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THE COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

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The Capital of this Company has been fully subscribed.

Up to the present time comparatively little has been done to develop the resources of Western Africa. Trade there is merely in its infancy; but the Directors of this Company believe that it may soon be made most valuable to Great Britain.

In 1827, the value of British and Foreign Goods exported from the United Kingdom to the West Coast of Africa was

In 1840,	£155,759
In 1850,	410,798
In 1860,	890,216
	1,145,434

The total actual value of imports from Africa into the United Kingdom for the six years, 1856 to 1861 inclusive (being the latest Official return), amounted to

In 1818, the import of Palm Oil into England from Africa was	£9,804,356
In 1823,	1,465 tons.
In 1831,	3,328 "
In 1841,	8,164 "
In 1860,	19,853 "
	40,216 "

This increase in one article, Palm-oil, though large, is trifling when compared with the resources of Western Africa, while many articles equally or more important and abundant have been totally neglected, or have only very recently received attention.

The Directors are convinced that, by a judicious encouragement of, and co-operation with, native traders and persons resident on the Coast, the imports of Palm-oil may be greatly increased, and also that other most valuable products, hitherto disregarded, may be made a source of wealth both to Africans and to this Company. Cotton, Fibres, Palm-nut Kernels, Pea Nuts, Oil Seed, Coffee, Pepper, Ginger, Grain, India Rubber, Gums, Dyes, Beeswax, Ebony, Copper Ore, and other Minerals, are all articles that Africa can supply in large quantities.

The Company is prepared to receive consignments of produce for sale in England, and to purchase and ship goods in return, and generally to transact business on commission against credits or good security. The Company's large fleet of vessels will offer great facilities to shippers, and secure rapid returns. Goods can be delivered at the various small towns on the Coast with the greatest regularity, and at moderate rates of freight.

The ample resources of the Company guarantee to African shippers the highest possible price for their consignments, and that purchases will be made for them on the most favourable terms (the large amount of goods purchased by this Company from the leading manufacturers of all articles suitable for the African Trade will enable them to buy such goods on far more advantageous terms than could otherwise be looked for), while the business will be conducted on such equitable principles as to foster and encourage the development of African resources.

Business will be transacted both in London and Liverpool. For further particulars, and on business generally, address JAMES ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq., Managing Director of the Company of African Merchants, Limited (at the Offices of the Company), Walmer-buildings, Water-street, Liverpool.

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The African Royal Mail Steamship *Armenian*, Lowry commander, arrived at Liverpool Oct. 12, with the mails from the West Coast of Africa, 32 passengers, 1,837 oz. of gold dust, 2,842 sovereigns, 18,078 dols., and 7,500f. Her dates are: Benin, 24th; Fernando Po, 28th; and Cameroons, 29th August; Old Calabar, 1st; Brass River, 4th; New Calabar and Bonny, 7th; Lagos, 10th; Accra, 12th; Cape Coast Castle, 14th; Cape Palmas, 17th; Sierra Leone, 21st; and Bathurst, 21st Sept.; Teneriffe, 1st; and Madeira, 9th Oct.

The Royal Mail Steamship *Athenian*, which left Liverpool on the 25th August, had arrived at Cape Palmas on the 16th of September, and left on the same day for leeward ports; and the *Macgregor Laird*, from Liverpool, 24th Sept., at Madeira on the 3rd inst., sailing the same day for Teneriffe. Her Majesty's ships *Wye* and *Cambria* were at Madeira.

RIVER GAMBIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Bathurst, Sept. 18, 1863.

Sir,—I have not yet been here long enough to justify me in entering with detail upon the general state of affairs in this river, but what I have learned hitherto has been in favour of the Governor, but against many points of the administration, and in especial against the *SYSTEM*.

As you have often exposed the *do-nothing-good* policy which prevails with regard to this river, I shall not say anything about it until I have become more intimately acquainted, which I shall do if I stay here, with what is not done that ought to be done, and with what is done that ought not to be done. But, from the aspect of Bathurst, and from floating reports, I do much fear that our national shortcomings are not few in this most northern of our African colonies and settlements.

One of the first things that struck me on my arrival was the groups of poor miserable beings squatted about the beach. These, I find, are all refugees—people who have fled here for protection from the countries which the Mohammedans under Maba have visited with fire and sword. The practice of these mixed Arab and African followers of the false prophet of Mecca conforms to the original practice of the hordes that overrun the fairest provinces of Asia, the north of Africa, and no inconsiderable portion of Europe in the middle ages. They are making a religious propaganda, conversion, or devastation of the country; and the death or slavery of such of the inhabitants who do not escape by flight is the invariable rule. And thus it seems some of the best portions of these countries are being destroyed—their industry annihilated, their populations slain, scattered, or enslaved. The Governor, I am informed, is very kind to these poor creatures, and attends to their wants as far as his means will allow. But the numbers are continually increasing, so that many will be literally starved to death, unless some more adequate supplies be obtained than those which are at present at the disposal of the Governor, Colonel D'Arcy.

As I have often heard from you of the Governor's extreme desire to populate British Combo, which is immediately adjacent, and seemingly a very fine tract of country, I cannot, how-

ever, understand why he has not immediately settled these people there. Perhaps that, too, requires some outlay at first that he has not the power to make.

Surely something ought to be done to put a stop to those Mohammedan devastations and horrors. I am aware that, from the intense fanaticism of the Mandingoes, it would require a vigorous demonstration against them before any serious check could be placed upon them. The French have put down a similar nuisance in the Senegal, as you are well aware. I dare say it cost a good deal of money, as well as some time; but from all I hear it has been well done, and the Senegal populations have rest, industry increases, and the exports from the river are becoming large. You must take the affairs of this River Gambia vigorously in hand, as you have done with those of other parts of the coast.—Yours,

SIERRA LEONE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Freetown, Sept. 19.

Sir,—I am sure you will be sorry to learn from me that our excellent Governor, Major Blackall, has been very unwell. But he is getting better, and I hope will soon be quite restored to health.

It is reported that the offices of Colonial Secretary and of Treasurer here are to be separated; and some apprehension seems to be entertained that the latter appointment will be given to a person who has not been a very long time here, and who, as one of our local papers says, can have no other claim than that *he is Irish and white*.

From all that I have seen hitherto, I do not believe that Governor Blackall will give the Treasurer's office to an improper person, and if I quote a few remarks of the editor of the paper before alluded to (*Free Press*), it is not because I have any fear in the present instance, but because the principle advocated is a good and sound one—not always the case, by-the-by, in these latitudes: "Let the Treasurer and his chief clerk be brought here from Europe or the colonies, and even let them be 'white.' We want new men with some antecedents, who will come and bring with them different habits to those who have lived here fifteen or twenty years—men who will be an example to our people: don't let us have all the vices of Europe, and none of its virtues. Ask the Secretary of State to send us men who are reported moral characters; we won't scrutinise and dive into their private lives. Don't let us have those among us in high places who outrage every sense of decency and propriety, and whose rising generation cannot imitate without danger. Besides, we want men free from any local connexion, who will bring to their duties a new system. If our public accounts are to be audited, we are persuaded they should be so done by some person new to the work, who shall at once detect errors, which an old hand is not likely to do."

Mr. John B. Elliott, whom the Governor lately appointed to be manager of the Kent and Lea Districts, has been officiating for twenty years as secretary and occasional pastor of the congregation of the Countess of Huntingdon connexion here. The congregation have presented him with a handsome Bible on the occasion of his leaving for his official duties.

I informed you, a short time since, of the wreck of the schooner Governor Hill, belonging to M. M. P. Horton. The master of the schooner has been sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment for plundering the cargo of the schooner. The mate will have three years' imprisonment. It was a gross case, and deserved punishment.

Prince Manna is doing great harm at the Boom River. As I wrote last month, there is no real and permanent remedy but to extend the boundaries of Sierra Leone to the frontiers of Liberia. The old slave-trade populations of the Coast, and their chiefs, must be under the strong hand, or they will perpetually kill and destroy. The traders of this colony and the poor labouring people of the invaded districts are the victims. To make slaves is the great object in view in all these petty barbarous wars.—Yours,

SHERBORO.

COTTON PLANTING.

The importance both to England and to Africa of cotton cultivation in the latter is so great, that we have particular pleasure in giving the following particulars of an effort in the right direction at Bendoo, Sherboro. We repeat our old assertion, that Africa ought to be made to supply all the wants of British manufactures as regards supply of cotton; that there is nothing in the African climate to deter plantation efforts that did not formerly, and does not still, partially exist in our West Indian colonies; and that the only thing wanting is security for adequate capital and a good direction of efforts.

