey proper, and about eighteen miles from Whydah. The entrance to the creek is very narrow, he says, and the creek itself not more than five or six feet wide—very crooked—shallow—and overhung with thick jungle. No stranger, he thinks, could find the entrance. But when within six or eight

miles of Godomey, the Lagoon is as much as eight or ten miles wide. When Mr. Craft reached Godomey intelligence was forwarded to this place, and the Governor sent off seven men with hammock, &c., to bring Mr. Craft on here, where he arrived in the middle of the night of the 25th inst., taking up his quarters with Mr. Bernasco, who lives in the English fort.

The Governor has been very civil to him, as is customary with persons who come with gifts in their hands. I believe he has expressed to him a strong desire that he would come and settle here and engage in trade. He told him that the King would be very glad to see him. He will leave to-morrow for Kanna.

I do not intend to go up to the Custom. You do not need any further description of the scenes enacted on such occasions. I hope that Commodore Wilmott, if he comes back again, will do as the French priests—Jesuits—did when the King asked them up—viz., make it a point that there shall not be any people put to death while he is present.

I feel convinced that a change is coming over the destinies of this country. The French, since Porto Novo was ceded to them—and this cession has been confirmed by the King of Dahomey, to whom the King of Porto Novo was tributary, so that, you see the French have a full and clear title—the French, I say, are now territorial neighbours of Dahomey, and their influence in Dahomey will be great. It is said they intend to make great plantations of cotton, &c., in the lands about the Lagoons. You will, before many years, find a large legitimate trade springing up here. Whydah is the most healthy place on the whole of this coast; and if the wars of this country be put a stop to in any way, there will be a great quantity of produce from the interior.

way, there will be a great quantity of slaves. Diego Martinez, the great slavetrader, is quite knocked up. This will be good, because it is not likely your Bristol houses, which used to give him such large credits of goods, will do the same with anybody else, although I hear that there are two Portuguese coming out here from England directly, to carry on the slave-trade, instead of Diego Martinez. With his great credit and his slavetrading, Diego Martinez could sell English manufactured and other goods, that he got chiefly from Bristol and Brazil, at a price that prevented any one else from doing good trade. In that way he kept the place almost entirely in his hands. I hope and believe that nobody else will be able to do as he has done. The slaves are now principally shipped from Augwy, between Popo and Quittah. The French steamer that took the slaves from here last year has been there more than once, and carried away cargoes of poor wretches for Cuba. She is a *very fast* vessel, and the system of signals arranged seem to be so perfect, that, protected too by the French flag, she runs very little, if any risk.

Though I do not go up to Kanna, I will send you word if anything particular happens there. When do you think Commodore Willmott will come back here? Pray let us know if you can.

Yours truly,

LAGOS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

May, 1863.

Trade here is in a very bad state, and we shall all be ruined, if things are allowed to go on as they have done latterly. The blockade of the river, and stopping everything from going up to Abeokuta when the people there were expecting an attack from Dahomey, has had a very bad effect. Abeokuta is now quite under the influence of the war party, and Lagos and the English here seem to be the chief objects of their animosity. Though we have opened the roads from here, they plunder everything that goes up or is coming down, so that there can be no trade done with any security. The war party do not want trade. They like kidnapping and plunder, and the slave-trade, if they can manage it. By stopping the trade and work on the farms, they get more people to the camp for war with the Ibadans. The other chief magistrate is to be sent out here from Eng-

If another chief magistrate is to be sent out here from England, we hope it will be some one who will not kill himself by excess in a month or two. The climate is bad enough, without people helping its effects by constant intemperance.

Is Captain Mulliner (of the 3rd West India Regiment) to be Acting Governor here for any continuance? We want a Governor here who understands the country and the people. If we had had such an one, Porto Novo would not have been French, as it now is. The King of Dahomey has sanctioned what the King of Porto Novo has done. I expect this will limit the trade of Lagos not a little. It is said that the French are going to impose regular duties at Porto Novo. They do not allow oil to go down by the Lagoon to Badagry without first paying them about ten shillings per puncheon. They charge no duty if it be carried down to the Porto Novo sea beach, and shipped direct from there. We shall see how Porto Novo will affect the rum and tobacco duties here. At any rate, some means ought to be adopted for maintaining a constantly open trade from here by the river with Abeokuta, or nothing can go on well. The Acting Governor, Captain Mulliner, and Commodore Eardley Wilmot have gone to Abeokuta to try and arrange matters. I hope I may have to send you word by next mail that they have done some good. Mind you do not deceive yourselves about Porto Novo and the French. Porto Novo is now a French possession, with a defined sea beach, so that the French will soon find a good way of access to it without passing through the Badagry Lagoon. It is time, therefore, for your Colonial-office to begin to think, as they take some time about these matters, whether we ought not to have the duties we may have paid returned to us, when we export goods from here or Badagry for Porto Novo. I hope you will back us in this. It is hard enough for us to have to pay duty upon a whole cargo at once when it arrives here, though we may not sell some of the goods for a year or two, without being hampered by a duty when we want to compete with the French at Porto Novo. You will have to write hard for us to get justice done to us. If a revenue of twenty or thirty thousand pounds a-year is to be raised here, by duties on imported goods, I think the Government are bound to find us bonding warehouses where we may keep the things, and pay the duty as we want them. Everybody here looks to you for help.

THE GAMBIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Bathurst, May 24.

Dear Sir,—It is no exaggeration to say that affairs in this river are in a very bad state. Really, if things are to be allowed to go on as of late, it would be far better to let the French have the river, as was once talked of, provided some arrangement could be made with them for freedom of trade in it on an equality with French ships and subjects. Mabba, the Mohammedan warrior missionary, continues the work of conversion by the sword, or devastation of wide tracts of country. The Senegal had its Mabba. But the French Government have reduced him to a state of peace. It is quite shocking to hear of the excesses committed by these savage fanatics, whose desire for slaves is quite equal to their devotion to the False Prophet of Mecca.

quite equal to their devotion to the False Prophet of Mecca.

Ground nuts are at 4s. the bushel, instead of about 2s., the ordinary price. Rice is dearer than at any period within remembrance. We hear of villages where five or six persons are dying in a day from total want of food. The amount of misery caused by continual native wars is incalculable; and it is really a mercy when some strong arm of a civilised power interferes in Africa to keep the peace among them, although it may be attended with bloodshed at the commencement.

