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THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The Macgregor Laird mail steamer, with the West African mails, arrived at Liverpool, March 11, with 600 ounces of gold dust, 5,000*l.* in specie, and 42 passengers.

Her dates were: Benin, Jan. 24; Fernando Po, 29th; Cameroons, 31st; Old Calabar, Feb. 2nd; Brass River, 4th; Bonny, 7th; Lagos, 10th; Accra, 12th; Cape Coast Castle, 14th; Cape Palmas, 16th; Sierra Leone, 21st; Bathurst, 25th; Teneriffe, March 2nd; and Madeira, 4th.

The rivers were generally healthy.

A terrific explosion had taken place at New Calabar at noon on the 25th January. The hulk Merlin, the first vessel lying up the river, caught fire. She was laden with gunpowder, and an explosion took place. The fire catching seven other vessels, which also had gunpowder on board, they likewise blew up, causing a fearful concussion and extensive loss of property.

RIVER GAMBIA.

Commodore Wilmot, who only arrived at Bathurst in Her Majesty's ship Rattlesnake at the beginning of February, has already performed a most important service. He has so arranged the differences with "Mahaba," &c., that there is good grounds for hope of a much more peaceful state of affairs in the river in future. Should this prove to be the result of the Commodore's visit, we believe there will be a rapid and steady advance in production and trade. The Rattlesnake is an exhibition of power; of that which the African chiefs and kings understand and respect. And we now hope that any ill effects arising from the insufficient display of force at the period of the Badiboo war will henceforward disappear. The governors of our West African colonies and dependencies have been subject, of late years, to very great difficulties. Scarcely in any case have they been furnished, in times of emergency, with an adequate force to make their authority respected by the surrounding natives. Until the peaceful influences of advancing civilization are created and felt, an occasional display of the elements of power possessed by Great Britain is absolutely necessary as a check upon the presumption of petty African chiefs and kings. Civilization will not progress where there is no respect for British authority.

SIERRA LEONE.

The most praiseworthy efforts of Governor Blackall to stimulate the educated colonists to a more systematic and extensive cultivation of the soil, on which the prosperity and wealth of a tropical colony must eventually depend, have met with warm support from that good and tried friend of Africa and its people—Commodore Wilmot, who, by letters to England, solicits the co-operations of other friends, in providing for the necessary expenses of an Agricultural Industrial Exhibition at Free Town. Such exhibitions are considered to have been very effective in Liberia; and if the colonists of Sierra Leone can be thereby stimulated to a healthy emulation, something like a development of the natural resources of the colony may speedily take place.

Her Majesty's Ship Rattlesnake, Commodore Wilmot, left Free Town for the River Gambia, on the 30th of January. The Commodore was expected back in about three months.

The Governor has made the following appointments, subject to the approval of his Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies: *Adolphus Pike, Esq.*, to be Treasurer; *Edward Hyndman Beckles, Esq.*, to be First Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department; *Joseph Curran Salmon, Esq.*, to be First Clerk and Cashier in the Treasurer's Department; *Charles Mackenzie Hook, Esq.*, to be Second Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department.

We are indeed grieved to see three cases of *slaves dealing* among the charges against prisoners at the late sessions. In each case the verdict was "guilty;" and of the criminals, Laihan was sentenced to twelve months, and Thorpe and Cole each to three years' imprisonment.

We perceive among the advertisements in the *Free Press*, that mention is made of the "*Anglo-African Company, Limited*," as having an establishment at Free Town. We have never before heard of this company, and should be glad of some information respecting it.

An important case has been tried before the Supreme Court. It was an action by the firm of Malilatre and Co. against Algeron Montagu, a practising attorney, who holds the important office of Registrar-General of the Colony. The complaint of the firm was that, having obtained in January last a judgment in this Court against one Charles Pyne, for 469*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, they retained the defendant to sue out a writ of *Fieri Facias* on the lands and goods of Mr. Pyne, under the Colonial Act. That the defendant issued the writ on the 19th of January last; charged a sum in his bill of costs, which was subsequently paid to him by the firm, for the writ as well as for the registration of the judgment against Mr. Pyne's land; took the writ to the Sheriff; but that the defendant did not direct the Sheriff to levy on Mr. Pyne's land, and that although the Sheriff had on his own responsibility made a levy on Mr. Pyne's land, the defendant ordered the Sheriff to withdraw the levy; in consequence of which the firm had lost the money due to them by Mr. Pyne. The verdict was for the plaintiff for the whole amount claimed.

LIBERIA.

The inauguration of the new President, D. B. Warner, took place on the 4th January. As usual on such occasions, the future is looked forward to with increased hope. And we must

say that the new President has told his people some good and wholesome truths. Read the following:—

"We are still at the threshold of our work on this continent. So to accomplish what our hands find to do, that we may not transmit weakness and helplessness, but strength and efficiency, to posterity, should be our earnest endeavour. For this we should labour and strive. To succeed in the enterprise begun by us on this coast, of rearing an African nationality, requires a high mind and untiring devotion, a lofty and unswerving purpose, and an intense patriotism, which I think we need to cultivate. We have much work to do. Our task is immense. We are backward in almost everything. We have to achieve our own fortune by unremitting industry and self-devotion. Neither the ultraism of party measures, nor the dissimulation of office-lovers, nor the craft and deceit of demagogues, nor the loquacity of faultfinders, nor the orthodox lamentations of progressive or go-ahead men, nor high-sounding letters for foreign consumption, nor the bolstering up of foreign friends, nor the sympathy of the Great Powers, nor the patronising eulogies of colonization papers, will supersede the necessity of intelligence, thrift, industry, and enterprise on our part."

All honour to President Warner! There has been far too much national self-laudation in Liberia. Because its friends in England were tender and indulgent to its shortcomings, the Republic exalted itself exceedingly. A honest President may do much good among a people. The new President shows the absolute necessity of retrenchment and reform. He tells them that, with a public revenue of only 45,000 dollars (9,000*l.* sterling), they cannot indulge in old and new world extravagances:—

"There are many expenditures we indulge both in government and in our domestic relations, which we can ill afford—much work done and paid for out of the Government Treasury which should be done by citizens free of any charge to Government."

Again:—

"I would ask, is it not probable that our political and social life is based upon an erroneous assumption? We have modelled in theory, and are endeavouring to model in practice, all our affairs upon the customs and practices of the United States, from a false idea of the analogy of the conditions of the two countries. Few comparisons, however, could be more infelicitous. What analogy is there between the United States, with their millions of inhabitants, with their multiplied agencies of civilization, and Liberia, with its few thousands and the absence of almost every art? Compare the population and exports and imports of the one country with those of the other, and see whether our exports bear anything in proportion to our population as compared with similar things of the United States. No class of our population have reached that security and ease in their circumstances which give leisure and means for indulgence. We are, for the most part, still bound to the necessity of seeking supplies for our rudest wants. The inexorable necessities of daily life absorb nearly our whole attention and entire strength. Were it not for the assistance which we receive from abroad, we could not support many of the institutions of literature and religion among us. To argue therefore from the condition of things in the United States to that of things in Liberia is simply preposterous. To name, for illustration, a single instance in which we are too servilely copying the United States, I may refer to our system of representation, and the expenditure it involves—too great by far for our real necessities and our financial ability. The average annual receipts of the Treasury during the last five years was 45,000 dollars. The amount disbursed on account of the Legislature for the same time was 5,500 dollars, being an annual expenditure of more than one-ninth of the entire revenue."

Alluding to the inconveniences caused in Liberia by the war in the United States, he says, justly, that they have been unwisely leaning upon America, instead of striving arduously for an entire industrial independence:—

"Considering the character of the country before us, no people on the face of the globe should be less affected, in a material point of view, by the present distracted state of America than ourselves. In fact, we might have, by this time, by a vigorous culture of cotton, ground-nuts, &c., attracted the commercial

attention both of England and France. Believe me, fellow-citizens, we have, in many things, been going wrong. We must begin again."

And we are especially glad to see the necessity and advantage of an earnest endeavour for the civilization of the aboriginal population most earnestly enforced. There has been great neglect and error in Liberia with regard to this important matter:—

"THE NATIVE TRIBES.—I regret that it is impossible for me, within the limits of this address, to enter as fully as I could wish to do on the question of the native tribes around us. Without denying the great benefits which have been conferred upon our aboriginal brethren by preceding administrations, and the salutary impulse that has been given to the cause of their civilization, I think the time has come when greater efforts should be put forth by the Government to teach them our fraternal connexion with them, and the nature of the feelings which should subsist between us. There are obvious reasons which render it desirable that the State should take a more direct part in the work of civilising the natives, and in imbuing all classes of our civilised population with a deep sense of the advantage of speedily training and incorporating them among us. There are political reasons. We cannot or should not expect to build up the nationality we are daily picturing in our minds, and after which we are striving, with the scanty materials which come from the United States of America. Admitting we could do so, and become in point of wealth and power foremost of the nations, this would not free us from our great responsibility to the Great Head of nations for the moral reformation of the people around us—for their elevation, and, as far as human agencies can effect it, their genuine conversion to and constant practice of the Christian religion."

This differs widely from the grandiloquence to which we have been too much accustomed, and which has produced, if not justified, the sneers and mockery of the consistent enemies and deprecators of Africa and the people of African blood. We do, indeed, think that the healthy tone which pervades this presidential document augurs well for the advancement of Liberia in wealth and consideration.

SHERBORO.