We copy the following on this important subject from the *Early Dawn*, the admirable little missionary paper published at the Sherboro:—

"A few days since we were favoured with a brief survey of a portion of Mr. M. B. Horton's farming operations at Bendoo, and we are ready to say we saw much that was gratifying. This effort to make the wilderness a fruitful field is truly commendable, and well worthy the imitation of others. Though feeling himself wanting in the agricultural knowledge necessary to insure success, yet he resolved to make an effort to raise cotton from the soil of Sherboro at a paying rate. He has accordingly invested and given regular employment to (according to his own estimate) 50 men, by whose labour he has under cultivation more than 100 acres, twelve or fifteen acres being planted with ginger, and the rest with cotton and cassada; all of which seems thriving well, and encourages the hope of good returns in time of harvest. The cotton is of the Egyptian and Sea Island varieties. From cotton gathered last year he has already gathered 900lbs. clean cotton and 790lbs yet remaining in the seed. We wish all who engage in like agricultural improvements the best success."

We are so convinced that cotton and slavery are perishing together in the late "Southern States of the Union," America, that the day of small things in African cotton planting is not to be despised. The climate of the Sherboro is admirable for cotton cultivation. The Sherboro is very near England. The whole of the Sherboro must be annexed to Sierra Leone, and we hope to live to chronicle the arrival in British ports of *fleets of cotton-laden ships* from the Sherboro.

The only other items of news are the following:—

"The war party from the Gallinas that last month captured and destroyed several towns on the Boom has this last month (August) made the Boom Kittam the scene of its operations."

"Yandahu and several other smaller towns have been destroyed, and Mr. E. Geislinger, of Bonthe, has lost property to a large amount."

"The town of Gbapp has been besieged, but at latest accounts was not yet taken. The commander at Victoria has gone to Gbapp to endeavour to effect a peace."

"We regret to learn that the schooner *Alligator*, belonging to Mr. Emanuel Geislinger, of Bonthe, was wrecked at Sea Bar on the 30th ult. The vessel and cargo are, we learn, an entire loss."

"Lieut. Walsh, recently in command in the Sherboro, has been transferred to the West Indies, and Lieut. Riley takes his place. Lieut. Walsh has been for some months the commander and acting manager for the Sherboro, and has, we believe, discharged the duties of his office with energy and discretion. The good wishes of the people will go with him."

LIBERIA.

The following, from the *Liberia Herald*, is a quiet cut at Great Britain which can only be made harmless by some energetic measures on our part to prevent the devastations of the Boom, the Boom Kittam, &c., by Prince Manna and others of the notorious Gallinas evildoers. But although England has not put forth her arm to quiet that nest of hornets, she could do so without any inconvenience, and effectually; while it could only be partially done by Liberia, and at a continuous cost that Liberia could not defray. We therefore maintain our opinion, that the main objections on the part of Her Majesty's Government herein alluded to were well-founded ones. What Liberia wants is a development of the resources of some of the ample territory she already

possesses, and not to extend her boundaries on the Coast by acquisitions that would prey continually on her finances, or leave those districts thus acquired to be an enduring nuisance to their neighbours of Sierra Leone:—

"We learn from the *Sierra Leone Free Press* that throughout the Sherboro Country the most fearful inroads are being made by Prince Manna, of the Gallinas—that much British property had been destroyed, and that English traders were leaving for Sierra Leone. Some of our readers will remember that one of the main objections to Her Majesty's Government acknowledging the Sherbar as the northern boundary of Liberia, was the apprehension that we could not protect British property in that neighbourhood."

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Cape Coast, Sept. 14, 1863.

Sir,—Since my last nothing very important has occurred here. I am happy to inform you that we have, at last, got some *soldiers* on the Gold Coast. I don't mean wild men just caught from the bush and stuck into Zouave dresses, and officered by equally wild and green youths, fresh from the bogs of Tipperary, and differing from their men absolutely in nothing but the colour of their skins; but I mean men who have been properly trained and disciplined as soldiers by experienced officers, who understand their business, and who *have* had some education. A portion of the 4th West India Regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Conran, arrived here on the 13th ult., in H.M. troop ship *Megara* from Jamaica; they muster about 450 strong, and the rest are expected shortly. A few days after their arrival the corps of Gold Coast *Cossacks à Pied* was disbanded entirely; so that now there's an end to that greatest curse that has ever afflicted this part of Africa. About half-a-dozen of its officers, including its late "*Major Commanding*," are still here; they should have left ere this, either in the *Megara* for Jamaica, or for England by some other means; but the public have been given to understand that the Governor and Commander-in-Chief have raised objections to their being permitted to effect their departure until a strict inquiry has been instituted into the Bobeeccomah business, and also into other matters connected with the recent wonderful campaign, which matters people here are inclined to think wear a peculiarly *Yankeeified* aspect. If the result is permitted to ooze out, you may depend upon having a faithful report of it. Those who are aware of all the errors, omissions, and deficiencies on the part of the gentlemen of the McClellan and Hooker school of recently-discovered tactics, who had the military conduct of the late—what shall I call it?—against the Ashantees, make no bones about expressing their opinions as to what that result will be, or ought to be.

By-the-by, that just reminds me to acquaint you that the latest intelligence from Coomassie of an authentic nature announces the execution of one of the Ashantee generals, who fought under Prince Osso Cokkor, at the battle of Esseeccomah, in April last. This chief, "Ekkuah Koom" by name, and one of the most prominent men in the kingdom, was put to death for having displayed a little too much discretion, and not quite enough valour, whilst in the actual presence of the enemy.

It appears that soon after the return of the invading army to the capital, a court of inquiry, presided over by Quaku Duah in person, sat to ascertain if the Prince and his subordinate captains had done their duty in the field as became brave men and faithful subjects. It was proved that Ekkuah Koom was absent from the head of his division at a most critical moment. His excuse was that he left his post to obtain orders from the Commander-in-Chief as to how he should act, as his division had succeeded in turning the left flank of the Fantee army, and he wished to have the sanction of his Royal Highness to complete their destruction. Now, whoever heard the like of that? Such an excuse might have passed current with our people and our Government, but in Ashantee it was considered anything but legal tender, and so the cautious general was handed over to the tender mercies of the executioner, who at once deprived him of his head. This is how things are managed in Coomassie, and it

is this which keeps up the discipline and bravery of the Ashantee army, and makes its members so utterly regardless of death in the field.

There is a tale told of a certain officer, who was in chief command of another army, and who left his post for the express purpose (at least so he himself asserted) of asking another official higher in office than himself, but yet a civilian, and who was some fifty miles from his head-quarters, what course he should pursue; if he should fight, or how!!! This is no idle tale, I can assure you; it is a matter of fact well known to the whole Gold Coast. Fortunate it was for this commander that the same laws do not prevail, or rather are not usually so fully carried out, in his country as in that of the unfortunate Ekkuah Koom, who in point of fact was only acting up to his instructions, which were, that, as commander of the vanguard, he was not to fire on any Fantees except in self-defence, or when they were endeavouring to aid Ajeman, the Chief of Akim, of whom they were in pursuit. Having routed those that had attempted to check his advance, he feared to follow them up without express orders given to him personally from the Prince's own mouth. So much for Ekkuah Koom.

There are a hundred rumours floating about as to the intentions of the King and his people towards us, which rumours I have no doubt have been duly chronicled and will be forwarded by those reporters who make it their business to collect and furnish all the latest *canards*. On the 17th ult. an Ashantee messenger arrived at the castle with some 150 Dutch subjects, natives of Elmina, under his charge. He brought a message from Quaku Duah to Governor Pine, to the effect that his Majesty requested his Excellency would hand them over to the governor of the Dutch settlements. These men had been residing for a considerable period in his capital, carrying on trade there. The reason assigned by the King for taking this step was that as the Elminas are neutrals, he is afraid that if they were to remain any longer in his dominions whilst he was at war with the tribes under the British, the latter might entertain the idea that the Dutch subjects at Coomassie had joined his forces, and might thereupon retaliate upon Elmina and other Dutch towns; so, to avoid suspicion, he sent them down. Now, as it is a standing rule with the Ashantees to say one thing and mean another very opposite, we are left to conjecture what this step means, and what it is the precursor of.