Can nothing be done among the emancipated people in America, who have been used to cotton and sugar growing, to get a few thousand of them to people our fine tract of land, British Combo? It is very fertile and healthy, and good cultivators would become very prosperous. Our authorities here, I believe, had hoped you would have done something for them about this. Capital cotton could be grown, or ground nuts, if they did not choose to grow cotton.

We have very much reduced our forces here by sending men down to the Gold Coast to help Governor Pine in the war with the Ashantees. They left by our little war steamer on the 3rd, and were to call at Sierra Leone for others. Unless we have

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some other troops to replace them, I should not be at all surprised if our presumed weakness incited such a man as Mabba to tenfold excess. It was necessary to help Governor Pine, but we have been obliged to risk something to do it.—Yours,

NATAL.

By the Cape Mail we have news from Natal to the 3rd April. Previous reports are confirmed as regards the harvest prospects in this most interesting and important colony. Never, it is said, has there before been such a growing season. Never before did the crops look so green, advanced, and promising in March and April. All this is owing to a steady succession of genial rain-falls. The crop of SUGAR is expected to be very large. This is very important for the colony, because Natal sugar has now become a favourite in the Australian markets. COFFEE, COTTON, and all other products, look most promising, and a generally good yield is anticipated. Cotton, Flax, and other textile fabrics, are occupying attention in the colony. The average yield of Sea Island cotton will, it is said, be about 400lbs. of ginned cotton per acre. It is also now affirmed that cotton planting and sugar planting may be carried on successfully together, because at the time when labour is most wanted in the cotton fields it is least needed in the cane fields. Several patches of cotton, of a few acres each, are to be seen this year. But unless the Kafirs take to labour in the cotton fields, the labour question will be the great difficulty. The Flax, that has been experimentally grown has given abundant yield, and the quality is reported as "very good." WOOL is to become the favourite product of the upper country. There are continual importations of Sheep from the Cape, and of Rams of good breed from Australia and England. Some Alpacaes are also expected from Australia. It is thought they are peculiarly suited to the hill pastures of Natal, and will give value to some of the wild kloofs of the country. COFFEE planting is making steady progress. Coffee pays remarkably well, and its cultivation is therefore certain to be increased.

The Colonial-office in Downing-street has disallowed the bill passed last session for raising the Governor's salary from 1,200*l.* to 3,000*l.* a-year.

ZAMBESI.—An expedition on an extensive scale has left the Natal borders for the Zambesi. Waggoners had been built specially for the purpose. The object is said to be sport. Other similar expeditions are likely to follow. The eldest son of Dr. Livingstone had arrived at Natal, from Glasgow, *en route*, to join his father at Quillimane.

GOLD.—Some Australian and Californian gold-diggers have been exploring the quartz districts. Indications of gold were found; but their labours were not rewarded by the discovery of any nuggets.

KAFIR WEALTH.—At a grand Kafir wedding, the bride-cake cost 10%.

BRITISH EXECUTIVE WISDOM.—The *Natal Mercury* says: "The ludicrous inquiry was lately made by the military authorities whether a military chaplain, serving in South Africa, could not hold Divine service in Natal on Sunday mornings, and on Sunday evenings at King Williamstown? [This reminds us of the Fort Napier, Natal, farrier's account, queried by the Home authorities on the grounds of there being a military veterinary surgeon at head-quarters, Grahamstown, to which place the horses could be sent.]"

LAWs.—Natal has been *blessed* by three conflicting systems of law being in force at the same time. The English portion of the community has been deeply stirred by the decision at a late trial, that married immigrants cannot will away their property, as in England, but that they come under the Roman-Dutch law, by which the property is to be sold, and divided between widow and children in certain proportions. Again, Kafir law is dispensed among the natives by Europeans, and by their own chiefs. And in the colonists' disputes with the natives there is great uncertainty as to the law by which the case has to be determined. And natives who have become civilised repudiate the barbarous Kafir law. A meeting of native delegates from mission stations has protested against it. Some of their speeches

were very characteristic and forcible. The following, by a delegate named Johannes, is a fair and interesting specimen: "We are here met to attempt to decide a question which I will endeavour to put as clearly as I can. We have left the race of our forefathers; we have left the black race, and have clung to the white. We imitate them in everything we can. We feel we are in the midst of a civilised people, and that when we became converts to their faith we belonged to them. It was as a stone thrown into the water, impossible to return. You have all left different savage races to come to Natal. We have all been well received—not as dogs, but as people. We have been protected since, and are happy. One thing alone detracts from our security. The law by which cases are decided is only fit to be eaten by vultures. Who will say Kafir law is good, when we see thousands flying every day from it to the refuge of the wings of the Englishman? The question for us to decide is, whether we will have Kafir or English law? We have left the black race—it is impossible to return. We are under the wing of the Queen—let us ask her for the law. Look round you. You have an English house; English tables, chairs—everything round us is English but one, and that is the law. Do not think I would say that the present law in Natal is not perfection compared to the law we have left. Who has ever heard in Natal the cry of "Kill the witch!" Who has had his cattle slaughtered because his chief was hungry, since we came under the shadow of Victoria's wing? Yet the law is bad. Let me put a case. I quarrel with a black man. I go to law. What do I find? An *Induna*. I speak my case to him. His answer is a stroke of the chin. I am told to return to-morrow; and this goes on for a month. Have I not left my plough? Have I not walked ten miles a-day for a month? Who pays me for my time lost, my money spent, and my heart hardened? Let us represent this evil to our superiors. Let us tell them we have left the black race, and belong to them. Will they send us back to barbarity? They may send our bodies, but our spirits they cannot send. Our spirits belong to civilization, though our bodies are the colour of the earth. I can say no more than this." We are glad to see this protest of civilised Kafirs against even a modified Kafir law. This demand of English law by them is a good sign. The sooner a good code of laws, as English as possible, and of general application, is made to supersede the present anomalous and obnoxious system, the better for all parties, and for the cause of civilization.

IMMIGRATION.—The colony is disappointed at the refusal of the Immigration Board in the colony to assist in bringing out boys and girls from the British ragged schools. It is thought they would form valuable colonists.

VOLUNTEER FORCE.—The Volunteers now under training amount to 750. This is equal to one in twenty of the European population. Natal is thus preparing well for self-defence.

CAPTURE OF SLAVERS.—News from Havannah announces that within the last month two ships, with 500 and 345 negro slaves respectively on board, had been captured just previous to the slaves being landed.