The *Early Dawn* states that there is a marked progress and improvement in the country during the past year since certain portions were taken under British rule. There was at first much dissatisfaction with, and fear of, British authority. Several villages were nearly or quite deserted by the people. There were mutterings of discontent and secret plottings for revenge. One bold raid was made upon a village, and the people captured as slaves. Now there is a general and seemingly cheerful acquiescence in British rule. Some who feared the Government are now seeking its protection:—

"One year ago there was war on the Galinas, and war on the Jong and the Little Boom. Trade was greatly depressed, and large quantities of produce were destroyed. Rice became very scarce, and many people during the last rains suffered for want of necessary food. Now peace and plenty prevail, trade is active, and the quantity of rice offered was probably never so great. Previous to one year ago no one was safe in the possession of property; a war party might destroy it at any time. The traders generally occupied houses of the cheapest construction, and defended them with firearms when necessary. Now, police constables are stationed at all the principal points, and criminals are arrested and generally legally punished. A number of good brick and frame buildings have been constructed, and others are in the process of construction, and one large farm has been brought under cultivation. All these things indicate progress towards Christian civilization; and, in spite of many drawbacks, we believe there is real and substantial progress."

Among the evidences of advancement must be mentioned the farming establishment of Mr. M. P. Horton, at Bendoo:—

"A short time ago the whole tract was covered with dense bush, and now Mr. Horton has about two hundred acres under cultivation, and hopes to add two hundred more during the pre-

sent season. He employs seventy labourers, some of whom are engaged in cutting the bush for new fields, and others in tilling those already planted. A large part of Mr. Horton's farm is planted with Sea Island and Egyptian cotton. Last year his plants yielded nearly two thousand pounds of an excellent quality. This year's crop has not yet been gathered. It seems evident that cotton can be profitably raised in the Sherboro, though many experiments are required to decide on the best time for planting. A portion of Mr. Horton's cotton, being unseasonably planted, was much injured by the heavy rains of October and November; but such mistakes can be avoided in future. Some single plants have as many as two hundred and fifty blossoms on them. Mr. Horton has extensive fields of ginger, which promise well. We see no reason why ginger of a superior quality cannot be raised for exportation. We noticed some fine-looking sugar-cane growing in the moister parts of the farm, and learned that it was the first experiment in the culture of that plant. The indigo plant, which grows in a wild state throughout the country, is being cultivated by Mr. Horton. He hopes to be able to prepare it for successful export. Among the other products of this large farm are cassada, corn, rice, yams, potatoes, ground-nuts, beans, &c. Mr. Horton certainly deserves credit for his efforts to develop the agricultural resources of the country. He labours under the disadvantage of being a pioneer in the work, but we trust that he will be permitted to reap the fruits of his efforts."

A strong desire is expressed for a Government survey of the lands in the new districts, with a view to its sale. A great stimulus, it is said, would be thus given to the speedy advancement of the country. We hope, therefore, to hear of this being done without delay. We are convinced that no one can be more anxious than is Governor Blackall for the prosperity of every portion of the territories appertaining to the colony over which he rules.

We are also glad to see that roads are loudly called for; that they are considered (as, indeed, they will be found to be everywhere in Africa) a guarantee for peace. The expense, it is said, would be but trifling. The editor of the *Early Dawn* adds his testimony in their favour as follows: "We fully concur in the importance of surveying the lands and in making roads. There is not one road in all the Sherboro. We believe the people would cheerfully pay a road tax, if some roads could be constructed."

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Cape Coast Castle, Feb. 13.

There are several circumstances relative to this war which demand particular attention, and which it is necessary that your general readers should be made well conversant with. Among these, our new military road is worthy of especial notice. During the expedition of last year, the movement of the Ashantee army, under General Owosookorkor, were so rapid, that their columns were said to be almost in every direction. Their left wing menaced the force of 6,500 men, regulars and irregulars, under command of Captain Brownwell, at Winnebah Swadore; their centre, numbering from 12,000 to 15,000, pressed hard upon the position of Abodam, Bobeecomah, Essecomah, and Ajimacoo, where the allied forces were at least 15,000 strong; whilst their extreme right was on the great highway to Ashantee from the Prah as far down as Fesu or Fesuway, covering the road to Akim Swadore to the north east, which thus enabled it to render ready assistance in that direction. This last division of their army, numbering from 6,000 to 7,000, was intended to keep in check the allied forces of 8,000 men, under command of Major Wood, a work which it effectually accomplished. Our force, or the allied force, had to manoeuvre under very great disadvantages; without roads, they had to find their way through thick bush and forest; and at one time were so hemmed in by a large column of the enemy, that the heads of the officer commanding the allied force and his staff, were only saved by the clemency of the Ashantee divisional captain. Such has been the unpardonable neglect, as regards this all-important matter of roads, that since

the days of Maclean the idea of road-making was never thoroughly enforced in the minds of the native chiefs by the British authorities; and when the danger threatened on all sides, the efforts of the officials were completely paralysed.

But there is a clever man now at the head of the Civil Department of this most intricate Government. The omissions of the past have now been properly estimated; and the advantages that will accrue from proper military roads being established everywhere have now been duly estimated. The grand trunk road from Cape Coast Castle to the River Prah is now opened, and if the injurious influence of the climate were not so severe on the lower animals, I would have said that we could drive a carriage and four up to the Prah. But this Grand Trunk road alone is insufficient for military and commercial purposes in the interior, as we require roads dissecting each other, running from one important town to the other. This important improvement, I am happy to say, is being accomplished through the aid of Colonel Conran. Several military officers have been appointed superintendents of roads. Their duties are to confer with the chiefs of each town on the subject, and to see that the road is properly attended to. A road is now making between Mansoo and Akim Swadore by way of Essecomah; another from Winnebah to Swadore; another from Accra to Winnebah. From Anamaboe one is to be opened, or has already been opened, to join the Grand Trunk Road below Yankumassie, and another towards Ajimacoo through Mankassin. The following are the officers who have been appointed superintendents of roads—viz.: Lieuts. Osborne, Barry, Dunan, Brook, and Blacklyne. The first at the rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem, the rest at 5*s.* The following are the chief towns in the Grand Trunk Road—viz.: Battayand, Aheroful, Dunquah, Yankumassie, Mansoo, and Fesuway. From Mansoo to Essecomah, the only town on the road is Table-Samang, a distance of about three and a-half miles. It is situated on a table-land, with excellent views towards the divergent line of the roads leading to Essecomah on the left, and Ajimacoo on the right. Unlike the lands on the seacoast, which are parched for want of rain, those of the interior present a most cheering aspect. So heavy, indeed, is the fall of dew, that in many instances it is equal to a good shower of rain. It is very pleasant to walk through these interior roads, lined on either side by large and lofty trees, whose branches interlace and entwine, forming with the aid of numerous varieties of vines a labyrinth so perfectly shaded as even to defy the penetration of a tropical noonday sun. One walks through them quite unconscious that he is in one of the hottest parts of Africa until he lights upon some open spot, where the intense heat tells him, to his cost, that the thermometer ranges about 90 deg. Fahrenheit.

I must not conclude this subject of military roads without referring to a paper just published, as a guide to Coomassie, by Mr. Gharney. The author has given us the names of all the towns and crooms from Anamaboe to that place, with their derivation, and has appended some remarks on a few of the towns, which are very useful and important in this particular crisis. The number of towns and crooms from the Prah to the capital of Ashantee is thirty-two. The principal towns are Foomusu, Oweeramassie, Quantah, Gimmahsu, Fommanah, Dompoussie, Amosful, and Adwabin.

And now as regards THE PROGRESS OF THE PRESENT EXPEDITION. In my last account I informed you that the authorities here had received instructions from England not to cross the Prah, but to remain on the defensive, which was strictly true; but the state of affairs is now entirely altered, the Governor having since received positive orders (by the last mail) from the Colonial office that, if he cannot make a lasting peace without an offensive movement, he is to march to Coomassie. For this purpose they have placed at his disposal an additional force of more than 600 men from the West Indies, consisting of two companies of the 1st West India Regiment, and the left wing of the 4th West India Regiment, made up of four companies. With the number of soldiers at present on the Gold Coast, there will be more than 1,000 strong ready to march to Ashantee—viz., 900 of the 4th, 170 of the 2nd, and 220 of the 1st West India Regiment; from which, subtracting 150 for sickness and other casualties, there

will remain a disposable force of 1,140 men. You will at once see that this force is entirely insufficient to cope with 50,000 of the enemy, in their own country, and in their own grounds, and in parts where there are no roads, and where the use of grapeshot and canister, as well as rockets, will produce but comparatively little effect. We must look, therefore, to other sources for help, and we are certain of receiving reinforcements from Sierra Leone, the Gambia, and Lagos; besides that, we can collect on the Gold Coast an allied force of 20,000 men, ready to sacrifice their life for the good of their country, and for the reduction of their old and inveterate enemy—the Ashantees.

Soon after the last mail left the detachment of soldiers at Accra received orders to move to Akeim Swadore, and join a small number of men who had proceeded there from Cape Coast on the 17th ult. with Acting Major Thorne. This encampment at Swadore is intended to protect the road formerly taken by the Ashantees to invade the (Colony!!) Protectorate Territory; it is to be under command of Major Irvy, a name well known in African campaigns, and who joined it on the 29th or 30th. The force at Swadore forms the second division of the army of observation.

On the 25th ult., at three A.M., the second battalion of the first division of the army, or Captain Barnard's company, with the first battalion of third division, composed of the 2nd West India Regiment, the whole under a gallant and promising young officer, Captain Knapp, with Staff-Assistant-Surgeon Davies, left Cape Coast, cheered by all the population, and accompanied to some considerable distance from the town by the band and most of the people. They were to proceed to within a mile of Prahsoo, and there encamp until the arrival of the Lieut.-Colonel commanding, receiving on their way an addition of fifty men from Mansoo. They arrived at Mansoo on the 28th ult., and left it early (three A.M.) on the 31st.