The two gentlemen sent by Governor Pine to Akim to attempt to bring about a reconciliation between the two rival chiefs, Attah and Ajeman, have returned, after having succeeded in effecting the object of their mission. This step on the part of Governor Pine is rather an important one, and if either of his two predecessors in office had performed their duty towards the Akim chiefs, this present war would never have broken out. Had not Governor Andrews, by permitting two of the most powerful chiefs in the Protectorate to go to war and their people to slaughter each other, displayed the weakness of his administration, and his inability to promote union and maintain order amongst the tribes under his rule and the so-called protection of his government, Quaku Duah would never have dreamt of sending his armies to invade us. There are abundant facts to support this assertion. The members of the two administrations immediately preceding Governor Pine's were, generally speaking, so much engaged in plotting against and endeavouring to effect the ruin of each other, that they never had time to attend to those duties involving the interests of the country. The consequence is, that all the evils conceived in their days have been fathered upon a Governor in nowise responsible for them. In order to arrive at a clear comprehension of the circumstances which led to the existing Ashantee war, it is absolutely necessary that you should be in possession of the facts connected with the little war that broke out in 1860 between Attah and Ajeman, and which, properly speaking, had not ceased when the Ashantee army invaded the territory of the latter.

I shall make it my duty to lay the full particulars before you as soon as I have received some communications that I have been promised from certain friends who are in a position to furnish such authentic information on the subject as I am not already

possessed of. One fact, however, I may mention here, that no actual collision would have occurred between Attah and Ajeman, and no blood would have been shed, had it not been for the strange and unaccountable conduct of the officer of the Gold Coast Artillery who was detached from Christiansborg Castle, Accra, with some fifty of his men, for the express purpose of interposing and mediating between the hostile chiefs. This officer was despatched to Akim in the double capacity of diplomatist and military commander. His diplomacy proved to be of the most inferior order, and his military capacity, even in those days, to be still inferior to his ability as negotiator. After having done all he could to increase the ill feelings of the two chiefs towards each other, and seeing that a battle was imminent between them, instead of remaining on the spot to execute his orders, he suddenly "skedaddled" with his troops, and did not stop until he reached Christiansborg Castle!! A severe battle took place between the rival forces the instant he turned his back, which never would have occurred had he remained on the spot even alone and without a single soldier, such was the respect that both Attah and Ajeman had for the British Government. On a previous occasion the presence of Mr. T. B. Freeman alone, who was British commissioner, had the effect of preventing a similar shedding of blood on the part of these two chiefs. When I add that this gallant officer and astute diplomatist was the commander of our forces in the late flight from the undisciplined and semi-barbarous horde with which Prince Ozoo Cokkor invaded our territories, you will not be surprised.

There is some talk of another campaign being opened in November next, when our people are to assume the offensive. There appear to be no active signs thereof at present. If it is delayed beyond the 1st December, it might just as well be deferred for twelve months. If properly conducted, it cannot fail in its object—viz., the capture of Coomassie; but unless all jealousies are set aside *pro tem.*, and matters are managed in quite a different manner to that which has been usually adopted here, I shall consider the man who returns home alive from the expedition a very lucky fellow.

In entering into these details respecting an officer, and others, now happily no longer in command, it is only in the hope that in your paper, which has had no small influence in bringing about some vitally-important changes here, you will enforce the necessity of committing the charge of future military operations against the Ashantees to men of talent and bravery. It is only thus that the dreadful evils impending over these countries can be dissipated.—Yours &c.,

CAPE COAST JUSTICE, ETC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Sept. 14, 1863.

Sir,—His Excellency the Governor has just returned from Accra, where he has been investigating charges brought against Major de Ruvigne, the chief civil commandant, and his associate, Justice James Bannerman, for wilful and corrupt practices, carried on by virtue of their position and power as justices of the peace. The former gentleman has been dismissed from his post of civil commandant. The latter has got twelve months' hard labour in the chain gang, for embezzlement and extortion in his capacity as justice of the peace. There are no less than 169 people who have suffered at these two gentlemen's hands. One would imagine that it would be almost a matter of impossibility for such a state of things to go on long without coming before the notice of the Governor; but certain it is that for upwards of two years Major de Ruvigne and Mr. James Bannerman have been carrying on a system of government exactly similar to the Dahoman style, with one exception—viz., the cutting off of heads. For instance, Mr. James Bannerman, being short of cash one day, he asked Major de Ruvigne to let him have a set of hammock men to take him into the bush. His request was complied with, and to add to the impudence of his villany, the Queen of England paid for the hire of the men. And would you believe that this visit of Mr. James Bannerman was for the purpose of extorting money from poor, helpless natives

in the interior? This fact has been proved—viz., that Mr. James Bannerman kidnapped a poor man and his wife, and sold them for one hundred dollars, which was afterwards lost over a gambling-table at James Town, Accra.

Such, Sir, has been the state of things at Accra. I leave you to form your own opinion. Then, at Cape Coast Castle, what would you expect? Certainly a better state of things; but, alas! there is one here who has just begun to exercise something like a similar tyranny to that of the Justice's of the Peace at Accra. A man is imprisoned for disobeying an order of court, and he is ordered to find two sureties of 10*l.* each for his future good behaviour. *He does so*, and, without any reason whatever, he is kept in prison, and the party who interests himself on his behalf is threatened to be committed to prison for three weeks if he dares to say a word on the subject.

Another case is, a man who happened to be a witness to a crime (or, rather, a supposed one), and who has never been summoned, and who, moreover, is *totally blind*, is cast into prison as a felon. Now, Sir, if there is not something radically wrong in our mode of government here, I am very much mistaken. I send you herewith the correspondence that has taken place in reference to the prisoner Cudjoe Fauni, and which has been placed in my hands with permission to do so, in order that you may form your own opinion.* We cannot tolerate this unheard-of tyranny any longer; we look to you, as the friend of Africa and the black man, to expose these crying evils, and we feel certain that you will exert your influence to help us. Depend upon it, that if this state of things goes on we must lose our position amongst the natives. They are sensitive to wrong as much as we are. And nothing made our former Chief Justice, Corner, so beloved and respected, as his desire to do justice to every one. "Would that he were here now!" is the universal wish of every member of this community.

The 4th West India Regiment has arrived, and caused quite a sensation here. Their magnificent band plays two or three times a-week, and to witness their parade is really a treat. The castle, from being a nasty filthy hole, has become a pleasant place to visit; in fact, Colonel Conran is looked up to as a wonder. It is to be hoped that the Government will see the great necessity of giving up entirely the fort to the military, so as not to mix civil with military, as heretofore; for while they are all huddled together there never will be a good understanding for any length of time, and it will be impossible for them to pull together or even respect one another. I believe in my heart of hearts that the late quarrels originated through this cause alone. We hear nothing more of the war. The last messenger of the King of Ashantee was seized and most brutally treated by the Assims, who are under our protection; he had at the time a letter from the Governor here. We are anxious to know what his Excellency intends doing in the matter. If it is allowed to pass unnoticed, it will be a disgrace to us, and will exasperate the King of Ashantee most fearfully against us. I had intended to send you a lengthy account of the trials at Accra, but I have been unfortunate enough to lose them; I

* The correspondence here alluded to, and which has been thus forwarded by a person of much consideration on the Coast, consists of the copy of commitment, by Chief Justice Hackett, to hold the prisoner in custody till he gave two sureties in 10*l.* each for his future good behaviour; of a demand of the prisoner's release, on the ground of informality, by "W. C. Finlason, prisoner's agent"—to which letter, it is said, Mr. Relph, the Inspector of Prisons, sent a most insolent verbal reply, to the effect that he would not answer the letter—and, finally, the following:—

[Copy.]

"To Charles Relph, Esq., J.P. and Stipendiary Magistrate.

"September 9, 1863.

"Sir,—I have to inform you that the prisoner, Cudjoe Fauni, now in prison under an order of his Honour the Chief Justice, dated 12th August, 1863, is prepared with two substantial sureties 'for his future good behaviour.' I shall be glad to know if you are prepared to receive their recognizances to-day.—I am, Sir, &c.,

"W. C. FINLASON,
"Prisoner's Agent."

Which is thus endorsed: "In reply to this, Mr. Relph also returned an insolent message, to the effect that he would not take any notice of my letter.—(Signed) W. C. F."

doubt not, however, that you will have them from your other correspondents. Immediately on Major de Ruvigne being dismissed, his native wife (Bannerman's sister) took *nitric acid*, for the purpose of destroying herself. Poor thing! she now lies in a hopeless state.

In conclusion, I can assure you that there never was such a state of things on the Coast before. We hope for better, after this storm among Her Majesty's civil and military servants here has cleared away the scum from among them.—Yours truly,

P.S.—The Gold Coast officers leave to-day without a regret. Cochrane was hissed by all.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Accra, September 11, 1863.