SLAVERY IN THE FEDERAL STATES.—A New York correspondent says: "Only a few days ago a handsome negro slave, in Maryland, seven miles from the district of Columbia (where Washington is located), started for the extreme South, where he was to be sold to a sugar planter. He was on foot, chained. His master was on horseback, free. He made his escape; ran for life to the city of Washington, and went on the steps of the Capitol, where he lay down exhausted, and looked up where the great flag of the Union waved its folds. There and then he was arrested. The fugitive slave law placed it out of the power of the President to save him, though he was appealed to. The slave was carried 'off South.'" [Is not this, if true, diabolical? Are slaves thus allowed to be sold, by loyal citizens, into states in rebellion? Is this a ground for demanding our sympathy with the Federal Government in its crusade against the South? It is only a few earnest, sincere men in the North who really strive for negro freedom, and *these* have all our heart's sympathy.—Ed. A.T.]

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The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

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The African Times.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1863.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

WE fear the Ashantee war will be a tedious and expensive one. The difficulty and delay in sending ammunition and supplies into the interior, *in consequence of the total absence of anything like a road*, is disgraceful to Great Britain. The Governor seems to be doing everything in his power; but we feel no confidence in the military command. Unless officers have previously given evidence of great ability, we do not think it ought at all to follow, as a matter of course, that those who may happen to be on the spot whenever and wherever hostilities occur should retain the command in face of the enemy. When the first news of hostilities comes, attended by that of some rapid and able action on their part, giving indication of talent and energy, we should be the last to wish to deprive them of an opportunity of gaining distinction. Otherwise it seems to us to be one of the first duties of the home authorities to send out some superior officer without delay. We think, too, the Governmental staff ought to be complete. The Governor ought to have at his command all necessary assistance. A heavy responsibility rests upon him. And especial care should be taken in such a climate as that of the Gold Coast that he is not left alone. A wise supervision and direction leaves as little as possible to accident. As the rainy season had commenced, we fear we shall hear of great sickness among the officers and West India troops sent up into the bush. Unless for immediate action with the enemy, they ought not to be there. We hope to hear by the next mail that the Fort of Quittah has been reoccupied. If not, not only will military stores reach the Ashantees from that direction, but such of the captives made by the latter in the Protected Territories as are not sacrificed will find their way uninterruptedly to the slave ships at Agway.

The Mohammedan war of conversion or extermination in the Gambia, under the chief Mabba, continues. The Governor is about to give the refugee Sonnikees lands and seed for planting cotton. It looks as though we should be compelled at last to imitate the French policy in Senegal.

The French have obtained a complete cession of Porto Novo and its territories, including a line of sea coast.

The Liberians claim not the Gallinas, but the Shebar, as their northern frontier limit.

The war party in Abeokuta are still in covert hostility with Lagos, and trade in the latter is very bad. In consequence of the stoppage of the roads, only 533 bales of African cotton have reached England from January to June, 1863, against 1,566 bales during the same months last year.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA.

EVERY month's experience justifies more and more the views of the African-Aid Society upon this question—views which they have only not carried into practical operation because, hitherto, there have been no funds for the work. To raise the industrial status of the African people, they must be taught those things which the civilised world has bit by bit acquired. Leave them to themselves, and they will never learn them. Why should they? They have not the same physical necessities that more northern people have. And physical necessity has been one of the great spurs to northern advancement. From a barbarism almost as degraded as that of the African, we have, under its impulse, gradually progressed to our present industrial, scientific, and social elevation. But there is no reason why the Africans should be condemned to a similar tortoise-like advance. The knowledge we have laboriously and tediously gained, in part from earlier civilizations, we could easily and rapidly impart, but it seems to have been almost the last thing thought of. In our anxiety to Christianise we have too much lost sight of the material aid that a spread of the arts, conveniences, and industrial facilities of civilization can bring to the inculcation of moral and religious truth. The African-Aid Society was formed that it might apply and urge the application of what was evidently so much needed. When it expressed its desire to conduct an emigration of coloured people from Canada and the United States to Africa, it was that it might introduce in their persons engineers, machinists, carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, cabinetmakers, brick and tile makers, trained agriculturists, millwrights, wheelwrights, coopers, waggon builders, road makers, &c., &c., &c. The progress of conviction as to the necessity of this has been slow in England. And this is not surprising, because it had not possessed the missionary mind in Africa. Any imaginable sum might be asked for religious missionary purposes in Africa, and it would be obtained. But ask for a small sum to teach the Africans the comforts and decencies, conveniences and industrial appliances of civilised life, and no national sentiment responded to the appeal. This is manifestly wrong. What we have freely received we ought freely to give. We, as a people, two thousand years ago had aid to help us out of our barbarism. The Britons were not left to imagine the utility of roads, and the advantage of clearings through forests: the Romans made roads and clearings for them. They were not left to imagine the advantage and comfort of solidly-constructed and comparatively commodious edifices: the Romans built towns and villages among them. And their work was not intended for mere temporary use alone. Substantial traces of it remain to this day. They are continually challenging our gratitude and admiration. And shall we not imitate in some degree the beneficial example? Shall we not strive to confer solid material benefits upon that Africa we so long assisted to rob of its most valuable possession—its human life; that we so long assisted to plunge deeper and deeper into the thick mire of barbarism, instead of helping her out of it? Our responsibilities toward Africa are far heavier than the public conscience has yet acknowledged. We know all the difference that exists between Great Britain now in Africa, and Rome formerly in Britain. Rome was laying the foundation for a permanent domination. We are not. Nationally, therefore, there is no analogy. But Rome had no such hideous debt of blood to Britain as we have to Africa. And we are Christian, not Pagan. We profess to be governed by higher principles than the Romans knew. We must, therefore, both as Government and people, do more than we have hitherto done for Africa. We must send her other teachers, as well as religious ones. We must establish centres of mechanical and other industry. The missionary mind in Africa is opening to this great truth. Missionaries are beginning to enunciate our principles. The extract

JUNE 23, 1863.]