At an early period of the movements of the military, his Excellency the Governor called a meeting of the principal kings and chiefs this side of the Protectorate, to consider the best means of ensuring the protection of the country from any further movements of the Ashantee army. This meeting was held on the 25th ult. The colonel and his staff were present. The whole of the native chiefs and kings having testified their readiness to render every assistance to the officer commanding the troops, he informed them that at present their services will not be required, but that they should all be ready, so that at a moment's notice they could proceed to the different camps. The King of Denkerah was very fierce in his determination to invade the territory of Ashantee with the regular force, and make his way to Coomassie; and as Odonkor Assu swore before Governor Pine, in March last year, at the Crobbos Plains, so he swore before Lieut.-Colonel Conran never to sheathe his sword until Coomassie falls into the hand of the British Government. To strengthen his statement, he placed his son at the disposal of the colonel, to take information from one camp to the other. The meeting was satisfactory to both the Governor and commanding officer.

On the morning of the 30th ult., his Excellency the Governor having previously delivered over the entire military control of the Protectorate into the hands of Lieut.-Colonel Conran, commanding the troops, that officer, with his staff, and the remainder of the available force at Cape Coast Castle, composed of a part of both the 4th and 2nd West India Regiments, left the castle to join his head-quarters at the river Prah. The soldiers were all in high spirits, determined, according to their song, "with rifle, gun, and sword in hand, to carry through Ashantee's crowd, our colours to Coomassie." On the morning of the 1st inst. they arrived at Mansoo. The colonel walked the whole distance of forty-five miles on foot, as an encouragement to the men. This, however, was considered an imprudent act, as he was so done up by it, that he had an attack of fever. Happily, the attack was not a serious one. After remaining there for two days, the whole of the men, together with the remainder of the detachment at Mansoo, the sick excepted, left for the Prah, arriving there on the 5th.

Early in December last, more than fifteen days before the first movement of the military took place, a volunteer force, under the auspices of the Colonial Government, sanctioned by the Governor

and Council, was formed, composed of fifty men from the late Gold Coast Artillery, and placed under the command of Lieut. Hay, commandant of Dix Cove, with orders to proceed to the frontier of Ashantee beyond Appollonia, and prevent the Ashantees from coming down to the French settlements in Assinee, to buy munitions of war. How far the mission has been fulfilled I am not in a position to say, but a few weeks ago the colonel commanding ordered Lieut. Hay and his volunteers to proceed to Denkerah, where he will be joined by some men detailed from head-quarters at Prah, with a medical officer and a subaltern.

You will thus see that the army has formed three encampments along the banks of the Prah, on the frontier of the Ashantee territory—viz., one at Swadore, the right wing; another at Denkerah, the left wing; and the head-quarters at Prahsoo. This naturally brings us to consider the position of the allied forces. No subject requires more consideration than this, as it affects a body of more than 40,000 men. There is not, I think, the least doubt that they should form in the field the scouts of the regulars, and the advance guards, and that, when driven in, the regulars should march to the front, to use with effect their more powerful weapons—viz., rifles, rockets, and field-pieces—against the enemy.

In fact, they should be employed to make roads and clear the bush beyond the Prah, which I am certain they will do heartily. The all-important question, however, arises, *How are these men to be provisioned?* Are they expected to find their own food? It is a known fact here that for twenty miles beyond the Prah, in the enemy's country, all the villages have been plundered, the country laid waste, and that no article of diet can be obtained. Most of these men coming from the seacoast will be from 100 to 120 miles from their homes, and in the case of the Accras, 200 miles. In each encampment there are expected to be at least 15,000 men. When the provision they bring up and that obtained by foraging is exhausted, what are they to do but starve, as so many did in the late expedition? The Government cannot undertake to provision them, and the arrangement of the colonel commanding is, therefore, I think, wise and worthy of all praise—viz., that they should not move until expressly required by him to do so. We must not forget the confused manner in which the 1st West India Regiment fought at Badaboo, in the Gambia, when 500 of them, without orders from their officers, ran helter-skelter in the plain, shooting most of their own comrades and officers. To prevent the recurrence of such a catastrophe, I think the allied forces should have some distinguishing marks. During one of the expeditions at Scarcees, in the Sierra Leone dependencies, undertaken by Colonel Hill, the allied force were furnished with proper flags by which they were distinguished. When a force of about 40,000 men, whose dress is exactly the same as that of the enemy, is scattered about in the fields before a regular army, which does not know the distinction between Fantee and Ashantee, who would be surprised if, in the event of an engagement, most of them be killed by a *ris a tergo*, unless some special precaution be taken. The disposition of the allied forces is likely to be as follows: For Swadore, the Accras, Akims, Goomoors, Ahgoonahs, and Akumfies; for Prahsoo (head-quarters), Fantees (viz., Anamaboos and Cape Coast), Abrahams, Assins, and Denkerah; for Aheroful, Denkerah, and the Eastern and Western Wassawes.

As previously stated, the fall of dew is very heavy in the interior, and this has a most deadly influence on the constitution of the soldiers newly imported from the West Indies. The 2nd West and the Gold Coast Artillery are by no means so very susceptible as the 4th West are. Of the 105 men, formerly the advanced guard of the whole force, which were stationed at Mansoo for a month before any other movement took place, the medical officer in charge in his report showed that more than 30 per cent. were laid up every week, and out of 105 men, in the short space of three weeks no less than seventy were admitted into hospital. What a large number—seventy out of 105 within three weeks! This is a positive fact. Most of the cases are fever of the intermittent type, which require but a few days in the hospital, and most of the men who had been attached have marched to the Prah. Lieut.-Colonel Conran has in consequence of this ordered the commissariat to supply the troops with

fresh provision every alternate day, as well as preserved vegetables, for which purpose a supply of bullocks has with difficulty been driven to Prahsoo. This, it is believed, will in a great measure tend to prevent those severe cases of dysentery which greatly thinned the ranks of Major Cochrane's expedition.

Another important matter in these operations is the working of the LAND TRANSPORT CORPS. I must apologise for candidly stating that your correspondent in your December number was extremely violent and unjust against what he called a "commissariat boy," and I think his harsh language was only made use of from personal misunderstanding. At present, however, this department is under the control of an officer of great ability and astuteness, one that can scarcely be excelled—viz., D. A. C. G. Blanc, from the Gambia. Through his energy and the assistance of the local authority, a corps of 500 men have been organised, which works most admirably, receiving a daily pay and subsistence averaging from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 10d. But this number is scarcely sufficient to answer all the purposes required by the military to convey sufficient supplies to the three different encampments. Mr. O'Connor was sent to Cape Palmas to engage from 300 to 400 Crew Boys, but he only succeeded in getting 100. The men were rather sceptical as regards the intention, and they refused, alleging as a cause that they were going to be made slaves of. Those who volunteer are properly taken care of and well treated.

These 500 cost the Government a sum not less than 2,000*l.* a-month, and yet they are insufficient for a regiment of 500. When the number is increased to 1,200 men, we must expect a transport corps of from 1,400 to 1,600 men, and an increase in the expenditure for that express purpose of 3,000*l.* a-month. As matters at present stand, the war is costing the Government at the rate of 4,000*l.* a-month; and prospectively the expenditure must be much heavier! Ashantee must be reduced, and a lasting peace must be established. We cannot, however, expect the Ashantees to pay the expenses of the war, as they will never pay 60,000*l.* to 100,000*l.*, but we must make them pay down what they can or will, and bind them, under certain obligations, never again to lift up their heads against their former slaves, the Fantees, and our Government.

Now as to the PLANS OF COLONEL CONRAN, in which I must be brief. His first intention is understood to be to throw up a stockade on this side of the Prah, and mount two howitzers on it, thus commanding the passage over the Prah. He will then build barracks for the men and officers, and a large military hospital for the sick and wounded. After which a detachment, very likely the 2nd West India Regiment, hardy, daring fellows, will cross the Prah, clear the bush, and form an encampment. The whole of the able-bodied men will then be crossed over, placed in skirmishing order, and advanced into the interior. After advancing a considerable distance in the interior, burning several villages, and devastating the country, repaying them for what they did last year in these territories, he will summon the King to come to terms, with the threat that, should he not comply, the whole country will be laid waste, and Coomassie will be taken. The King might agree for suspension of hostilities, and the preliminaries of peace might be settled. But he might not agree, and in this case Colonel Conran will order the allied forces to take up arms—15,000 or more to be at Swadore, 20,000, at Prahsoo, and 10,000 at Aheroful Denkerah. These will be under orders to push on at a given day to the interior, and within two weeks there will be a settlement one way or other at Coomassie of the dispute between the Government of Her Majesty the Queen and of his Majesty King Quacoos Duah.

CAPE COAST.

Another correspondent, with date of the 14th February, states that Colonel Conran, with 600 men of the 4th and 2nd West India Regiments, was then encamped on the banks of the Prah. Colonel, officers, and men were all in excellent health and spirits. The colonel wrote that he was delighted with the country. There was about four feet of water in the river, and the troops were shortly to cross and encamp at the village of "Ansah," twelve miles in advance of the Prah, toward Coomassie.

Our correspondent passes high eulogium (and we have reason to believe not higher than is deserved) on Governor Pine and Colonel Conran. From all that has come to our knowledge during the last few months, we are sure that the Protectorate has great reason to rejoice in the presence of these two officials. We hope their great anxiety to bring the war to a close will not impel them to measures for which the force and means at their disposal are inadequate. As our December number contained some severe strictures on the then acting Chief Commissary, it is with much satisfaction that we receive a very different account of the doings of Mr. Blanc, now at the head of the Commissariat Department. Our correspondent states that Mr. Commissary Blanc has done wonders since his arrival, and that there is no fear of Colonel Conran receiving, at some critical moment, biscuits in lieu of ammunition, so long as Mr. Blanc is at the head of the Commissariat Department.

There are great complaints of the state of trade. The merchants of the Gold Coast, like those of Lagos, are sorely tried at the present time.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 12, 1864.