Sir,—I have just received a communication from a well-qualified person with regard to the Ashantee war, which I think you will consider to be of some importance. It is as follows:—

"I have no doubt it will be interesting for you to know in what way the Ashantees could perhaps be forced to make peace with the English Government without further shedding of blood. If the English Government would blockade all the line and cut off all trade with the Ashantees from Sofyi (near the late King Attah's country) to Kporng, on the River Volta, I daresay the Ashantees would, in a short time, beg the Governor to open the trade, and would pay any fine that the Governor might determine."

I must demur a little to this, because I believe that the Dutch in Elmina would be careful to supply the Ashantees with arms and ammunition.

He proceeds:—

"The most necessary articles upon which they live come from the Coast—i.e., salt, tobacco, cloth, and ammunition. A servant of the King of Ashantee himself (an uncle of mine) told me lately, 'If the white people only stop the sale of ammunition and guns, the so-called mighty power of Ashantee would break down in a short time.' They are already in perplexity for salt, tobacco, &c., and have now begun to trade with the Akwamu and Kporng people (in Kroboe). It would be a good thing if that could be stopped."

It seems evident to me, after long observation and experience that *Ashantee feels its dependence on the Coast, and therefore strives to take possession of the Fantee Country*. Salt cannot be procured by the Dutch, except they purchase it at Addah, and transport it to Elmina, which they will scarcely do. Therefore if the salt trade were stopped at Kporng—where the Ashantees are now paying six dollars in gold for salt that is only worth eight heads of cowries—that is, paying twenty-seven shillings in gold for what is worth only eighteen shillings in cowries—it would be a great blow to the enemy.

I enclose an interesting account of a case recently decided by the Chief of Aquapem, written by an educated native, which will give some insight into the character of these people:—

Major de Ruvigne is no longer chief civil commandant of these eastern districts. There has also been a quarrel between him and one of the Bannermans. There is an old adage about "honest men getting their own" in certain cases, which is not inappropriate as regards these people. Mr. Charles Bannerman is now full of virtuous indignation against de Ruvigne, and brings an enormous list of charges against him. It is quite true that no one can have had better opportunity of knowing of these matters than he has had. I rather expect you will hear of some very queer revelations.—Yours truly,

COLOURED TROOPS.—The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times* writes: "The numerical strength of the coloured regiments actually in the field is somewhat over 20,000 men—less than has been generally supposed. But it is estimated that before the end of the year the (Federal) Government will have 80,000 negro soldiers in the field. It is the opinion of eminent military men here that coloured regiments will form the basis of our future armies, and that the Government will have to rely mainly on coloured troops to finish up the rebellion."

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

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The African Times.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1863.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE Augean Stable of Official Iniquity at James Town, Accra, has been partially cleaned out by Governor Pine. It will be seen that one of our correspondents wonders the filth should have been allowed to accumulate for so long a time. We have reason to believe that the revelations of the *African Times* have led to this happy result.

Some of our letters from Cape Coast of September 12, state that Major Cochrane, Commander-in-Chief during the late muster of the army in the field, had been superseded, and was under arrest. Subsequent letters, dated Sept. 14, inform us that he had been permitted to embark with the other officers of the late Gold Coast Artillery.

Lieut.-Colonel Conran, of the 4th West India Regiment, had assumed the command of Her Majesty's forces on the Gold Coast.

It has been our melancholy duty to record the death of that most promising and esteemed young officer, Lieutenant-Commander Dolben, R.N., Commander of H.M.S. Investigator, by the swamping of his boat on the dangerous bar of Lagos. Africa is often taking from us a heavy tribute of valuable life; and this she has now exacted is one we shall never cease to deplore.

Mr. Stanhope Freeman, Governor of Lagos, and Mr. Ross, Colonial Secretary at the Gold Coast, who have been in England on sick leave, return to their respective posts by the mail steamer of the 23rd inst.

The accommodation at Cape Coast Castle is so insufficient for the troops of the 4th West Indian Regiment that have arrived from Jamaica, that some of the sergeants, with their families, have been located at Gothic House. We hope we shall not hear of sickness and death, as a consequence of overcrowding in the Castle, and of incanition on the part of those who are not subject to the restraints there enforced.

Contrary to our expectations, the Fort of Quittah has not been re-occupied, and the slave-trade through our dependencies is carried on openly and vigorously. The reparation of it has not even commenced.

We are sorry to find it necessary to caution the Post-office authorities at James Town, Accra, Gold Coast, against tampering with, or detaining, letters or papers forwarded by or to us.

We call the attention of our friends in Africa to the advertisement of the Company of African Merchants on our first page. We quite agree with the directors that there may be a very great increase of trade on the Coast by a liberal co-operation, such as they propose, with native traders, and through such facilities as they are enabled to offer to the latter; while we thoroughly agree with the principle laid down, of requiring credits or good security, as this insures the prosperity of the Company, and restrains traders from those extravagant expenses and wild operations which have plunged so many of them into difficulties that bring discredit upon their name and divest them of all power for good.

It is believed in the best-informed quarters, that the Ashantees will renew their invasion of the Gold Coast Territories, probably at the beginning of December. It is now perfectly ascertained that the actual invading force during the late campaign consisted of only 12,000 men; but other 30,000 were on the Praah

in reserve, and an additional force of 20,000 with the King at Comassie. Owosoo Cokkor, who commanded the 12,000, is not the son-in-law of the King, but his brother and cousin.

James Fort and Christiansborg Castle, Accra, remain in the half-ruined state to which they were reduced by the earthquake in July, 1862. The 200 men of the 4th West India Regiment stationed there are obliged to have houses hired for them.

Our correspondent at Lagos is in error. Dr. Baikie is not at present to be withdrawn from the River Niger. It is intended he should remain there at least another year.

We are glad to be able to state that trade at the oil rivers is rapidly improving, and that the Company of African Merchants are assured by the last mail of very profitable operations at several of their stations on the Coast, to which they despatched goods immediately on the formation of the company in July last. Respecting the other West African companies, we have no dependable information.

THE (COLONY OF THE) GOLD COAST.

THE Colony of the Gold Coast! We begin to despair of any real effective good being done at the Gold Coast, until it be raised to the rank of a colony of the British Crown. Not that our colonies are always well administered. Far from it. Bungling and incapacity, obstinacy and indifference, considerations of party, and absence of all considerations whatever, have often made a sad mess of but too many of them. But they right themselves sooner or later. The British people and Government are committed to their progress. Efforts are made, or are at least supposed to be made, for their substantial and permanent good. The British leaven gets there. They are examined and explored and tested; their capabilities are discovered, and some one or other is sure to endeavour to utilise those capabilities. There is a basis of real property to go upon. The sense of possession gives them a real or fictitious value in the public eyes, that justifies expenditure on objects and for purposes of utility and development.

But "Her Majesty's forts and settlements and the Protected Territories on the Gold Coast" are very differently circumstanced. They and their affairs are looked upon as a great bore at the Colonial-office. They are a portion of the empire to whose retention and advancement no one stands officially pledged. When any difficulties arise—and these are generally the fruit of neglect and misgovernment—there is a talk of "giving them up." Of what use are they? it is asked. Even the patronage of them is more troublesome than advantageous. They have not even the merit of contributing to official somnolence by quietude and stagnation. They are what our neighbours over the Channel term "remuantes." They give continual trouble—trouble that seems to the official mind to be about trifles; troubles the arrangement or settlement of which brings neither profit nor future peace. And why are they thus restless and troublesome? Because there are great interests of humanity at stake there—because the embryo of a mighty future is expanding within the restraints and fetters of barbarism and superstition—because a people, ready to be born, is struggling unwittingly toward the light—because realms of wealth and beauty are there endeavouring to burst the cerements of the bloody tomb in which they have been bound by an abominable superstition and by that accursed slave-trade, through whose agency we and other European nations procured labourers for raising tropical produce in the islands of the West, whose populations had been destroyed, hunted down, enslaved, deported, and annihilated by demons in human form thirsting for the mineral spoils of the new world.

Possessed of the seacoast from the River Assinee to beyond the River Volta, with the exception of a few points occupied by the Dutch, Great Britain holds the key of all the territories lying between the Coast and the Kong Mountains. But we have only forts and settlements on the Coast, and the rule, more nominal than real, that we exercise over the countries south of the kingdom of Ashantee, from the River Praah, &c., to the Gulf of Guinea, is not as possessors, but as protectors. The countries and the tribes are under our protection. That protection is supposed to be twofold: protection against the slavetraders to prevent any

more of the population being shipped beyond the seas to grow sugar, coffee, and cotton; and protection against the kingdom of Ashantee, the sovereigns of which have ever been striving to establish themselves on the seacoast; originally, that they might sell directly to the slave-ships the people they had subjected (like the King of Dahomey at Whydah and Popo), and later, that they might import directly those articles from Europe and elsewhere which have become necessary to their existence.