at foot,* from the missionary paper of Abeokuta, is a tardy, but a powerful justification of the views of the African-Aid Society. Written *apropos* of frequent fires in Abeokuta, and of the want of some non-inflammable material for the roofs of the air and light-excluding native hut, the writer shows how slowly the system hitherto pursued works for material improvement, and the need of efforts in an industrial direction. "It is quite a question whether skilled labour should not in good policy take the lead, and reading and writing follow after, if not in point of time, yet in point of importance." And again: "Religion would be best promoted in the end by making industrial pursuits the first aim (not before religion, but before head knowledge) in point of importance. It is difficult, as experience proves in the few efforts already made, to communicate *hand* knowledge, but where the welfare of a country is considered, difficulties should be less thought of." The African-Aid Society and the *African Times* have never spoken out more strongly than this. Truth will make its way, in spite of prejudice and jealousy. The "native who returned from the Brazils," and *who was sent out to Abeokuta under the auspices of the African-Aid Society*, gives a faint foreshadowing of the material advancement in Africa that will some day result from the return of the African race in America to the lands of their forefathers. Had not some of the missionary body in Abeokuta opposed the sending of such people from America by the African-Aid Society, many brick and tile makers, and other valuable artisans, might now have been established there. We are glad to see that a change is coming over the spirit of our friends in that place. America will soon have many choice workmen and agriculturists from among its emancipated slaves, ready to bring their industrial knowledge to the assistance of the land of their forefathers. There are representatives there of every African race on the West, and of many races on the East Coast. Meanwhile we must all, Government and people, do the best we can, wherever British authority is in any way acknowledged, to introduce into the country those improvements in means of intercommunication, in dwellings, in tillage, and in mechanical arts, that civilization in Europe and America has acquired, and by which alone civilization can progress. We repeat our belief that coloured artisans from America are valuable, if not indispensable, for this work.

* An improvement in the native dwellings, however, cannot be effected as long as grass and leaves are used to cover them; many houses in which improvements had been made, by opening windows and giving more light and air, have been again restored to the windowless condition of native dwellings, through fear of fire. Efforts are made to improve, but not such as could be desired, from this cause. The system of building in large compounds is connected with the laws and superstitions of the country; a general change and improvement in house building will go hand in hand with changes in Government and religion. It would be very desirable, however, for Europeans to introduce better roofing materials. Now iron will not do unless it could be effectually lined by some non-conductor of heat and sound. A lining is again attended with this evil, that the space between becomes the resort of vermin. Some other material should be obtained; tiles would be better than iron, and good clay can be found everywhere; but there is no workman skilled in tile making to teach the natives, and no European has yet seriously attempted to introduce the art. *A native, who returned from the Brasilis, made a few and covered his own house in a rough way. He died without communicating his art to others.* A great impediment exists in the fact, that it is apparently an easier and more genteel employment for lads to become clerks, or to do a little trade on their own account, than to engage in mechanical employments. The ease with which credit is obtained, which is again the result of large profits, produces a host of petty traders, who end in becoming hopelessly involved in debt, giving the white merchant reason to call the people dishonest. We have heard of industrial schools, but experience proves that it is far easier to teach reading and writing, and less expensive, than mechanical arts. It is quite a question whether skilled labour should not in good policy take the lead, and reading and writing follow after; if not in point of time, yet in point of importance. But, whatever might be said, the natives judge rather by what we do than what we say; they see that all the schools are for teaching head knowledge, and not hand knowledge; and therefore they must infer that head knowledge is the thing that they ought chiefly to attend to. Religion would be best promoted in the end by making industrial pursuits the first aim (not before religion, but before head knowledge) in point of importance. It is difficult, as experience proves in the few efforts already made to communicate hand knowledge; but where the welfare of a country is considered, difficulties should be less thought of.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR AFRICA.

THE year 1863 will assuredly mark the commencement of a new era as regards Africa. The discovery of the source of the Nile has been rapidly followed by the establishment of a company for developing the rich resources of the country through which that river flows, from Khartoum to Cairo; and also as far as Lake, on the frontiers of Abyssinia. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of this great effort. The Egyptian Commercial and Trading Company, founded, and to be principally conducted by, mercantile houses having establishments in Egypt, commands and receives our warmest sympathies. We can have no doubt of the natural riches of the country through which the Nile brings down the waters of Lake Nyanza from the equatorial districts of Africa. All that we have ever felt to be wanting there, was the discontinuance of those atrocious slave-hunts which depopulated and devastated some of the naturally most luxuriant and productive tracts in the world, and the establishment of regular trading stations for the exchange of European manufactures against the cotton, coffee, sugar, rice, tobacco, gums, oils, ivory, senna, beeswax, ostrich-feathers, gold-dust, silk, indigo, &c., abounding there. This will now be accomplished. The Government slave-hunts from Egypt have been discontinued, and we feel that no slave-hunts whatever will be tolerated by a company that has its principal seat of direction in London. To collect the products of the soil and of the chase will give ample employment and rich reward to the populations, which the atrocious slave-trade has not succeeded in annihilating. We have no doubt whatever — there can be no reasonable doubt — that a new great cotton field is about to be thus opened. The Nile and the Niger will ere long pour rich treasures of cotton into the famished mills of Manchester. Of the latent wealth of the Niger districts as regards this important staple, Dr. Baikie's reports to the British Government furnish ample proof. The Niger and Chadda Company, the arrangements for the full publication of which we have been assured are all but completed, will run a race of friendly emulation with the Egyptian Company in supplying the vacuum caused by the secession of the Southern States of America from the Federal Union, with the war of industrial annihilation in the best American cotton districts, to which it has led.

We have been long engaged in sounding in deaf or reluctant ears the great resources of that poor Africa which has been made and kept poor only by the demand for her crop of human beings to cultivate as slaves the soil of transatlantic lands, which, however rich they may be, cannot surpass her own. A portion of the commercial world has been long sensible of the rich harvest to be reaped in African legitimate trade, and we cannot too greatly rejoice to find that the financial world has awakened to the perception of the same great fact. We are confident that there will be great success in commercial and trading operations, if well and spiritedly conducted, with adequate capital, not only in the Nile and the Niger, but also in other great rivers of that rich continent of Africa. And the day will come when what have been too often termed the dreams of enthusiasts about African agricultural, natural, and mineral wealth will only be censured as having far too feebly asserted the commercial values hitherto sealed up in that great latent treasure-house of the world. Capital, well directed, and honourably and energetically applied, is the "open sesame" to an abundance that will ere long cause the markets of Europe to rejoice in a variety and amplitude of tropical products, ministering to the comfort and luxury of the civilised world.

ONE WANT OF AFRICA.

CAPITAL! Capital for internal improvement. Month by month the fact becomes more glaring that African industrial development might progress with tenfold, and soon with a hundredfold rapidity, could the assistance of capital for internal and coast improvements be obtained. But other eyes, like our own, when the words Capital and Africa appear before them, will search for a third—Security, ay, Security! Who will advance any really useful amount of capital without that most necessary adjunct? We can

see only but too well the improvements to be effected—we know where the capital is, whose life-giving touch would supply the efficacious link between past barbarism and future civilised industrial development. But the security—the security—eludes our search. It does not exist. It has to be created. And its creation, for which capital seems indispensable, must, under present conditions, precede the application of borrowed capital. And here it is that the African climate, with its well-merited or exaggerated evil reputation, meets us face to face. The necessary supervision of capital employed in Africa must either be maintained at an extravagant cost by means of Europeans, or coloured agency must be employed. And no one has confidence yet in coloured agency as regards the application, outlay, and superintendence of capital. Great as are the other difficulties in the way of obtaining capital, this seems to us to be the most formidable one to overcome; at least as regards one portion of Africa.