Sir,—We are an old Coaster; one, rather, of the old school; but, nevertheless, in spite of numerous and deep-rooted prejudices, have watched the progress of your journal with much interest; although it must be confessed we were at first a little apprehensive that your object was to subvert some of our ancient and cherished institutions—in a word, the privileges of the Caboceer, or upper classes of the Gold Coast, to which we emphatically belong. But instead of rudely overturning existing institutions with a ruthless hand, you have been smoothing the way for a gradual reform; and when, with our mind's eye, we look at the progress of events during the past three years, we, a son of Africa, the descendant of an uncivilised savage, can come forward and conscientiously say, "The *African Times* has made us a better man; has quickened our thoughts, and helped, in a word, to chasten our moral decrepitude."

You are the exponent of public opinion, and as such, are glad of any communication that can throw light upon dark subjects, or expose turpitude to reprobation. All this is as it ought to be, and when at some future day the hearts of Africans shall have become sensible to the tender influences of Christian civilization, a thousand-thousand voices will echo the name of the *African Times* in grateful recognition.

But, Sir, we have noticed with painful anxiety the increasing tendency of a certain class of Europeans, resident on this Coast, to disguise themselves under the assumed names of "Africanus," "Fantee," and such like, to give vent to bitter invective or scurrilous imputations on persons or things that seem to have given them some slight personal offence, claiming under that disguise the right to arrogate to themselves the expression of public opinion, and make your readers believe that their insane ravings are the echoes of the public opinion of Africans. No such thing, Sir! Africans have no sympathy with such deception, and abhor the thought of it as they would shun the deed.

In your number of the 23rd December last there are two letters purporting to have been written by two different individuals, one signing "Fantee," the other "Africanus." The chief object of these letters seems to have been to belch out an insult on the then chief Commissariat officer of these settlements. "Fantee" says he "forbears to say anything more, on account of the extreme youth of this officer." "Africanus" calls him "a mere boy." Now, in sober truth, an officer who has held Her Majesty's commission for ten years CANNOT be termed a mere boy, or twitted with *extreme* youth, without belying the evidence of our own senses, or exposing the impotence of our personal spite. The now* senior Commissariat officer brought here with him, from Sierra Leone, the Gambia,

* We fear our correspondent is not alluding here to the same Commissariat officer, whose conduct was animadverted upon. It was the then Acting Chief Commissary, and not Mr. Blanc, the now Chief Commissary, to whom "Fantee" and "Africanus" alluded. Of Mr. Blanc we have heard nothing but praise. We consider the explanation about the contract as perfectly satisfactory.—ED. A. T.

SIERRA LEONE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION FUND.

(See Pages 109 and 112.)

The Council of the African-Aid Society earnestly invite all the friends of African progress to send them subscriptions to this fund, which will be advertised monthly in the *African Times*.

Subscriptions may be sent either to the London and Westminster Bank, St. James's-square, London, S.W., or to F. Fitzgerald, Esq., Honorary Secretary of the African-Aid Society, 8, Adelphi-terrace, London, W.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Lord Alfred S. Churchill, M.P.	2	0	0
Sir John Boileau, Bart.	2	0	0
Robert Barnes, Esq.	2	0	0
Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, M.A.	1	0	0
Doctor Norton Shaw	1	0	0
Emile Planque, Esq.	1	0	0

NOTICE.

We are compelled to defer the conclusion of "Revelations as to the General Conduct of Affairs on the River Gambia," and of our Badagry letter, relative to Okeodan and Addo, until next month.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS IN AFRICA.

In order to prevent the trouble and expense of frequent letters to Africa, we beg leave to state that we cannot insert any advertisement whatever from the Coast without pre-payment. All persons there desirous of advertising in our columns will, therefore, we hope, fully understand that there is no chance whatever of the insertion of any advertisement they may send unaccompanied by a remittance or order for payment in London. Our charge is, Five Shillings for the first Eight Lines, and Sixpence per line for all above the eight lines. This is, of course, for column advertisements.—Ed. A. T.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 5s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance.
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N.B. Post-office orders for Subscriptions to the *African Times* to be made payable to Wm. J. JOHNSON, 121, Fleet-street, at the General Post-office, London.

The African Times.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1864.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Henry Seymour, Esq., M.P. (1862 and 1863)	£20	0	0
Henry Christy, Esq. (An)	20	0	0

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

If proof were wanting that it is not without reason Mr. Cave called upon the Government to maintain an efficient watch off the coasts of the Island of Cuba, for vessels with slaves on board that may have escaped Her Majesty's cruisers on the Coast of Africa, we have it in the fact that a brig, with 700 slaves, was captured on the 9th of February, off North Side, Cuba.

By the latest intelligence from Cape Coast, dated Feb. 14, we learn that it was expected the native contingents would be ordered to join the regulars at Prahsoo, or in the Ashantee territory, immediately. Not a word had been heard from the enemy's side for months, so that no conjecture could be formed as to their probable intentions. The health of the troops on the Prah was reported to be "excellent," the officers enjoying even better health than the men. The whole of them, including the colonel, walked the entire distance from Cape Coast to the Prah. The Zebra, Captain Hoskins, was the only ship of war at Cape Coast.

Out of nine ships lying in the new Calabar River, seven were blown up within a few minutes of each other, all having gunpowder on board. The ships that escaped this sad disaster belonged, one to the Company of African Merchants, the other to Messrs. Horsfall, of Liverpool.

We are compelled to defer till our next number the notice we had intended to give of a meeting held at the Marquis of Townsend's, on the 2nd inst., to consider Captain Speke's plan for the civilization of the natives of Equatorial Africa.

We have pleasure in announcing the safe arrival of Mr. William Craft in Dahomey.

Mr. Consul Burton had just descended from Abomey to Whydah when the mail was leaving that part of the Coast. He was to go down to Fernando Po. Only very brief letters have been received from him during his two months' visit to the king, but they seem to indicate that very important results have been obtained by him.

The Dahoman army was about to make another campaign against Abeokuta.

A subscription has been opened by the African-Aid Society in aid of the funds required for the first Industrial Exhibition at Sierra Leone, which is to be held at the close of the present year. 400l. had been subscribed in Sierra Leone.

We beg to direct attention to the striking evidence given under the head of "Sherboro" to the advantages conferred on an African district by the establishment of British rule. This evidence is furnished by American missionaries, and is therefore not likely to be unduly partial in such a matter.

We are sorry to say that a British cutter, belonging to a merchant at Accra, was considered to have given such grave cause of suspicion of her being engaged indirectly in the slave-trade as to warrant her seizure and detention by the commander of Her Majesty's steamship Investigator, cruising off the Gold Coast.

An English brig has, it is said, been landing arms and ammunition at Adda (the mouth of the Volta) for the supply of the Ashantees. The merchant, we suppose, if the report be true, thought it unfair that the Dutch should have an entire monopoly of that profitable trade. We have often pointed out the scandalous neglect by which the Dutch trade in arms and ammunition, &c., to Ashantee by way of the Volta was allowed to be carried on.

With reference to our statement in January, that it had been decided to reoccupy the Fort of Quittah, and thus prevent the traffic in slaves from the Volta to the Dahoman shipping ports, we regret to state that the re-occupation is to be deferred until the conclusion of the Ashantee war. When the horses are all stolen the stable door is to be shut.

THE CORRESPONDENTS OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

As we have received some letters of dissatisfaction and complaint relative to statements affecting official individuals made by some of our correspondents, and inserted in our columns, we think it necessary to offer a few remarks on this subject. Personal motives for the insertion of any incriminating statement we can have none. Our sole motive and desire is the good and the advancement of Africa. For this we give our unpaid services—for this we study and labour, and are exposed occasionally to censure and animosity. Nothing can give us personally greater pain in our editorial capacity than to believe that there is a necessity for the insertion in our columns of something that may wound another person. But when this seems clearly to lie in the path of our duty toward Africa, we have no alternative. We never have allowed, and we never will allow, our columns to be made the vehicle of private animosities. We insert no communications that are not guaranteed by the writer; and where the communication refers to some official person, and his acts or omissions, we generally modify and soften it. A letter appears in our present number reflecting on insertions made in that of December last, as to the acts and demeanour of the then acting chief Commissariat officer on the Gold Coast. The note which we inserted at the foot of the column containing the incrimination ought, we think, to have been deemed sufficiently explanatory of the motives which induced us to insert it. It must be borne in

mind that until the publication of the *African Times*, officials of all ranks and grades on the Coast of Africa, and other "Caboceros," as our friend "An African" terms himself and them, enjoyed an entire and perfect impunity and immunity, however gross and injurious their conduct and errors may have been—however much Africa may have been injured and impeded in its advancement by their acts or omissions. The *African Times* has no doubt troubled the serene atmosphere of that official Elysium. It has brought the conduct of every official personage there, as in England, and in all other English dependencies, under public supervision. The errors and abuses in conduct and administration on the coast of Africa were so gross, so disgraceful to the British character and name, so unjust to Africans, and so baneful to Africa, that we determined even to incur the risk of powerful animosities rather than that such a state of things should continue. With the exception that we have endeavoured to use all possible Christian forbearance and gentleness in carrying out this resolve, our attack has been continuous and uncompromising. We are determined, by God's help, so far as in us lies, to root out every particle of belief on the part of officials and other Europeans at present in, or in future proceeding to, the British colonies, forts, and settlements on the West Coast, that they can act and do there according to their own sovereign will and pleasure, so long as they keep things quiet with the Colonial office. There can be no legitimate reason why their acts and deeds should not be as amenable to British public opinion as are those of a Secretary of State or other public man in England. And while the *African Times* continues to exist, so they shall be. We are convinced that among the many aids to African progress, the full conviction of this in the official mind of all grades in Africa will not be among the least potent, because we shall unfailingly chronicle the good as well as the bad. No one who proves himself to be sincerely striving for the advancement and civilization of Africa, and the spread of Christianity there, will ever lack support from us. Africa has for many ages suffered enormously at the hands of Europe. The work of repentance and recompense has been now for some years carried on, however feebly and inadequately, by England. But it is time that it should be more energetically pursued; and the proper and consistent discharge of their duties by those who represent Christian England there is absolutely essential to the rapid progress of that work.