Now we do not hesitate to say that the country from the Coast to the Kong Mountains, including Ashantee, is naturally among the richest of the world. But we have been so long in presence there without seemingly any other national objects in view than to repress the slave-trade (which had robbed those countries of nineteen-twentieths of their population), and to get a little palm-oil and gold-dust in barter for our rums, cotton, crockery, guns and powder, that the enormous latent wealth at our command is officially ignored. So entirely ignored, indeed, that it seems to be no longer thought necessary to preserve those people, who should be, under British guidance, the instruments for its development. Our letters from Quittah by this month's mail show that the great scandal and enormity we have long pointed out, and the removal of which, by the reoccupation of the Fort of Quittah, we have incessantly and strongly urged, a slave-trade from these our own dependencies is being actively and increasingly carried on. Out of tender compassion, we suppose, to the Ashantees, we are officially winking at the horrid trade there, which, when practised by the King of Dahomey and the wild tribes of the River Congo, we officially denounce. We are spending hundreds of thousands a-year for a squadron to put down a trade which we allow to be carried on with impunity from countries where we have an undisputed right of control. This could not happen if those forts and settlements, and protected territories, were elevated to the rank of a colony. If we had—if we acknowledged that we had really a colony there to defend, we should not leave Quittah open to the invaders of those possessions, for the sale of the captures made by them from among people who owe us allegiance, for the supply of their armies and population with munitions of war to be used against us, and for obtaining goods the stoppage of which would strongly incline the King of Ashantee and his people to the restoration of peace.

We are almost tired of calling attention to Gold Coast mismanagement. True, we have the satisfaction derived from the certainty of doing some good. We feel that we have led to the breaking up of that gang of official depredators in the eastern provinces whose actions have long dishonoured this country, and for whose rebuke and chastisement Governor Pine is entitled to our warmest thanks. But there is so much to remedy—there are so many evils to be got rid of—there is so much to be officially done before any real advancement can take place—that the only hope we have is, that by the force of events our Government will feel themselves compelled to make a colony of territories which we can neither abandon nor continue to misrule, as at present, without flagrant dishonour to the British name. This question has now become of such pressing importance, that we shall enter largely in our next upon the considerations involved, and the practical remedies required—a colony, and such an administration of that colony as shall atone for the past, and give reasonable hopes as regards the future.

AFRICAN COTTON.

We must have cotton. Some national effort ought to be made for it. The war in America goes on in its hopeless course. Cotton production in the Southern States is under daily process of annihilation. All the boasted substitutes for cotton have proved to be no substitutes at all. At this time last year they cropped up with remarkable vigour, until we began to think Science would make the coveted fibre out of Canada deals. But all the fancied discoveries and inventions failed beneath the exactions of a practical manufacturing test. One real discovery alone remained. *There is no substitute for cotton, but cotton.* As America fails, and India cannot give the necessary abundance, every other source of supply must be stimulated. It is not a

matter to be trifled with. The national energies should be evoked. We have again and again insisted on the national capacities of Africa to supply what America fails to send us. African cotton was the parent of American. It resembles it in the character of its fibre. It only requires a little more attention to its cultivation, gathering, and preparation in Africa to become a perfect and equally valuable substitute.

Why, then, it will be asked, do not our merchants take the necessary steps for procuring this desirable cotton in the desired quantities? The answer is simple enough. Those who risk the cost of establishing the industry in Africa will have to do it as much for others as for themselves. They will not be able to create a monopoly. It is not desirable that they should. When they shall have obtained a costly success, others will flock in upon the heels of the pioneers, and reap where they have sown. We have inquired largely into the subject. We have seen African cotton in the mills, and know its value. We have talked with the merchants who might be supposed to be the proper persons to undertake the procuring of it. Why cannot the cotton be got? And what is the reply? Just what ought to be expected from English merchants. It is only a question of pounds, shillings, and pence. There is not an adequate inducement. No one in England would devote a hundred thousand pounds to open a coal mine, that Tom, Dick, and Harry might go into, and raise and then sell coal without sharing in the preliminary cost or making compensation for it.

The question is becoming a more and more serious one every day. We cast our eyes on Lancashire, and we see no adequate relief in any other way than by a supply of cotton. It is all very well that the nation bears up grandly under the calamity. But the manufacturing operatives must be considered. Voluntary contributions from their fellow-subjects will not continue to feed them. Public works cannot always employ them. It cannot be expected. It ought not to be expected. Many most valuable institutions have been brought to the verge of ruin by the withdrawal of support from them to meet the greater immediate exigencies of last winter's agonising distress in Lancashire. No; the voluntary effort then made cannot be repeated. And shall the nation then look calmly on its financial prosperity, and do nothing to diminish or control the pressure caused by non-employment? Certainly not, if there be any means of Government action available. We must express our opinion that a great responsibility weighs now upon the Government in this matter of an adequate and permanent supply of the requisite cotton to the manufacturers of this country. No one can object more than we do, under all ordinary circumstances, to any factitious aids in production or commerce. But there are exceptional occasions and circumstances, and this is one. Cotton must be had. It can be had. But it cannot be had without some national participation in the cost of organising the earlier efforts of those whose natural business it is to get it. Looking, therefore, to the exigencies of our position, we say that if some participation in the risk and cost of the efforts of any merchants who may direct their energies to this great public effort are indispensable, and might be effectual, Government ought not to hesitate about giving it. As administrators of the public revenue, they are bound to take care that not one penny of the public money is expended without some due return. But with this restriction, we think they have an unlimited field of action. We never beat about the bush. We never recommend by insinuation. What we approve we boldly support. We understand that a public body of eminent mercantile men feel assured that within a very short time they would be able, by the employment of extraordinary means, to procure 100,000 bales of cotton from one specified district in Africa. They have publicly stated this.* All that they require is that the Government should, on the public behalf, assist, either by subsidy or bounty, in the expense of those extraordinary means requisite for laying the foundation of a supply which, if it once reaches the above-mentioned amount, will, no doubt, afterwards progress to a million bales a-year, as the area of production is immense, labour abundant, and all that is

* Vide prospectus of the Company of African Merchants.

wanting is to prepare the way for a safe application of British capital in the employment of native labour.

Exceptional cases demand exceptional means. It has often been urged upon us to advocate a Government bounty upon all cotton from Western Africa during a certain period. We do not think that this is necessary as regards districts accessible by sailing vessels. The crop is soon raised, and the price now is very high. But where the employment of the costly agency of Steam is indispensable, and where the Government admit, as they do in this case, that there are reasonable hopes of a large supply if that more costly agency be employed, we think that there ought to be no hesitation about a conditional tribute from the public purse, for results of such great public importance. We have long insisted upon the capability of the Niger districts to yield such supplies as are herein alluded to. And whatever difficulty may have been felt by the Government as to the propriety of public aid to be made a bait for the formation of companies, or to bolster up inadequate organizations, there ought to be none where an undoubtedly adequate capital is ready in the hands of experienced men to be applied in furtherance of so great and important a work. The agency of steam upon such a river as the Niger is analogous to the agency of canals and roads in India. If it be justifiable to expend public money on such roads and canals, to stimulate and facilitate a supply of cotton from India, it is equally justifiable to expend public money in establishing permanent steam navigation on the Niger for similar objects. However assured they may feel of a great eventual success, no body of directors would be justified in employing the funds of their shareholders in such an enterprise, without temporary assistance from Government, as representatives of those public interests which must be benefited a thousand times more by such success than the company itself would be. As a nation, we throw away hundreds of thousands or millions a-year on objects of questionable public utility; and we therefore say unhesitatingly that to shrink from the expenditure of a few thousands a-year for four or five years for an object of the highest national importance, is a sacrifice of public interests to paltry considerations that cannot be too strongly condemned.

SLAVE-TRADE AT QUITTAH, GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—You have spoken in several numbers of your valuable paper of the reoccupation of the Fort of Quittah as a fact, or as being about to become a fact within a short time. I beg, however, to inform you hereby, that up to this day it has not been reoccupied, and it seems Her Majesty's Government does not think of doing so. I heard his Excellency the Governor has expressed his opinion in this wise—viz., that his force, not being strong enough to avenge any insult done to the British flag on the part of the natives, he would rather not occupy the fort at all.