The Republic of Liberia is now fairly admitted among the nations. Her recognition by the United States, France, and Holland, who have followed the lead of Great Britain, in this act of justice and good policy, this resuscitation of African civilised nationalities from the Tomb of Ages, has placed her in a position to demand pecuniary assistance as a nation, if she can offer security. And this is precisely what the new Carthage on the Atlantic finds a difficulty in furnishing. She has an ample territory, because it is without limits toward the interior—a vast extent, therefore, of public lands—a soil of great fertility—an orderly, established Government—institutions that function well—all the elements, in fine, of future greatness and prosperity. All except one. In civilised population she is deficient. Consequently her public revenue is small—too small to allow of any portion being hypothecated for interest of debt. It is impossible to extract a large revenue from fifteen thousand people. And this is at present the sum of the civilised portion of Liberia. Under the Customs' Duties Act, which will come into operation in 1864, and through which the Government will receive import duties upon cargoes now sold along the coast without any payment to the State, the revenue will no doubt increase. But the increase, though important for general administrative wants, will do little, for many years to come, toward the great object we are now treating of—viz., the creating a surplus for payment of interest on a foreign debt. And yet, without the aid of capital from the great civilised nations of Europe, the progress of Liberia, as well as of other African countries, will be infinitely less rapid than the growing wants of Europe for tropical produce demand that it should be.

Nothing could be worse than to encourage vain hopes and expectations in a matter of this importance. We write thus pointedly because the want of capital for those improvements which lead to industrial development is keenly felt in Liberia; and the hope, we know, has found its way into some heads and hearts there that this want may be supplied by millions of pounds sterling from European capitalists. It is as well that it should be thoroughly understood at once how great the difficulties are in the way of the realisation of any such hope. Nor do we think that in the present condition of Liberia it would be well for her public men to hold the string of such a well-filled purse. Such an abundance of resources would lead to improvidence and waste, if not to speculation.

Is Liberia, therefore, to be condemned to the slow progress of improvement which must result from her dependence solely on the small aid toward public works that a Government like Liberia can give out of its ordinary revenue year by year. We think not. We hope and believe that she need not be condemned to this. We hope it for the sake of Europe as well as of Liberia and other African countries. We do not wish to see Liberia an abused pauper upon our great money marts; but we do wish to see her obtain help in all real need. And for this she must go step by step. There is only one sure mode that we can suggest by which she may securely advance. Let her wise men create some special revenue for public improvements. While raising this to a dependable five or six thousand pounds a-year, let examination be made as to which will be the most rapidly reproductive public work upon which eighty or a hundred

thousand pounds sterling could be effectively expended. Let everything connected with such work be maturely studied—all the preliminaries towards its execution be arranged—all the reproductive elements and energies it will bring into play be cautiously examined. Then, with a fund for paying the interest during outlay, and until the work become reproductive, and with all possible preparation made for the rapid and satisfactory execution of the work, then—and not till then—let them apply to our capitalists for a loan of the eighty or one hundred thousand pounds required. They would have all the support we could give them. The money would be obtained; and, if the result justified the expectations formed from the work, not only would the same special revenue fund which paid the interest on Liberia's first public works loan be free for another operation of a similar kind, but a justifiable confidence will have been created, and a loan larger, perhaps, than the security of the special fund and a loan larger, perhaps, than the security of the special fund would itself warrant, might, no doubt, be obtained. Thus, stone by stone, might Liberia build up the solid structures of her future greatness. And the fame of this would bring her a rapid and valuable increase of population from America, adding day by day that element which she requires to make her other elements productive.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The discovery of the source of the White Nile in Lake Victoria Nyanza, by Captains Speke and Grant, imparted an unusual interest to the annual general meeting and banquet of the Royal Geographical Society this year. They were held on the 25th May, the former at Burlington House, the latter at Willis's Rooms. Sir Roderick Murchison, President of the society, occupied the chair on both occasions.

It appears that the White Nile flows out of Lake Nyanza, a stream 150 yards wide. The lake lies between 3,000 and 4,000 feet above the sea level. Its northern boundary is on the Equator; its southern, about 4 deg. S. Its length is, therefore, 150 or 160 miles. The so-called Mountains of the Moon in its vicinity reach about 10,000 feet in height. They are not a continuous range, but a cluster. It is supposed that another lake, named Nzige, has communication with the White Nile; but whether it gives water to, or receives supplies from the river, is not known.

We rejoice that Captains Speke and Grant have now set at rest for ever the question of the source of the world-famed river Nile; but we do not see any prospect of this discovery doing anything toward the regeneration of Africa. And we regret that this great discovery will have to be associated henceforth in our minds with the retirement of Dr. Norton Shaw from the office of Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society, after fourteen years' service. We do not hesitate to say that the Royal Geographical Society owes much of its prosperity and celebrity to the peculiar attainments of Dr. Norton Shaw, and that his loss will be severely felt, whoever may be appointed to succeed him in office.

The Zebra has lately taken into St. Helena a slaver, captured by her, having 459 slaves on board.

SLAVE-GROWN SUGAR.—The quantity of slave-grown sugar imported into England in 1862 is 51,000 tons in excess of the quantity imported in 1861; the total for the latter year being 185,038 tons, and for 1862 being 236,289, or 4,725,763 cwt. In 1844, the quantity thus imported was only 104 cwt.

EGYPTIAN COMMERCIAL AND TRADING COMPANY.—The International Financial Society offered, on Tuesday, 16th inst., 25,000 shares of 20l. each in the above company to the public. We are informed that up to Saturday, the 20th, the applications received were for above 150,000 shares! Premium on Stock Exchange, 2 to 2½.

WAR STORES FOR THE GOLD COAST.—The hired steam transport Samson, having shipped 80 guns of various calibres and a mixed cargo of war stores from Woolwich pier, went down to the red buoy West of the Arsenal to embark 100 tons of powder on the 16th inst. She will proceed to the following stations on the West Coast of Africa: Cape Coast Castle, Anamaboe, Dix Cove, Accra, Whydah, and Lagos.