SIERRA LEONE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

SIERRA LEONE is indeed deeply indebted to her present Governor. Major Blackall has given ample evidence, since his arrival at Freetown to govern the colony, that he comprehends and adequately estimates the importance of agricultural and general industrial development there. We have had frequent occasions of alluding to this, and we now record the pleasing intelligence that he has found a hearty and active coadjutor in the Commodore on the station, Commodore Arthur Eardley Wilmot, who made so successful a visit to Abomey last year. Governor Blackall seeks to rouse the public spirit of Sierra Leone for agricultural improvement. With this view he has proposed an Industrial Exhibition at the close of the present year. Commodore Wilmot has seconded him in the work. The Commodore's letter to Lord Alfred Churchill will be found in another column. No one, we think, can peruse his letter without feeling how great a necessity there is for such a stimulus as an exhibition of that nature is calculated to give. In Liberia similar exhibitions have been found provocative of great improvements. The subject was immediately taken into consideration by the Council of the African-Aid Society, who resolved to open a subscription in aid of the undertaking. We beg leave to refer to the advertisement in our last page, and in so doing to solicit earnestly the contributions of the friends of African progress and civilization. We are quite convinced that if the new spirit of progress which Governor Blackall has successfully evoked in the colony be encouraged by such an exhibition, great good may ensue. Industrial progress at Sierra Leone will have great influence everywhere on the West Coast. Sierra Leone is the great nucleus of education and intelligence in Western Africa, and if she once really casts off her industrial sloth, agricultural industry will be stimulated at all our colonies, forts, and settlements

on that coast. We have not time or space to enter more fully on the subject to-day; but we beg leave to express the hope that the friends of Africa will hasten to give, by their subscriptions, that encouragement to the Governor and people of Sierra Leone which the practical sympathy of pecuniary assistance is so calculated to afford. Every increase of tropical produce for export to Europe is a benefit to Great Britain. And as the territories under our influence on the West Coast of Africa are capable of rivaling and surpassing our West India Colonies in their most palmy days, whenever agricultural pursuits shall find general favour there, it is manifestly the interest as well as the duty of Englishmen to support such efforts as that which we have felt it incumbent on us to bring thus prominently to their notice.

EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.

THE admissions made by the Under Secretary of State, in reply to questions of Lord Alfred Churchill, relative to the slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa, are painful and important. They will be found under the head of Parliamentary Intelligence. A great many Arab dhows have been seized, and yet the slave-trade on the East Coast, and especially that portion of it between the Zanzibar territories and the countries on the Red Sea has greatly increased. After the revelations made by Mr. Layard, as to the disastrous change in the means of suppression by this country, consequent upon the absorption of the naval forces of the East India Company into those of Her Majesty, the great increase of the Arabian portion of the slave-trade is not to be wondered at. The officers of the Indian Navy had local duties to perform, and therefore obtained the local knowledge necessary for their performance. But all the officers of Her Majesty's Navy cannot be called upon to learn Arabic. Their duties may call them to all parts of the habitable globe, and it cannot be expected that they should be universal linguists. While admitting, therefore, that there is some reason to hope that the proclamations recently made by the Sultan of Zanzibar, and the powers conceded by him to the officers of Her Majesty's Navy, may tend to a diminution of that execrable trade which is working such wide-spread desolation and ruin in Eastern Africa, we feel that something more effective is imperatively demanded from this country. And we state emphatically, and without fear of contradiction, that more efficient measures may be adopted; adopted too with very trifling expense or inconvenience. It is notorious to all those who have any knowledge of the peculiarities of navigation in the Eastern seas, that the motions of the native craft are governed by invariable rules. That supply of slaves which is required in Arabia, Persia, &c., in consequence of the trade having been abolished on the side of Egypt, is that to satisfy which the Arab slave merchants go to the Eastern Coast of Africa. The winds in the Eastern seas blow steadily for a given time in one direction, and then as steadily in a precisely opposite one. These winds are termed Monsoons. With one Monsoon all the Arab slave-trade craft make their way down the Coast of Africa to the favourite haunts of the slavetrader. They make their arrangements at Zanzibar, or on the Coast, and embark their slaves just at the well-known period when a change of wind is about to take place. As they come down with one Monsoon, so they seek to go up with another. The entrance to the Red Sea is so narrow, that it could be watched with great facility. We feel certain that if to a few of the fastest gunboats in the Navy cruising off the coasts of Zanzibar, were added two or three to watch the entrance of the Red Sea at the time when the Arab vessels must necessarily return, if they return at all, that trade, the continuance of which is a reproach to such a Navy as that of Great Britain, would soon be annihilated. Such extensive captures would be made, that in the course of a year or two the whole trade would be broken up. In the interests of humanity, and for the credit of Great Britain and its Navy, we call upon the Board of Admiralty to furnish the necessary ships and instructions for this duty. It cannot be wondered at that foreign nations should deridingly question the sincerity of our professed national desire and efforts to suppress the slave-trade, when the above-indicated and other equally simple and effective means

are not resorted to. Africa groans and bleeds under that accursed slave-trade; and a Christian nation that has been roused to a conviction of its unmitigable horrors, and of the Christian duty of putting an end to them, is bound to employ every probable or possible means for that purpose. If she does not, her convictions deserve to be regarded as a sham; and the other efforts she may seem to make, as an ignoble deception—a contemptible farce.

ASHANTEE WAR.

The second campaign has now commenced. British troops have ere this crossed the frontier of Ashantee. We now wish to point out the difference between the last campaign and the present. We stated last month that orders from England were imperative against any advance into the Ashantee territory. The enemy were to be repulsed if they attempted an invasion; but an advance beyond the Prah toward Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee, was not to be thought of. The subsequent mail, however, conveyed orders by which the Gold Coast authorities were allowed entire freedom of action. They are now to conduct the war in such a manner as they think will bring it most speedily to a termination; and hence the crossing of the troops (portions of the 2nd and 4th West India Regiments) into Ashantee.

Those who have read the *African Times* from its commencement, know how long and how strenuously we have insisted on the absolute necessity of a great military highway from the Coast to the River Prah, with intersecting and other roads, so as to bring all parts of the Protected Territories within easy access from the seat of Government and the shipping ports. This "necessity" was so painfully felt during the campaign last year, that the Governor of the Gold Coast and Colonel Conran, who commands the troops in the field, have been unremitting in their endeavours to supply it. We announced last month, "The highway is opened from Cape Coast to Abomey;" and our correspondence of this month informs us that other important roads, to communicate with that road, are now making.

This is good news. We deplore the war; but we accept with gratitude this instalment of benefits from it. The opening of that highway has introduced us to a country which has excited the admiration of the commander of the troops, and of all who have passed over it from Mansoo to the River Prah. The country is evidently one of great fertility, and far more salubrious than that hot, fetid coast where so many valuable lives have been lost, because the healthy lands of the interior were ignored, and the most ordinary precautions were neglected. The more we become acquainted with the interior of these territories the more entirely will the truth of our oft-repeated assertions be confirmed, that elements there exist which would make those territories, were they indeed an English Colony, one of the richest colonial possessions of the British Crown.

The certainty of this only makes us the more anxious at this moment as to the issue of those military operations which had commenced when the last mail left for England. The Ashantees have a good reputation as fighting men—a far higher reputation in this respect than almost any other West African people so near the Coast. Nothing has been heard from Coomassie for some months. The Ashantee preparations for this campaign, whatever they may be, are enveloped in a mystery the most profound. But it is well known that the Ashantees can bring forty or fifty thousand, or more, good troops into the field. The operations of their army last year showed considerable military tact. As no overtures for peace have been made from Coomassie, and as all our doings are thoroughly well known there, the Ashantee forces are no doubt ready for action near the capital. Under these circumstances, we advance 600 men (see correspondence) some twelve miles beyond the river frontier. True, those men are to be augmented, and the force is to be raised to 1,200 men—i.e., if the Ashantees will only wait until this takes place. Meanwhile, in consequence of the total inability on the part of the British authorities to provision them, the native contingents, which may be 30,000 strong, are not called out to support the 600, for fear their small stock of provisions that they carry with them should become exhausted, and these troops should therefore be forced to

disband at a critical moment, which might thus be made a fatal one. Now on those 600 men under Colonel Conran everything depends. Should anything happen to this force, the results would be fearful. The Ashantees would overrun the territories, burning, destroying, enslaving, and exporting slaves by way of Quittah, which we so obligingly leave an open route for the Dahoman slave-dealers. We confess that we are not without considerable anxiety. We know these 600 men are brave men, and well commanded. But suppose them surrounded by large numbers of those "fighting devils," as the Ashantees are called; that at the same time another sufficient Ashantee force is detached to operate in their rear; and that the native contingents, unprepared for protracted operations, are compelled to retreat or disband? Some of our correspondents seem to fear that the authorities at the Gold Coast rather undervalue the Ashantees, and that therefore they are imprudently engaging themselves in the enemy's country. But as they have advanced these disciplined West Indian troops, we hope Her Majesty's Government will have recognised the necessity of hastening up those reinforcements that were counted upon at Cape Coast. Any miscarriage in this Ashantee war would lead to most serious consequences, not only as regards the present, but the future also. Civilization and progress in the Protected Territories and Ashantee are in the balance. A heavy disaster in this campaign, and they would kick the beam. We have great confidence in Colonel Conran and in Governor Pine; but we repeat, such heavy interests being at stake, we shall wait the news by next mail with very deep anxiety.