In the meantime, we are left to our fate—i.e., to do as well as we can without a Government, and we manage it pretty well, except the slave-trade. *This is going on in a splendid style.* The country is full of money—American doubloons, twenty-dollar gold pieces, &c.—which is, no doubt, money that has been paid for slaves. People who formerly traded in palm oil now buy slaves, and every petty trader invests his little money in this more profitable trade. The slaves coming from the interior by the River Volta are sent down to Popo and Ahguay; and the people of the latter places also send money here to the traders to buy slaves for them. The other day I heard of a native (a palm-oil trader at Addah) to whom 500 dollars had been sent by a gentleman of Popo to buy ten slaves for him. There being such a good market for slaves at Popo and Ahguay, I suppose there must be many more vessels making their escape than is asserted by officers of Her Majesty's men of war; and all this in spite of the new treaty with the United States of America.

Being a witness of this every day, you will find it natural that I am sorry that Her Majesty's Government does not take any measures to prevent this trade, which is surely the ruin of the country, and which might be done away with by the reoccupation of the Fort of Quittah. Of course the reoccupation must be

with a commandant who would not betray his duty to a slave-dealer for a few good dinners. Before the fort was abandoned we had little or no slave-trade. That which we had existed in secret; but now it is carried on openly.

Hoping you will favour me with a space in your columns for the above, I remain, Sir, sincerely yours,
V.
Quittah, September 6, 1863.

Another correspondent in the same district writes:—

"The slave-trade agent of the late Mr. Lima has returned to Addah, on the west bank of the Volta, and has renewed the slave-trade vigorously. He is paying fifty dollars per head. It is nonsense to say that slaves are not shipped from Popo and Ahguay. The men and women are neither bought to be eaten, nor to be employed on the Coast, but for shipment to Cuba; and that they find their way there is certain. It seems scandalous to us that Quittah Fort is not reoccupied."

LAGOS, SEPT. 9.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

I have sad news indeed for you this time. That most active and promising officer whose exploration of the River Volta you chronicled last year, Lieut.-Commander Dolben, R.N., has met with a most untimely end. He had come down hastily from the Addo River, where he commanded H.M.'s ship Handy in an expedition to explore and clear away the obstructions to the navigation. He had succeeded in carrying up the Handy far beyond the extreme point to which the river had been considered navigable even for canoes. Having done this good service, he came back to assume the command of H.M.'s ship Investigator, having been appointed to succeed Commander Lefroy. The Investigator was under orders to ascend the River Niger, to bring down, as we believe, Dr. Baikie, H.M. Government having determined to withdraw him from that river. It was necessary that he should previously communicate with Commodore Wilmott, who, in the Rattlesnake, was outside the Bar. It is understood that some order had been given, under instructions from the Admiralty, about a greater economy of fuel; these prevented poor Lieut.-Commander Dolben from going out to the Rattlesnake in the Investigator, which he would otherwise have done. To this wretched economy, and Lieut.-Commander Dolben's too unreflecting intrepidity, we owe the sad loss of this valuable officer. He crossed the dangerous Bar in his four-oared whale-boat, manned by four Kroomen. On his return he had with him also Lieutenant Atkinson and a midshipman, Mr. Ewbank. The boat was swamped in the breakers. Lieut.-Commander Dolben, Lieutenant Atkinson, and one of the Kroomen, fell a prey to the hosts of sharks that infest these precincts; Mr. Midshipman Ewbank and the three surviving Kroomen drifting safely into harbour on the capsized boat.

It would be difficult to convey to you an idea of the sorrow this calamity has occasioned here, where Lieutenant Dolben, who had been some time on this station, and was harbour-master of Lagos, was greatly esteemed by every one.

The Investigator, nevertheless, left two days after, as intended, on her voyage up the Niger. Mr. McCrosky, who was acting-consul here after Mr. Consul Foote's death, and until the annexation of Lagos to the British Crown, went up in her on some business for the Government.

Mr. Peter Schmidt has been gazetted harbour-master, vice poor Lieutenant Dolben.

The Governor has decreed the formation of a town on British territory, opposite Epé, famous for Mr. Freeman's expedition, in which Major Leveson was wounded. He offers land in this township of Oko-Tapa to our merchants, for trading purposes only, at 3l. per acre. We all approve of the attempt to establish this town, which, if successful, will lead to increased communications with the interior of Yoruba by other route than that of Abeokuta. But is not this very decree of a town opposite Epé, on British territory, a strong condemnation of Governor Freeman's expedition, in which so many lives were wantonly cast away? I look at it as being so, and think you will do the same.

We are trying further experiments in taxation, and I shall be

curious to hear what you think about some of them. For instance, merchants who import and sell rum, &c., are to pay a licence of 50l. per annum; and all petty traders of every class a licence of 1l. per annum. Opinion is very much divided here on the subject. One result is certain, there will be no small importers of spirits.

I will tell you why this has been done. We are creating a great many paid offices here—money must be had for them—and the magnificent rum and tobacco duties, which were to yield 20,000l. a-year, will now, it is thought, produce not more than 5,000l., because traders will be such asses! as to go to Porto Novo, where there are no duties, in preference to paying heavy ones here. So in order, if possible, to prevent their carrying on a spirit business both here and at Porto Novo, they are to be enticed to give up the latter by a new exaction of 50l. per annum in addition to the said duties! Funny inducement, is it not? It is a pity we are not educated up to the point at which we might be able fully to comprehend the masterly policy of our talented rulers.

Our trading condition may be stated in three words—as *was* were. No arrangement yet with Abeokuta, and, in consequence, merchants suffering dreadfully.

One result of the friendly intercourse between the French Admiral, &c., and our Governor and merchants, mentioned in my last, is, that the boundaries of the respective French and English territories (for so they must now be called) around Porto Novo are likely to be at once settled.

Lieut.-Commander Moultrie has taken the command of H.M.'s ship Handy.

We are anxious to know whether Mr. Freeman is to come out again as Governor. A memorial has been got up here in favour of Captain Glover as Governor, greatly, I believe, to the captain's regret. But I scarcely need to tell you that the zeal of some persons is greater than their discretion. I hope our Acting Governor will not have cause to say, "Heaven preserve me from my (so-called) friends!" Yours, &c.,

MADAGASCAR.

Madagascar has become doubly interesting to us since the establishment of what may be called "constitutional checks" on the power of the Sovereign. The present Queen accepted these as the condition of her accession. The paragraph which we published last month from the French papers was one calculated to cause some inquietude, except that, as our friends of the London Missionary Society justly observe, "Every communication since the death of the late King, coming through the French medium, has proved to be either greatly exaggerated or wholly unfounded. That a revolution so recent, so sudden, and involving the assassination of Radama, who had been greatly beloved by large classes of the people, should be followed by temporary disorder and acts of hostility on the part of outlying tribes, was naturally to be expected. Such events, we have every reason to believe, have actually occurred. The Sakalavas, for instance, have always been forward to assert their independence, and at least a part of that tribe appears to have seized the opportunity to make inroads and commit acts of plunder upon the property of the Hovas."

In the last letter received from the Rev. Mr. Ellis (the only dependable authority), dated July 2, these acts of hostility are alluded to, and it would seem that the danger had passed away, "and that representatives from the different native tribes were then in the capital, professing their allegiance to the Queen." The following, on the above subject, and on the general character and proceedings of the Government, are from Mr. Ellis's letter:—

"A number of representatives from the Betsileo, the Sakalavas, and the Betsimisaraka, have come and are still coming to take the oath of allegiance to the new sovereign. They have all been most generously treated, admitted to the presence of the Queen, surrounded by all her officers, addressed kindly and encouragingly, as well as gratified by presents of cattle, &c., and are to-morrow to be entertained at a royal banquet at the palace. The affairs of the kingdom constitute now the business of the Government, in which Christians and heathen are combined;

promptitude and activity are everywhere apparent, and all parties are more careful in their public conduct. This state of things is not unfavourable to the Christians. The hereditary policy of the Hovas is 'Things as they have been;' 'The wisdom of our ancestors cannot be surpassed.' But so many innovations have turned out improvements and benefits, that the aim now seems to be to adopt what is good in the new, while retaining what they can of the old. All parties are deeply sensible of the advantages depending on the continuance of their friendship with England and France, which it is most ardently to be desired nothing may disturb."

ABYSSINIA.