CALABAR BEANS.

It may be of great service to Africa, and the Editor will be much obliged, if some of his friends on the Coast will send him by the mail steamer a small bag of Calabar beans. Those the Editor has seen have been about the size of a large palm-nut oil kernel, but some he believes are much larger.

HATRED TO NEGROES IN THE FEDERAL STATES.

A correspondent of the *Standard* writes from New York: "Last night the match came very near being applied that will fire the great magazine of hatred to the negro here. About dusk a negro came through the Park. He was an old man—65 years of age. He had not said a word, but was quietly passing the soldiers' barracks. Two of the soldiers commenced beating the poor old negro. Police officers interfered, and the soldiers attacked them. Seventy policemen came up, and the battle became general, but was soon settled. The negro was stripped of his hat and clothes, but the police saved his life. Some of the soldiers were arrested. It needs but to have a negro riot started in this city, and such is the bad, unmerciful feeling, that in forty-eight hours I do not believe there would be a negro, man, woman, or child, alive, unless, concealed underground. They are regarded as the cause of this war, and are doomed to a dreadful revenge. I do not attempt to philosophise about it, I merely give facts."

Again on the 29th May: "The terrible exasperation against the negroes that I stated in a former letter to exist everywhere in the United States where there are Democrats, has broken out at Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania. The soldiers had commenced destroying property and black life, and at last accounts there was no telling how it would end. There is great danger in every free state of a rising to kill the blacks. Once this feeling gets fairly under weigh, there will be no stopping it."

Again: "I have alluded to the danger of the negroes. It grows more alarming every day. Negroes walk long distances, rather than get into cars and omnibuses, were they are exposed to the scowls of vengeance whenever the time comes. It is no joke to say that the great Abolitionist leaders and preachers will be among the first objects of vengeance whenever the riot breaks out. The indications are on all sides. There is no disguising the fact."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE TREATY BILL.

Lord PALMERSTON, in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was but just to point out this bill to the attention of the House. It was well known that for a great number of years African slavery was protected by the shelter of the flag of the United States. Last year the Government of the United States, in the handsomest manner, agreed to a treaty by which that protection was no longer to be afforded—(hear, hear)—by which treaty the Powers agreed to arrangements for a mutual right of search, constituting mixed tribunals for the trial of vessels caught in slave taking and other matters connected with these adjudications. Well, it was found that the extent of range to which those operations applied was not sufficient, and this year the Government of the United States had agreed to a supplementary article, which extended to the neighbourhood of the island of Madagascar that right of search which we had not before. He thought it really due to the liberality of the United States Government to point the attention of the House and the country to the fact, because last year the treaty was regarded as a matter of form, without attracting the attention of Parliament and the public; and he thought it only right and just to that Government, who had behaved in the most liberal manner possible, that at all events some attention should be paid to this second treaty. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAVE congratulated the Government upon the success of these arrangements, and thought, as on previous occasions he had felt it his duty to reprehend the United States Government for its protection of the slave-trade, he ought not to be backward in acknowledging this honourable and important change in its policy. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that Her Majesty's Govern-

ment would send a squadron of swift gunboats to put down or limit the traffic with Cuba; and if the negotiations with the French were successful, then they might at least hope that free labour would ultimately be relieved from that unfair competition which, indeed, paralysed it, and that this abominable traffic might become a matter of history even in our own day. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CONINGHAM, Mr. BUXTON, and Mr. KINNAIRD expressed their approval of the measure.

Mr. TORRENS thought it desirable that the House should have an opportunity of considering the bill before coming to any decision upon it.

Mr. HENNESSY believed the bill had not yet been printed; at least, he had been unable to obtain it.

Sir G. GREY said the bill was a mere confirmation of the treaty, and the clauses were in conformity with the treaty.

The bill was then read a second time.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16.

ZANZIBAR.

Mr. STIRLING inquired of the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had any information respecting an outrage said to have been perpetrated by Arabs on an English subject at Zanzibar, in February last, and respecting reports lately published in the French newspapers, of hostile feeling against the European residents, excited in the minds of the native population of Zanzibar by certain alleged operations of British cruisers engaged in the repression of the slave-trade.

Mr. LAYARD said that he had found in the *Journal des Débats* an account of a state of things existing at Zanzibar corresponding to that mentioned in the honourable gentleman's question; but he considered the source from which the information came was somewhat suspicious. The papers which were upon the table showed that while the slave-trade was being repressed on the West Coast of Africa, it was obtaining a new development on the East Coast, and that it was carried on principally by French agents, and under the French flag, to supply certain French colonies. The British cruisers, acting under a treaty with the Sultan of Zanzibar, were doing their utmost to put an end to this iniquitous traffic, and he trusted that when the French Government were informed of the circumstances they would take measures to put an end to the existing state of things.

Mr. STIRLING: The honourable gentleman has received no information from our agents or consuls at Zanzibar?

Mr. LAYARD: No information corroborating the statement of my honourable friend.

The honourable member afterwards made an explanation in reference to the statement he had made on the subject. He had said that the slave-trade was being carried on. It was virtually the slave-trade, but it was carried on under the name of free labour. By the convention with France the slave-trade was put an end to.

PRICE CURRENT.

Palm Oil, Lagos fine	37l.
Cotton, West African (nominal)	20½d.
Coffee, African West Coast	65s.

NEGRO CAPACITY.—Writing of the "Contrabands" under tuition, a correspondent of the *American Missionary* says: "Some of the adults are already able to read some in the Testament. None of them knew anything but their letters when they began, and some not them, and they have been learning but about one month. How many of our adult population, at the North, could do better? I reckon those who tell us that the African cannot learn and know, like the whites, are either ignorant of their real ability, or are haters of their intellectual progress. The wonder is, that having been down-trodden so long, they should have and exhibit so much mental capacity and energy as they do. They are in earnest to learn. I found one of the men, the other day, studying out his reading lesson, while driving his load of 'trash' to the 'cotton field.' He was studying while riding upon the cart."

LITERARY NOTICES.

Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-9. By FRANCES ANNE KEMBLE. London: Longman and Co. 1863.