RESOURCES OF THE NIGER AS REGARDS LEGITIMATE TRADE, AND HOW IT SHOULD BE CARRIED ON.

(Extract from a Letter from Commodore Wilmot, H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*, to the Commander-in-Chief of the Cape Station, dated 9th December, 1863.)

Lieutenant Gambier ascended in the steamer as far as Egga, about 360 miles from the entrance of the river. From thence he advanced a further distance of five miles in his boats, and entered a small river, up which he went fifty miles to a village called Wunagi, seven miles from Beda, the capital of King Massaba. Dr. Baikie accompanied him.

At Wunagi they were met by King Massaba's messengers, who informed them that horses would be sent down for their conveyance to his town.

The name of the river is not given in any chart, neither has it been surveyed. It will be well to call it by some name connected with this year's expedition. It is about 300 yards across in the broadest part, and from thirty to forty in its narrowest part. Depth unknown; but Lieutenant Gambier thinks it to average quite two fathoms.

The banks are thick with mangrove, and a few trees; but the country is well cultivated, yielding Indian corn and yam. There is also the "butter-tree," which is about ten feet high, and produces "shea butter," which is used by the natives for food and for greasing their bodies. There is plenty of cotton, red and white, and large quantities might be grown. At every village cotton was brought down for sale.

The country seems well populated with much of the same description of people as in other parts of Africa. All were very friendly, and anxious for trade.

The soil appears to be most fertile; cotton, Indian and Guinea corn, cassava, date-palm, yams, &c., growing in great abundance. The yams are superior to those of most places on the coast; and the climate, from all accounts, is very healthy, a fresh breeze blowing up from the sea.

There are partridges and guinea-fowl, also elephants and buffaloes, in the neighbourhood.

Dr. Baikie came on board at Lukoja, his own place, about 220 miles up, and was greatly rejoiced to see the Investigator, as his supplies were exhausted, and he had given up all hopes of being relieved this year.

The missionaries were all landed at those places where they had missions, embarking again when the Investigator returned. . . . From the entrance of the Niger to Egga, a distance of 360

miles, the average depth in the rainy season is between 4 and 5 fathoms, excepting in one part of the ship-channel, which has only 10 feet. This, of course, makes it impossible for vessels drawing more water to proceed further than this shallow part, which is about 200 miles up.

There is another passage on the other side of the island, near which this 10-foot channel is, which has not yet been surveyed; and Lieutenant Gambier thinks it highly probable that a deep channel may be found there.

*My opinion, formed upon the information I have been able to obtain, is, that it would well repay one company to take the trade of the Niger into its own hands, encouraged and assisted by a yearly subsidy from the Government, until the trade is regularly and permanently established, and certain profits arise.**

After this it would be, of course, for Her Majesty's Government to rescind the charter and do away with the monopoly, as they think proper.

It appears that this single 10-foot channel mentioned above is the only obstacle, excepting the river-bar, to vessels of large draught of water navigating the river, after passing the bar, and taking in their cargoes 300 miles up.

This is a very serious obstacle, but can be overcome by steamers of light draught towing up large cargo boats, or hulks of a considerable size. The bar is another drawback to vessels drawing much water. There is only twelve feet on it in the rainy season.

A company must therefore be prepared to enter upon their work with two powerful paddle-wheel steamers, drawing when loaded nine feet of water, which is only one foot less than the depth of the channel in its shallowest part, with a good supply of cargo-boats or other conveyances, as they may deem expedient for river-work.

The ship to receive the cargo must be at anchor outside the bar. These steamers should be armed with one heavy and one light gun, also a proportion of small-arms, rockets, &c., in case of necessity. They should be very fast, well ventilated, and carry at least 100 tons of coal. A depot of coal must be in the river at the best-selected place, and wood can be obtained very cheap. I should say that steamers with two rudders would be the best, which will prevent the necessity of turning.

At first some little difficulty will doubtless arise, which must be expected; but the enterprise of British merchants, backed up by the energy and skill of British seamen, will conquer every obstacle, and establish a trade in the Niger that will fully satisfy, in a few years, every one that is really interested in the happiness and prosperity of this part of Africa.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—I have amused myself for some time past with watching the waspish stings of the correspondents of the *African Times* at the Consul of Fernando Po, and it has also been remarked, that when such are inserted, the paper which is published on the 23rd—evidently to go out by the monthly steamer of the 24th—is never sent to his subscribing friends in England till the 25th. In the number of February 23rd, "Tom Coffee" warns the British public against wanderings by "F.R.G.S." If it were possible for "Tom Coffee" to have the honour of being put in the balance with that author, I wonder whose statements would be preferred by the British public. Not "Tom Coffee's," I verily believe. Only yesterday a good authority on African affairs told me that Captain Burton and "F.R.G.S." are the only two authors who ever spoke the truth about Africa, and that the British public were very much obliged to them for it.

"Tom Coffee" informs us that this book was written in order to acquire notoriety, to obtain snug colonial appointments, or to be admitted as a F.R.G.S. I can inform him, on my own personal knowledge, that the notoriety of "F.R.G.S." commenced upwards of twenty years ago, and has been steadily on the increase ever since; that he has been a life member of the Royal Geographical Society for upwards of fifteen years, and one of its brightest ornaments; and as to any appointments on the West Coast of Africa—if that be the El Dorado of "Tom Coffee" and

* The italics are ours.—ED. A. T.

his friend "Eyewitness"—"F.R.G.S.'s" ambitious aspirations will not, I think, prove their obstacle.

Now "Eyewitness" has reported some outrages in the Cameroons River, and winds up in italics: "Are these things to continue? Are we always to have a Consul who, while these things are being done almost before his eyes, will not take the trouble to visit the river even for investigation?" Fortunately, Sir, the authorities at head-quarters know how zealously and how well that Consul is working, and where he is, and what about, when not doing "Eyewitness's" pleasure! If "Eyewitness" has got a name, why does he not sign it like a man? I venture, he would not walk up to the Consul in question and look askance of him as to his movement; and when a man skulks behind a *courbriquet*, his word may be doubted.

There is a Spanish proverb which says, "No one ever pelts a tree unless there is fruit on it." That fruit is, that the Consul in question has got the whole of his jurisdiction into good working order, and is feared and respected down the whole Coast as an honest man, a gentleman, and a despoiler of cant and humbug. Those who want to choose a consul from among themselves, that they may do what they like, will not get rid of him by little scurrilous remarks in even so important a paper as the *African Times*.

The Consul's chief, his friends and admirers, are legion in the scale against his half-dozen cowardly anonymous backbiters.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, DENSDEDIT.

London, March 19, 1864.

* We have given a very strong proof of our impartiality, by inserting the above. We never undertake to deliver the *African Times* to private subscribers in England in sufficient time to enable them to read it, and then send it abroad. It is published for the mail of the 23rd, and is posted for all parts of West Africa on that day. More than that we do not profess to do. The charge of the paper being intentionally withheld from friends of Captain Burton is too ridiculous for serious notice. Fully acknowledging Captain Burton's merits and importance, we are compelled to say that our estimate does not reach the altitude above indicated. As regards the Gold Coast, "Tom Coffee" is a better authority than "F.R.G.S.," however brilliant the glory he may shed on the Royal Geographical Society, and "Eyewitness" would never shrink from a statement he had made, if we found it necessary, which in this case it is not, to call upon him to justify it. Until then his *incognito* is as sacred with us as that of "Densdedit." In conclusion, we may say briefly, once for all, that we never make any insertion in the *African Times* unadvisedly; that as regards the Consul in question, we esteem him to be a man whose unquestionably high merits are not such as particularly fit him for the patient duties of a Consulate; and that Her Majesty's Government would do more justice both to him and to the public, by giving him a far more lucrative employment in the important field of exploration, for which he has evinced an extraordinary aptitude. We can never again notice any communications of a similar nature with the above.—ED. A. T.

THE LATE CONSUL HANSON.—The widow of Consul Hanson has been granted 100l., "as of Her Majesty's Royal bounty," by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, on the recommendation of Viscount Palmerston. Mr. Hanson perished in 1862, in attempting to save the Royal African Mail steamship *Cleopatra*, stranded at the mouth of the Sherboro River, West Africa.

FRENCH COMMERCE—PORTO NOVO AND WHYDAH.—The Director-General of Customs has addressed a circular to the agents under his orders, dated the 1st instant, instructing them that a French factory has been established at Whydah, on the Western Coast of Africa, which has lately become the seat of a new Imperial Consular agency. Porto Novo, another position on the same coast, has been lately placed under French protection. The Minister of Finance has decided, after consulting with his colleagues of the Departments of the Marine and of Commerce, and at the suggestion of the Director-General of Customs, that palm oil and cocoa oil, imported under the French flag from Whydah and Porto Novo, shall enjoy the benefit of the ordinance of the 16th of May, 1863, regulating the duties payable on produce arriving from the French establishments on the Western Coast of Africa.

SIERRA LEONE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

(Copy of a Letter from Commodore Wilmot to Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P., Chairman of the African-Aid Society.)

H.M.S. Rattlesnake, Sierra Leone, February 19, 1864.

My Lord,—It has been decided by a committee of gentlemen at this colony, presided over by the Governor, that an exhibition of native art, manufacture, agriculture, live stock, and African produce of every kind, shall take place at Sierra Leone at the close of the present year.

The time has arrived when the minds of the natives of this country must be raised by some means from their present state of apathy and indifference to a true sense of their own ignorance in all matters concerning the real and permanent prosperity of their country.

It is lamentable to witness the little value they set upon the cultivation of the soil, and the development of its resources. Everything will grow here. Coffee is quite wild in the bush, but not thought of. The sugar-cane, arrow-root, ginger, the ground-nut, and every kind of fruit and vegetable, would flourish in abundance, if the natives will till the ground and give it even common attention, but they will not, preferring to idle their time away in useless absurdities.