Vice-Consul Walker, who has lately been residing on the coast of Abyssinia, has furnished a report of that country. He states that the slave-trade is still carried on there, though the King does not sanction it himself. Drovers of from thirty to forty men, women, and children are brought down to the coast, secreted in the Arab villages, and, under cover of night, put in small boats and dropped down with the tide to the larger craft that are in waiting to take them across to Jeddah, Mocha, or Addeio. In Jeddah they are sold in public market. The Vice-Consul found the climate of the Abyssinian coast in the summer, as he mildly says, "not adapted for a European constitution." He can compare it to nothing but a vast furnace, with not a leaf or a blade of grass surviving, and where it is impossible to find rest day or night. The temperature ranges from 115 deg. to 120 deg. in the shade. Even the Abyssinians from the interior cannot live in this climate for any length of time during the heat; the Vice-Consul bought a horse just brought from Ireland, but in two months it had gradually sunk under the change. When the rains set in, and the moisture of the earth, long suppressed, is suddenly restored, the herbage which springs up is at first poisonous, and mules often die from eating it. The Vice-Consul seems to have resided at Massowah, a coral island about 200 yards from the main land. While he was there the French purchased a place called Obokt, situated between Leila and the Babelmandel coast, from the Dunkalie Chieftain, and gave him 10,000 dollars for it. The Chieftain of the village, after receiving the money, disappeared, and his successor did not countenance the claim or right of the French to purchase this site, nor of the Chieftain to dispose of it, and the few huts that were erected by the French on that coast while occupied in surveying were, after their departure, thrown into the sea by the natives.

THE SPEEDWELL, 5, gun vessel, Commander George F. Cottam, bent sails alongside the receiving hulk Salsette, at Woolwich, on the 9th inst., and received over her crew, under orders to go down the river, and test her machinery and rate of speed at the measured mile. After this she would ship her powder and proceed to the West Coast of Africa.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVER.—On the 23rd of August a schooner—name and nation unknown—captured by Her Majesty's ship Espoir, arrived at St. Helena with 466 slaves; and on the 26th of that month the Espoir also arrived at the roadstead with 111 slaves, the remainder of the surviving negroes who were on board the schooner when captured. 200 of the males above twelve years of age, who were willing to serve as soldiers, have been selected for service in the West India regiments; the remaining portion, 282 males and 95 females, have been lodged, under the care of the Government superintendent, at Rupert's Valley. [We have had several communications on the subject of this supposed volunteering on the part of captives just liberated from the hold of a slave-ship. It must be clear to every one that they cannot comprehend overmuch the nature of the engagement they are making. But when thus enlisted as soldiers they are under control for civilization; and as they owe a great debt of gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for their liberation from the vile slave-ship and subsequent atrocious slavery in Cuba, we think Her Majesty's Government are entitled to their services for the good of Africa. We shall, however, make some further remarks on this subject.—Ed. A. T.]

AFRICAN FIBRES.

WE were present with the Directors of the Company of African Merchants at Bradford, on Wednesday, the 21st inst., to witness experiments in the extraction of fibre from African plants by Messrs. Sandford's patent machine, and the subsequent preparation of the fibres for manufacturing purposes by means the sole use of which has been secured to this company. The experiments left no doubt on the mind that African fibres are destined to play a great part in the manufactures of Great Britain, while the small cost at which they can be obtained, and prepared by the processes there shown, insures very large profits to those who perform the important public service of procuring them for our manufacturers.

OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, DUBLIN, AND DURHAM MISSION.—Letters from the mission in Eastern Africa were received on the 6th inst. Their latest date was May 18th. The previous report of the lamented death of Dr. Dickenson is confirmed by these letters. He died on the 17th March from an attack of malignant bilious fever. The doctor was one of the most earnest supporters of the above mission. "The members of the mission have all more or less suffered from illness; but their opinion is that if the mission could be removed to the highlands, it would be successful. From Bishop Tozer's party news has been received to the 19th of June. The Rev. Dr. Steere writes from Quillimane, June 19, to the effect that his party have stayed for a fortnight at the Kongone mouth of the Zambesi waiting for canoes. Only four of those promised by Senhor Nunez arrived, and the party hired two more, in which they made their way to Mazar, where they learned that famine had almost destroyed the nations on the Shire up to the mission. Bishop Tozer, hearing that the banks of the Shire were in the hands of Mariano, determined to send on the canoe laden with food which had been found at Mazar, then himself to go with the Rev. C. A. Alington in his whale-boat to the station, and, finally, to visit the Morumbala, for the purpose of reporting on its fitness for a mission-station. The members of the mission report themselves in excellent health." Dr. Livingstone also is failing in health, and everything seems to presage the necessity of transferring the field of operation in Africa to that part of Central Africa that may be reached from the West Coast, *via* the River Niger, and the Rabba, &c., where monthly communication could be had with the mission. Dr. Livingstone, writing to Sir R. Murchison, announces the death of a distinguished young geologist, Mr. Richard Thornton: "Murchison Cataracts (on the Shire), April 23.—With sorrow I communicate the sad intelligence that Mr. Richard Thornton died on the 21st current. He performed a most fatiguing journey from this to Tette and back again, and that seemed to use up all his strength; for, thereafter, he could make no exertion without painful exhaustion. His object was to connect his bearings of the hills at Tette (on the Zambesi) with the mountains here. I knew nothing of his resolution till after he had left. He had resolved to go home after he had examined Zomba and the Melanje range, but on the 11th he was troubled with diarrhoea, which ran on to dysentery and fever. We hoped to the last that his youth and unimpaired constitution would carry him through, as he had suffered comparatively little from fever; but we were disappointed. An insidious delirium prevented us learning aught of his last wishes. All his papers, &c., were at once sealed up, and are sent home to his brother at Bradford. He is buried about 500 yards from the foot of the first cataract, and on the right bank of the Shire." After alluding to the depopulation of the valley, and the probability of his being obliged to take to pieces the steamer, and screw her together, with the view of a sale, Dr. Livingstone thus concludes: "Dr. Kirk and Mr. Charles Livingstone now go home. The scene of desolation around us reacts on my health badly."

THE Government of the United States has offered to buy from loyal landowners in Maryland all such slaves as may be deemed able to bear arms at the price of 300 dols. each; these freed men will instantly be enlisted as soldiers in the coloured regiments. I wish you could hear the comments of these Kentuckians on that decree.—*Times*.

A NEW AFRICAN FIELD FOR COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE.

THE OGO-WAI RIVER.—This West African river was explored during the months of July and August, 1862, by MM. Griffon du Bellay and Sreval, of the French navy. The river has an average breadth of a mile and a-half. It is formed at a distance of sixty leagues from its mouth by the junction of two large rivers, the Okanda and the N'Gounyai, the sources of which are still unknown, although the latter seems to follow the general direction of the Ogo-Wai, with a slight inclination to the south, and the direction of the Okanda is north-easterly, which would lead to the supposition that its origin is not far distant from Lake Tshad. Its banks are peopled by tribes known under the collective name of Oshebas, which comprises those of the Pahouins, Shakis, and Orubets, some of which trade with the tribes of Gaboon. The tribes which inhabit the river N'Gounyai are the Ashiras and Chimbass. The people of these regions are persuaded that the mountains are inhabited by certain savages, whom they call Pahdis, and describe as having wings and antelopes' feet; but they know nothing of a negro race provided with tails, or of amphibious negroes; there is discrimination in their credulity. From the junction of the two above-mentioned rivers, the country may be divided into two distinct regions; the highlands of Lake Jonanga, and the marshy country of Lake Anengue. The former, consisting of lime-formations and clay, is thickly wooded, and inhabited by the Elengas, who are allied to the Gallois. The marshy country is inhabited by the Eyllis, Bacammas, and Oroongoos, and is highly insalubrious; the highlands on the contrary are healthy, as might be expected. M. du Chailu peoples Lake Anengue with a vast multitude of crocodiles; our travellers, on the contrary, hardly found any there. The tribes only manufacture mats and pottery for their own use; but on the other hand the country is rich in palm-oil, indiarubber, ivory, ebony, and concrete vegetable fat; the two latter are the chief produce of the highlands. European produce reaches these countries in exchange for slaves.—*Revue Maritime et Coloniale*, October, 1863.

GOLD WEALTH OF CALIFORNIA AND OF THE WEST AFRICAN GOLD COAST DISTRICTS.