This book depicts the horrors of Southern States' slavery so forcibly, that we think no one can rise from the perusal of it without feeling his detestation and horror of slavery painfully intensified. Mrs. Butler (F. A. Kemble) details, in a series of letters to a friend, her daily experience among the poor victims of oppression on her husband's plantations. She visits the so-called *Infirmaries* of the estate, and gives us a vivid picture of what that *care* for the human chattels in sickness, &c., of which we have often heard so much, really is. It is the women of their estate naturally enough who apply to a woman, the wife of their master, just come among them, for relief, and her good offices with their cruel tyrants. Beyond her bitter condemnation of the institution altogether, her letters do not contain much with regard to the healthy male hands on the estates. "The principal physical hardships," she says, "appear to me to fall to the lot of the women. The very young members of the community are idle and neglected—the very, very old, idle and neglected too—the middle-aged men do not appear to me to be overworked, and lead a mere animal existence in itself, not peculiarly cruel or distressing, but involving a constant element of fear and uncertainty, and the trifling evils of unrequited labour—ignorance, and the most profound (to which they are condemned by law), and the unutterable injustice which precludes them from all the merits and benefits of voluntary exertion, and the progress that results from it. If they are absolutely unconscious of these evils, then they are not very ill-off brutes, always barring the chance of being given or sold away from their mates or their young, processes which even brutes do not always relish." (P. 337.) The cruel immorality of the overseers—the general depravity and the insolence of the slaves to one another—are strongly set forth, not in diatribe, but by the incidents of daily observation and occurrence. Every page of the book exhibits the practical inhumanity of the atrocious institution, particularly as regards the female slaves. The list of one day's applications and complaints, in pp. 241-3, should be read by every one in England whose mind is not fully made up (if there be such a person) as to the infamous character of that system which Mr. Alex. H. Stephens* says "is become the chief stone in the corner of our new edifice." We do not know, of course, whether Mr. Stephens intended the gross impiety of a comparison of slavery with the Saviour of the world, which his travesty of such a text of Scripture implies. We do not uphold the North in its war of ambition against the South. If Republicanism means anything, it must mean the inalienable right of the people to govern themselves, in their own way; and no agreement of the people of one generation can extinguish the smallest portion of the indefeasible natural sovereignty of a single individual pertaining to a subsequent one. But Mr. Stephens and his fellow-labourers may rest assured that no edifice erected on such a foundation can endure. Both North and South are now feeling the weight of God's judgment for the great iniquity on which so much of their wealth has been built up; and though the South may achieve the independence of its white inhabitants, it will not be that it may prolong the atrocious sin of the confiscation of every natural right of the negro race within its borders. We recommend Frances Anne Kemble's "Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation" to all our readers.

Correspondence between the Rev. W. Patton, D.D., and the Secretaries of the Evangelical Alliance on the American War.

We have been favoured by a copy of a pamphlet, under the above title, being a reprint from the *New Englander* for April, 1863. As we have not mixed up ourselves at all with the dreadful struggle between North and South, we shall do very little more than acknowledge the courtesy which has put us in possession of this correspondence. But we cannot avoid remarking that it is useless for the Christians or any other people of the North to expect that the great majority of the thinking people of England can ever look at the fratricidal war from the same point of view whence they regard it. In the observations of the *New*

* Vice-President of the Confederate States.

Englander upon the correspondence, we find, as we have found throughout, that it is the "Union," and not negro freedom, for which the contest is waged by them. We there see it distinctly stated that *rather than there shall be two nations on the late United States soil, the North will consent to an Union of which the corner-stone will be slavery.* And yet they stigmatise the Evangelical Alliance and the great majority of the thinking people of England as *not sound* upon the slavery question, because they will not endorse this Northern profession of faith. To prevent the possibility of a supposition that we may have misinterpreted what is written, we give two or three brief extracts: "Let no English Christian believe that there can ever be, for any length of time, two nations here."—P. 314. "If this Government fails, whatever temporary division there may be, a new Union will soon embrace all these States, without one foot of soil withdrawn from its sway, and the corner-stone of that Union will be SLAVERY."—*Idem*. "The question is, shall this Union, shall this nation, shall this continent, stand shoulder to shoulder with England in advancing the work of freedom and religion all over the world? or shall it be arrayed in opposition to England, and lead the van among the despotic nations of the world in reducing everywhere the labourer, white as well as black, to the condition of the slave."—P. 315.

Now we ask any sensible, reasonable person this one question: Whatever may be the case as regards the Southern mind, is it not evident that the slave question is not that on which the mind of the North is set in this contest?

The Union—an exorbitant tariff—the monopoly by the North of manufacture for, and of the carrying trade of, the South—a vast confederation that may be able to bully and insult all the rest of the world—this—these are what the North fights for, and is determined at any cost of blood to retain and arrive at. Slavery is with the North only an incident in the struggle. While she fights for the "Union"—and would accept slavery heart and soul to ensure it—she insists upon our backing her up in the fight, because of the slavery which she may incidentally destroy.

Now we and most Englishmen believe that God has determined this question of slavery for both North and South. The evil passions of both are working out God's righteous judgments. Slavery in the American States is doomed. The handwriting has appeared upon the wall. The freedom of the long-oppressed slave population does not depend upon the triumph of the North. The North, like the South, is an instrument whose acts God is overruling for eventual good. As a nation we have long ago washed our hands of the slave iniquity. And we do not believe that the repose of Europe, the peace and tranquillity of the world, and its progress in freedom and religion, depend upon the American continent being occupied by one great federation of states containing two or three hundred millions of people, even if such a federation were possible, which no one but an American can, we think, really believe.

The concluding remarks of the *New Englander* show how little the real state and condition of Great Britain is understood in America. The lack among us of the sympathy they desire in America, is set down as owing to the aristocratic element; volunteers, and the lower orders, are to rise in defence of liberty; the future of the privileged orders is to be curbed, and England and America are to march onward in happy harmony.

If the North is to wait for its final triumph over the South until these great things happen in England, Lancashire must indeed look to Africa and elsewhere for cotton, for there will be no speedy supply from America.

On the Climate and Diseases of West Africa.

(Continued from our last.)

CLASSIFIED medical returns of the colonial hospitals, Sierra Leone, for thirteen years, are in the possession of the Statistical Society. A table is given, showing the number of lunatics treated, with the recoveries and deaths for eleven years. We confess we had no idea, before we saw these returns, that the negroes were so liable to mental disease, but these tables indubitably prove that such is the fact.