There is positively little difference in what grew in the time of their forefathers and what grows now.

The truth must be told, and I am quite sure your Lordship will agree in the necessity of this exhibition, as being the probable means of opening their eyes to their ignorance and pride.

One thousand pounds is required to set the exhibition afloat, and of this about 400l. is already subscribed; but the committee are apprehensive of failure unless they can make certain of contributions from England.

The smallest donation will be thankfully received, and I appeal to your lordship with every confidence for assistance in this great work of real charity in favour of the African race.—I have the honour to be your Lordship's very faithful servant,

A. P. EARDLEY WILMOT,

Commodore and Senior Officer, West Coast of Africa.

The Right Hon. Lord Alfred S. Churchill, M.P.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST A CAPTAIN OF ONE OF THE ROYAL AFRICAN MAIL STEAMERS.

The Royal African Mail Steamship *Armenian* arrived in Liverpool from the West Coast of Africa in January, in charge of Captain Milbourne, who was returning to England after discharging a mission entrusted to him by the Company of African Merchants. Captain Wyld, who had previously command of the *Armenian*, was induced to give up the charge of the vessel to Captain Milbourne, when the *Armenian* arrived at Sierra Leone. Captain Wyld has since appeared before the Local Marine Board, at Liverpool, to answer certain charges of drunkenness and incapacity preferred against him. The case was only partially investigated, but from the evidence then given it appears that while on the return voyage from the West African Coast, and between Cape Palmas and Sierra Leone, Captain Wyld was delirious from the effects of drink, and tried to get into the ladies' cabin in a complete state of nudity, but was prevented by the steward. It was stated that on one occasion the captain changed the course of the ship so as to run her on shore, but that the wheel was taken from him; and that on another occasion he threatened to run the vessel on shore and drown everybody on board. It was admitted, however, in cross-examination, that Captain Wyld was suffering very severely from an injury to one of his lungs, and that he vomited blood during the voyage, and that his delirium arose in some measure from his illness. The principal witnesses examined were Lieutenant Croke, R.N., and Captain Whyte, merchant captain. The Board finally decided that the charge of drunkenness was not fully proved; but that as Captain Wyld was suffering under *delirium tremens*, his certificate must be suspended until sufficient proof could be given that he was cured of that malady, which rendered him, while subject to it, quite unfit for command.

ABYSSINIA.

We have just received intelligence of a very painful nature from Abyssinia. The Rev. Mr. Stern, a missionary sent out by the Upper Egypt and Abyssinia Missionary Society, has been imprisoned and condemned to death by King Theodore. We will give particulars in our next.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEBRUARY 26, 1864.

SLAVE-TRADE.

Mr. CAVE said he felt that, however various opinions might be on the subject of involuntary servitude, there could be but one upon the slave-trade. (Hear, hear.) No English voice would be raised in its defence, and no Englishman would now deem it anything but a most detestable crime, whether they contemplated the misery inflicted upon the unhappy captives torn suddenly from their peaceful homes with every circumstance of atrocity, or upon their families, if any were left, who had escaped the torch and weapons of the manstealer; or, taking a wider view, they reflected that the testimony of all travellers, from Bruce and Mungo Park to his distinguished friend Captain Speke, united in condemning the slave-trade as the greatest bar to the civilization and improvement of the tribes even far in the interior of the great African continent. But to come home to ourselves, there surely must be many who saw with apprehension how dependent we were upon this broken reed, and how sorely we might some day suffer from so unsatisfactory a position. He would explain his meaning in a few words. Thirty years ago, the people of England, awakened to the evils of slavery, emancipated the negroes in their colonies at the cost of an enormous sum of money and of a social revolution from which few of those colonies had yet recovered. That was in the eyes of the world a remarkable sacrifice of expediency to principle. Some years later the increase of manufacturing industry in the midland counties gave an immense impetus to the growth of cotton. The internal slave-trade peopled the cotton fields of the south, and the slave States of America obtained the monopoly of supply. We were now lamenting the consequences. A few years later we opened our ports to slavegrown sugar. The African slave-trade revived with all its atrocities, and the production of free labour languished throughout the world. We now depended upon slavery not only for two-fifths of our supply, but for nearly half the vast revenue derived from sugar. (Hear, hear.) Should an insurrection break out in Cuba—and four years ago such an event would have seemed far more probable than the disruption of the United States—we might have cause to regret a change of policy which in the eyes of many in this country, and still more out of it, seemed a remarkable sacrifice of principle to expediency. He had felt the anomaly and danger of depending for so large a portion of our revenue upon a source which we condemned and were doing our best to destroy. The House knew how we had striven year after year, to put down this abominable traffic, and how we had been baffled by other nations allowing their flags to shelter it. It had been hoped that by aid of the treaty with the United States made in 1862, a few fast steamers off the coasts of Cuba would have entirely put an end to the slave-trade. But no cruisers had been placed there. The papers laid before Parliament were only brought down to the end of 1862. We saw there that the trade to Cuba was then as brisk as ever. That, although less than 12,000 slaves had been reported as landed during the year, yet that so many new estates had been established in remote districts, that vast numbers of slaves had been smuggled on to the quays or small rocky islets with which the coast of Cuba was fringed, whence they were removed a few at a time in country boats, so that it was impossible to say how many had been imported; but that slaves were so valuable, that on one occasion the owners could afford to pay no less than 12,000l. as hush money to Spanish officials for a cargo of 490. (Hear, hear.) These papers mentioned that the vigilance of Spanish cruisers had diminished in consequence of the sailors having been kept out of their prize money by the authorities. We learnt from them that the horrors of the middle pas-

sage had not diminished, when we read that there was a slaver captured by Her Majesty's ship *Antelope*, measuring from eighty-five to ninety tons, having 558 slaves on board, besides her crew, or seven persons to a ton, with a slave deck only thirty inches high, and insufficient food and water for the voyage of fifty days to Cuba. This was in 1862. What had been done since? He feared nothing had been done. A recent memorial from Jamaica complained that the trade was being carried on in full vigour. A naval officer of the station wrote last month from Port Royal in the following terms: "The past year has been one in which much might have been done to suppress the slave-trade, as our treaty with the United States regarding the right of search was ratified early in 1863. Notwithstanding the principal objection was removed by that treaty, no advantage has yet been taken of it, and the cruisers have been so few in number, and tied down by such rules, that the blockade of the coast of Cuba has not even been one which could be put on paper." Meanwhile, the price of sugar was rising, which would enable the Cuban planter to give a higher price for slaves, and the demand would assuredly be met by increased supply. It was stated, indeed, that the new Captain-General of Cuba was determined to stop the trade, and had already given proof of his sincerity. If this were really so, the thing would be done, as Spain, doubtless, had the power in her own hands; but we had such hopes before with new captain-generals, and they all ended in disappointment. It was now well nigh fifty years since nearly half-a-million was paid to Spain in consideration for treaties which had been systematically evaded, for undertakings which had never been performed. We all knew too well the expenditure of English money and the waste of valuable English lives which had during that long interval been caused by this breach of faith, and he (Mr. Cave) thought the time was now come when the people of this country had a right to know whether there was any better hope for the future or not.

Lord PALMERSTON could venture to say that no men in the country had felt more warmly, and, within the limits of their spheres of action, had exerted themselves more for the suppression of the slave-trade, than his noble friend at the head of the Foreign-office and himself. (Hear, hear.) The difficulties in the way had been great. But we ought to make some allowance for the reluctance of other governments, and great progress had really been made. Brazil imported 70,000 slaves a-year, which implied the death or misery of 200,000 persons. This had been got rid of. Spain imported above 20,000 a-year. We had now reason to think that in 1863 not more than 7,000 were landed. The United States treaty alluded to had proved to be very valuable, but it was deeply to be regretted that France, formerly one of our warmest supporters in our efforts against the slave-trade, had not consented to enter into a similar one. France, however, did employ cruisers on the coast of Africa, and he had reason to hope that the action of France would be directed energetically and sincerely to put an end to the slave-trade. The House was aware that the French Government had put an end to the pretended free labour immigration. As to Cuba, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief now there had acted most honourably hitherto, and had exercised his power in every case effectually for the suppression of the slave-trade. But the power of the Governor was not complete, as there were certain laws of Spain which cramped his action, and at his suggestion they had forwarded a recommendation to the Government at Madrid to repeal those laws. This representation had not yet been successful, but he hoped shortly that the Spanish Crown would remove the obstacles which stood in the way of the accomplishment of the purposes for which the treaties for the suppression of the slave-trade were concluded. There was no doubt of the importance of cruisers on the coast of Cuba; but the most important capture was the slave ship equipped and prepared on the coast without any slaves on board. The next valuable capture was a ship with negroes on board, but off the coast of Africa, before the horrors of the middle passage had been endured. The third was, the slaver with slaves on board off the coast of Cuba. But the Spanish Government had refused their application to allow their cruisers to anchor on the coast of Cuba within their territorial limits. Still, he believed that the next papers issued would show a great reduction in the slave-trade to Cuba.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, MARCH 14.

SLAVE-TRADE ON THE EAST COAST OF AFRICA.

Lord A. CHURCHILL asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government had any recent information as to the slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa, and especially in the neighbourhood of Zanzibar; and whether any and what measures had been adopted to prevent the carrying on of that trade by the Portuguese and Northern Arabs.