"California was never opening new mines so fast as now. The sands of her rivers may be nearly exhausted; the drift of her plains and valleys is probably far less productive than it was ten or twelve years ago, but her mountains and rocks are just beginning to yield their precious ore. We hear by every mail of new discoveries in the south and in the north; gold is found in quarters hitherto unsuspected of containing it, new lodes of silver, copper, and other valued minerals, are announced in rapid succession; the famous Monte Diablo—which may be termed the 'hub' of California—has just been discovered to be veined with copper and perhaps with other ores as well, though hitherto unsuspected thereof; while Nevada is proving rich in silver and gold, over nearly her whole extent, and Arizona bids fair to rival the California of 1849. It is estimated that the Rocky Mountains will this year produce 20,000,000 l. of gold."—*New York Tribune*.

Similar to the above will, sooner or later, be the reports concerning the West African Gold Districts. Whenever the day for extracting their precious stores shall arrive, we feel convinced that they will prove to be among the greatest gold deposits of our globe. Instead of sending two or three thousand ounces of gold-dust to England by every monthly mail, they ought to send two

* The concrete vegetable fat here mentioned is the DIKA or ODIKA Bread, formed by the mixture and compression of ground nuts and other vegetable fatty substances. It has been imported by the French from the Gaboon River (which is not very distant from the French coast for the adulteration of chocolate, the smell being the same, and the colour not very dissimilar. A specimen of this Dika Bread (which has great sustaining power) is in the museum of the African-Aid Society. We hope and doubt not that through the new life given to mercantile affairs on the West Coast of Africa, by means of the commercial organization lately formed in England for trade with those countries, markets will soon be opened for the direct purchase of the valuable vegetable produce of the districts alluded to, and a great check be thereby given to that trade in slaves which now exists.—*Ed. A. T.*

or three hundred thousand ounces. And they will do so ere long. They are too near England to be allowed to remain as at present. The civilised world cannot have too large supplies of gold; and unless something be done to lead to the extensive systematic working of the rich African gold deposits on the West Coast by the natives, armies of English, French, and American miners will rush in and dispossess, if not exterminate, the populations that have been left from the ravages of the slave-traders and the constant butcheries of a relentless and most bloody superstition. Instead of these, we hope yet to see that vast mineral wealth become, by judicious encouragement and assistance from the English Government, a means for promoting the civilization and general advancement of those portions of the country through which the rich gold deposits extend.

QUININE IN FIRST STAGE OF AFRICAN FEVER.

SUUM CUIQUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—I have repeatedly seen mention made in your journal of Dr. Livingstone's suggestion, that quinine, in combination with calomel and resin of jalap, has been used with great success at the onset of the remittent fevers of the African coast; but, as was justly stated by my lamented friend the late Dr. M^r William, at a meeting of the Epidemiological Society, June 3, 1861, "the principle," and, I may add, the practice recommended, are not new. Indeed, so far from that being the case, quinine with calomel was used by myself and other medical officers stationed in the West African colonies many years anterior to 1850, the time Dr. Livingstone states he had first tried the formula he recommends. Perhaps quinine with calomel may not have been combined with the resin of jalap, as he prescribes; but be that as it may, the practice of giving quinine with calomel had been long used with success at the commencement of the remittent fevers of West Africa, and they were so given either *with or without the addition of powdered, not resinous, jalap*, as might be deemed best. For example, ten grains of quinine, with an equal quantity of calomel and jalap, were given to a strong adult; the dose being of course regulated by the age and strength of the patient. I have, over and over again, witnessed the almost marvellous good effects that soon followed their exhibition. Even in the worst cases, those of destitute British and Foreign European seamen, who were frequently brought to hospital several days after the accession of fever, and when unmistakable typhoid symptoms had set in, recoveries took place under this treatment; relief from the distressing head and back ache generally following after copious discharges of dark foetid bilious evacuations had passed off from the bowels; the brown leathery scordes disappearing from the lips and tongue, and the skin becoming moist and comfortable. In such circumstances, and, indeed, in all cases of African fever, it is indispensable that the patient's strength should be assiduously supported by light, nourishing food and wine.

Quinine was also given with opium, or its alkaloids in solution, or in the form of pills, when the patient was restless, to calm and subdue nervous irritability. It was also frequently given combined with the neutral salts (Epsom, &c.) and purgative and carminative tinctures, if the bowels required to be acted upon. But the chief object was to bring the patient under the influence of the quinine as quickly as possible, the warm bath, and other adjuvant remedies, being likewise used to combat symptoms as they appeared.

I could say a great deal more on this subject; but trust I may have said enough to establish the fact, that Dr. Livingstone has no claim to be considered the originator of the practice of giving quinine with calomel and other purgatives, in the first stage of the paroxysmal fevers of Africa.—Your obedient servant, Sept. 17, 1863.

FAIR PLAY.

[With reference to the above letter of "Fair Play," we cannot avoid expressing our hope that physicians and medical practitioners throughout Great Britain will, ere long, adopt this mode of treatment of certain classes of fever. We have seen practical evidence that it is not only in African

fever that this system of administering quinine and wine, and powerful, but light, supporting food, is advisable. A case of *continuous fever* came lately under our notice, where this mode of treatment was happily adopted after the consuming fever had been eight days on the patient (a child two years of age), and while it was in full intensity, the patient rapidly sinking under its exhausting influence. The case seemed hopeless; but the quinine and supporting system being then adopted, the fever was arrested and began to subside within four-and-twenty hours, during which time quinine had been administered every three hours, and considerably more than half-a-pint of wine, in addition to essence of beef, &c., had been taken. We earnestly counsel all our friends never in future to give up hope in any, even the most severe cases of continued fever, until this African fever system has been tried and failed; while at the same time we must say it is unfair to the system that it should be adopted only when the patient has been brought to death's door by the old mode of treatment, instead of immediately on the continued nature of the fever being ascertained.—*Ed. A. T.*]

THE MADAGASCAR SILKWORM.—No country in the world appears more eminently qualified by nature for the production of silk than the island of Madagascar. Most of the caterpillars of the country cover themselves with silky envelopes, which protect them both from the inclemency of winter and the sudden showers of the summer season. Some are naturally covered from their birth with a thick mantle which grows with them, leaving only the head and legs uncovered. Others spin double and treble cocoons, and others again mix up various particles of plants with their silk, combining them artistically; and, lastly, there are some which spin a common nest, in which they live under a republican form of government, each individual spinning its own cocoon besides. The last number of the *Bulletin de la Societe d'Acclimatation* contains a curious paper on this subject by M. Auguste Vinson, of La Réunion. He states that the Hovas weave a kind of silk which they call *landy*; and is obtained from the worm that feeds on the leaves of the ambreva, or Angola pea (*Cytisus cajanus*). This silk is heavy, and has no gloss, but is exceedingly strong. The natives sell the tissues they weave out of this silk very dear, and it is therefore only the rich who wear them. King Radama II., who dresses in the European fashion, wears trousers and a paletot made of this silk, which, not being dyed, is of a grey colour, like unbleached linen. The wealthy are buried in shrouds made of this silk, and it is said that such shrouds entombed for centuries have been exhumed in a perfect state of preservation. The ambreva being an indigenous plant of La Réunion,* this Madagascar silkworm might be easily introduced there. The insect is 45 millimetres long; its body is composed of 12 segments, and covered with black sharp horny points all over. The general hue is a chestnut brown, but the abdomen has a longitudinal rose-coloured streak between two other light brown ones. The cocoon is 70 millimetres in circumference, and 45 in length; it is very heavy, of a dirty grey colour, but interspersed with black bristles. The chrysalis contained in the cocoon is edible, and considered a delicacy by the Hovas, who eat it fried.

SLAVERY IN CUBA AND PORTO RICO.—The Madrid journal, the *Pueblo*, lately published an article advocating the abolition of slavery in the Spanish colonies by means of an indemnity to the slaveowners!!! We have faith in the power of the press for good, and venture to hope that a better day is dawning for the slaves in Cuba, who are at present victims of that most infamous calculation which *uses them up* systematically within a few years; it being decided that it is more profitable to do so and import others, than to work them with some moderation and take other precautions for their health and life.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL AT CAPE PALMAS, LIBERIA.—We are sorry to be unable to advocate the interests of this most valuable institution in our present number. It depends on voluntary subscriptions. It is not in debt, but needs support. We should be glad to receive and forward contributions.

* If ambreva be indigenous at La Réunion also, we think there can be little doubt of its existing also at the Seychelles, &c.—*Ed. A. T.*

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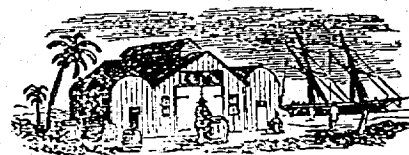
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