Mr. Clarke writes favourably of the men of the Gold Coast Artillery Corps. He says: "They are generally runaway slaves, yet discipline and their elevation from serfs to freemen soon enable them to appreciate their improved position. When claimed by their owners (a circumstance which is constantly occurring), an arrangement is made to indemnify them, and redeem the slave by the payment of 8*l.* sterling, that sum being deducted by instalments from the man's pay. Their services during the Kroboe revolt, in 1858, and disturbance in the Abra district, in 1859, showed their value as soldiers." It is, therefore, with no small regret that we have lately had occasion to refer to the mutinous conduct of these men; but judging from all we have heard of the cause of their insubordination, the conclusion has forced itself upon our minds that these outbreaks never would have occurred had their officers known how to govern them and obtain their respect; and should the cause of these mutinies ever be adequately inquired into, we have strong reason for believing it would then be found that, however guilty the men may have been, they have been sinned against as well as sinning.

Mr. Clarke thus describes the privileges enjoyed by the officers of the Gold Coast Artillery Corps; but before quoting further from his paper on this head, we may remark that he has overlooked one of their most valued privileges—viz., that they undergo no preliminary examination prior to being appointed. This escape from the ordeal or test of efficiency should, we conceive, be no longer tolerated, as it has unquestionably led to the admission of men of inferior attainments:—

"The officers have the privilege of holding civil appointments, and promotion is very rapid, not so much from death vacancies as from officers being transferred to other regiments of the line, or from retiring on half-pay. In four years an officer entering this favoured corps obtains his company, and in some instances a majority in eight years, or even sooner—promotion not paralleled in any other regiment in the service. Medical officers serving on the coast have each year's service reckoned as two."

We are aware that medical officers now greatly prefer serving in West Africa to the West Indies, and for obvious reasons. For not only is the time of service on that coast doubly reckoned, but they enjoy besides the substantial advantage of private practice. This advantage they do not enjoy in the West Indies, private practice being in the hands of the civil medical practitioners. That the emoluments from this source are considerable, may be judged of by the fact that the late colonial surgeon of Sierra Leone is understood to have realised the handsome sum of 20,000*l.*, and the yearly income of the present colonial surgeon of that colony from official and private practice is, as has been stated by himself and friends, 1,200*l.* or 1,500*l.* per annum. We are glad, therefore, to know that some of the native gentlemen are educating their sons to the medical profession. A beginning has been made in this direction, Messrs. Smith and Spilsberry being far advanced medical students at King's College, and the appointment to staff-assistant-surgeons of Drs. Davis and Horton is a proof that the Government is alive to the advantage of having coloured medical officers attached to the regiments stationed in West Africa. Strangely, however, their appointment is viewed almost as an intrusion by some of their European professional brethren on the coast, and we have heard it rumoured that one of these medical gentlemen had it even in contemplation to resign his commission rather than subject himself to the passive, but not less harassing annoyances to which he had been subjected. Be that as it may, it is of importance that every encouragement should be held out by the Government to native gentlemen who have qualified themselves to hold appointments either in the army or colonial medical service in West Africa. We are aware that against the appointment of native medical gentlemen the argument is constantly advanced, that neither Europeans nor Africans have confidence in them. This assertion we emphatically deny, and beg to record our protest against it. And if evidence were wanting of its utter groundlessness, we could, in support of our statement, triumphantly point to the late Staff Surgeon William Fergusson, a dark mulatto gentleman (afterwards Governor of Sierra Leone), in whose medical skill

both Europeans and natives had unbounded confidence. To assert, therefore, that the advice of native medical officers would not be esteemed, is the flimsiest of pretences. From all we have learnt, we suspect that the true reason of the opposition offered by European medical officers on this head may be traced to their natural apprehension that the lucrative field of private practice, now in the hands of a few, would be greatly diminished when black or coloured medical gentlemen come to contest it with them.

Apart from such paltry considerations, we strenuously advocate their appointment as army and colonial medical officers on the coast, because, in a financial point of view, such appointments would save the large sum of money which at present is annually expended in providing European medical officers with passages to and from the coast. But what is of paramount importance, it would lead to a saving of human life—the fact having been established in the most satisfactory manner, that the negro is exempt from attacks of yellow fever. This fact should never be lost sight of, because the mortality from yellow fever in West Africa is occasionally appalling, as in 1859, when three European medical men were cut off by it at MacCarthy's Island.

Although we have before referred to the absurd assertions of those opposed to the appointment of black or coloured surgeons, we nevertheless again do so, for the purpose of more completely refuting them. We shall not, however, waste words upon the subject, but simply state that the capabilities of the negro race may be inferred by their holding at Sierra Leone the appointments of Chief Justice, Colonial Secretary, Registrar of Mixed Commission Court, Marshal to the Vice-Admiralty Court, Collector of Customs, Sheriff and Crown Record Office; the Counsel at the Sierra Leone Bar being also coloured gentlemen; by Mr. Ingram's recent appointment as Queen's Advocate at the Gambia; and nearly by all the clerks in the Government and merchants' offices being black or coloured persons. Besides, we are also aware that by far the most talented, influential, and wealthy merchant now upon that coast is of African descent. Moreover, we likewise know, from the best authority, that the Rev. Mr. Robin, Acting Colonial Chaplain (one of the many ordained black clergymen on the Coast—a pure-blooded negro), received from the Governors of the Gold Coast and Gambia the highest commendations, his conduct being brought by them under the favourable notice of Her Majesty's Government. Further, none more strongly urged the appointment of black surgeons than the late Bishop Bowen did, and surely it may be conceded that he was a competent judge of their fitness.*

(To be concluded in our next.)

SIERRA LEONE.—The Colonial "Blue Book," recently issued, comprises reports from our settlements on the West Coast of Africa. From Sierra Leone we learn that the census taken in 1860 found a population of 41,624, with 11,418 dwellings; 15,782 of the population were liberated Africans, and 22,593 had been born within the limits of the colony. Of the whole population only 3,351 remained Pagans, and only 1,734 were Mohammedans; 15,180 were Methodists, and 12,954 Episcopalians. 11,016 children were taught in the schools in the year. The Governor reports that the Customs' receipts have increased to 20,000*l.*, and that the internal trade of the country is steadily growing, owing partly to the number of small native traders who have started in business of late years, and partly to facilities afforded by credit being given for import duties. British protection supplies a stimulus to native improvement and enterprise, and the population are rapidly learning the general customs of civilised society, engaging in commercial transactions with surprising diligence and avidity, submitting on the one hand to the various necessary imposts, and on the other gladly reaping the benefits of enlarged communication, and in many instances amassing wealth, enabling them to vie with European enterprise. Sierra Leone is thus proving not only a refuge for those who are rescued from slavery, but a nucleus of civilization and school of Christian teaching.

* In connexion with this subject, we may mention that we had great pleasure in adding to the Society's library the able work of the Rev. Mr. Crammell (a negro) upon "The Future of Africa."

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