Mr. LAYARD said that the information received by the Government with respect to the slave-trade on the eastern coast of Africa was, he regretted to state, of a very unsatisfactory nature. While on the western coast the slave-trade had greatly diminished, on the eastern it was very much on the increase. Her Majesty's cruisers had done all in their power during the last two or three years, and had captured about 100 vessels with slaves on board; but the circumstances in which they were placed were very difficult. There were several reasons why they were not able to carry on the same action on the East as on the West Coast. The cruisers were not sufficiently numerous, and since the abolition of the Indian navy there was not the same class of officers acquainted with the coast who were formerly able to put a stop to the slave traffic. According to information which he had received, between 20,000 and 30,000 slaves were carried off that coast. This was partly the result of the efficacious measures taken by the Turkish Government, which had put an end to the slave-trade on the Egyptian coast, so that the slave vessels had recourse to the eastern coast of Africa. Another cause of the increase of the traffic was the inability of Her Majesty's ships to interfere with the coasting vessels belonging to the Imam of Muscat. Under the treaty the coasting trade was sacred, and could not be interfered with by Her Majesty's cruisers, and the consequence was that a very large slave-trade was carried on. The Sovereign of Zanzibar had, however, authorised Her Majesty's cruisers to stop vessels at certain times of the year along the coast of Africa, and that permission would enable the cruisers to stop a large amount of slave-trade. Other causes of the increase of that trade had been the facilities afforded to Arab vessels for flying the French flag, and the encouragement of the trade, if not a participation in it, on the part of a large number of subordinate Portuguese authorities; though the Portuguese Governor was, no doubt, doing his utmost to put a stop to the traffic. A number of representations had been made on this subject to the Portuguese Government, and Her Majesty's Government had received assurances over and over again that the traffic should be stopped, but hitherto this had not been done. He had read with feelings of horror the accounts sent by Dr. Livingstone and others of the cruelties resulting from the prevalence of the slave-trade. Her Majesty's Government would not lose sight of the subject, and everything that could be done to put a stop to that detestable trade would be attempted. (Hear.)

IMPORTS OF COTTON INTO GREAT BRITAIN IN 1862 AND 1863.

Total from all quarters:—			
1862	4,678,180	cwts.	
1863	5,978,422	"	
The following were from Africa:—			
	1862	1863	
	cwts.	cwts.	
British Possessions on the Gambia	1	131	
" " on the Gold Coast	108	95	
Sierra Leone	—	24	
West Coast—places not designated	3,380	659	
Natal	18	237*	
Cape of Good Hope	6,528†	33,845†	
—Cotton Supply Reporter.			

Mr. Arthur Chinnery had been at Accra from Lagos, it was thought with the intention of making some trading arrangements there for the London and African Trading Company.

* Some of this East Indian, transhipped.
† Principally East Indian, transhipped.

ZAMBESILAND.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the able Editor of the *Natal Mercury* for the following interesting and important account of Zambesiland:—

Ten years ago, the existence of such a river as the Zambesi was a fact scarcely noticed. Its entrance into the ocean, about the 22nd parallel of south latitude, was stated on the map, but its devious course—almost across an entire continent—was only represented by a dotted line. Obscure as was then its outline, this river, which is the Amazon of Central Africa, had a greater destiny than seemed then to await it. Its name was to be the Shibboleth of a new and widespread mission movement on the part of the oldest Anglican Church, and its shores were to afford food for speculation and research to a vast host of philosophers and explorers.

Very little is really known of the progress and vicissitudes of the Zambesi mission party. Although so contiguous to the scene of operations, we, and indeed the home public as well, have only gathered what information we may possess upon the subject from the stray letters that have appeared at long intervals from different members of the party. Nothing like a connected account of the trials and troubles of the gallant band that has been for nearly three years immured in the gloom that surrounds Zambesiland, has been made public, nor indeed has there been any one in a position to supply such a historic and authentic record. The recent arrival of the Rev. L. J. Proctor has been the means of acquainting us more fully with the movements of the mission, and through the kindness of that gentleman we are enabled to describe some of the more leading incidents in the experience of himself and his brave coadjutors.

Zambesiland is not the paradise which Dr. Livingstone's glowing description represents it to be. The first glimpse which the stranger gets of it is unfavourable. There is no high land to relieve the depressing aspect presented by the Konguni, where it enters the sea, amidst low banks of black mangroves, without any higher background to vary the scene. There is nothing inviting about the place, and the entire delta, extending inland for eighty or a hundred miles, has the same low, flat, marshy character. We need scarcely say that the Zambesi has many mouths, the Konguni being that most used. Throughout this low coast country, fever is endemic. Vegetation is tolerably abundant, comprising four different varieties of palm, the ordinary palmetto and the dwarf palm being the most common. This region is thickly populated by natives, half-breeds, and Portuguese. It is, practically speaking, Portuguese territory. Their language is largely spoken; their religion prevails; and their influence is predominant. This, of course, was never regarded as the spot for mission operations. The object of the movement was to convert the heathen, not to proselytise, and little time was lost in moving up to near the confluence of the Shire, where the nature of the country begins to change, where the Portuguese element is less powerful, and where the natives remain still pure and simple pagans.

The Shire has, undoubtedly, an important part to play in the progress of civilization in Central Africa. It enters the Zambesi at a point about 150 miles from the sea, and runs down to that point in a south-easterly direction from the little-known Lake Nyassa, which lies about 200 miles further north. The two rivers thus form a triangle, the base of which faces the north west, and the apex being, of course, the junction of the main stream with its noble tributary. The country thus enclosed has been that to which the late Bishop and his assistants principally devoted their attention. It is intersected by the valley of the Shire. That river is easily navigable by the Pioneer as far as the Murchison cataracts, and Dr. Livingstone purposed to take his vessel to pieces, and place her on the upper part of the river, intervening between there and the Lake Nyassa, which is not a hundred miles further north. The Shire country is very much healthier than the lower land, and this is but a natural consequence of its physical conformation. Here, as in the more southerly portions of Africa, the land rises on plateaux which attain a height of from five to seven thousand feet. About 300 miles from the

coast, the great Manganje range of mountains is met with, running as nearly as may be from W.N.W., and forming the watershed between the Zambesi and the Shire. This chain of mountains rises to a magnificent altitude, something like eleven or twelve thousand feet above the sea level, and they spring sheer from the elevated plateau that forms their base, in one mighty precipice, which has a north-easterly aspect. The scenery in this region is described as being exceedingly grand. Geologically this region appears to resemble Natal in many respects. Granitic and igneous rocks largely prevail. The mountains themselves appear to be primary, and the soil is meagre, and not over fertile. It is much to be lamented that the extensive geological investigations made by the late Mr. Thornton—a young man very much beloved, and of great promise—are lost to science, through the sudden death of that gentleman, whose rough jotted notes are, alas! illegible.

The climate of the Shire is an intensified exaggeration of the Natalian climate. Droughts are common in the winter, and have been for nearly ten years past, often lasting for five or six months together. It is this circumstance which accounts for the frequent famines that decimate the country, and from one of which it is now suffering in an unprecedented degree. The weather appears to move in cycles, very much as it does here. In the summer the rains when they fall are generally very heavy and severe, flooding the rivers and making communication difficult. The heat is excessive. On many days it is impossible to do anything but lie prostrate, with as little covering on as decency will allow. At these times the glass ranges from 90 degs. to 105 degs. At night the atmosphere becomes much cooler, and it is this sudden change of temperature, combined with the malaria rising from the reedy river-beds and marshes, which is, most probably, at the foundation of the various diseases that carry off so many victims. Fever is one of the hygienic conditions of the country to European constitutions. A stranger going there for any length of time is safe to be fever-stricken sooner or later. Although the gentlemen who have survived their companions in the mission have retained life, they have not come off scatheless. Some of them have suffered twenty different attacks of this virulent disease. The symptoms are very much the same—though in a much worse and more violent form—as those that characterised the mild epidemic prevalent here during the late autumn, the only difference being that near the Zambesi the feverish indications are generally preceded by, and presumed to spring from, prolonged attacks of dysentery. In other respects the febrile symptoms are pains in the back and bones, stiffness in the head, shivering and prostration. Dr. Livingstone's specific has proved the most efficacious cure, the basis of the remedy being, as our readers may remember, that finest of tonics—quinine. The great object to be first attained in treating this disorder is to assail the stomach. When that organ is subdued, the disease soon succumbs. Carefulness as to diet, and freedom from exposure, combined with the ordinary precautions, will go a long way to prevent or to counteract this otherwise fatal foe. It is believed that in many cases, had proper food and stimulants been at command, the lives of some of the victims might have been saved.

Life, both human and animal, in Zambesiland, is not so fecund as in other tropical countries. We have already said that the delta is monopolised by the Portuguese and their dependents, who are openly and extensively engaged in the slave-trade. The tribe which occupied the Shire country was the Manganja—powerful as to numbers, but in all moral qualities singularly contemptible. This people, in their modes of life, are ahead of our Zulus. Their huts, though circular, have upright walls plastered with mud, and roofs very neatly lined with reeds. In the centre of the floor is the fireplace, and above that, shaped like a V, is the family garner, where the mealie crop is stowed. The Manganja live in villages; but as no cattle exist in the country, kraals are not needed, and poultry are the only live stock, except dogs, about an establishment. A more cowardly race than this tribe does not appear to exist. Their abject fear of a white man is such that, when one approaches a village, all the men take to

flight, and should he so much as wave his arm, they hide themselves in the bush. If a European frowns at one, they evince great terror; but should he shout angrily to them, they crouch at his feet in the most childlike fear. The women are rather braver, and don't take to flight so rapidly. They gather round a hut, under its eaves, when a white stranger visits them, and wait to see whether his intentions are pacific or hostile. Their principal food is maize, which grows well, and to a great size. Pumpkins, squashes, and a few other vegetables, are also produced. This tribe appear to be on the Zambesi what the Amatongas are near Delagoa Bay—the persecuted of everybody. Beyond them, and nearer the Nyassa, is the large tribe of Ajawas—men of another stamp, given to warfare, and powerful in more senses than that of numbers. For some time it has been customary with the Ajawas to wage chronic war with the mild Manganjas, and to carry off hosts of the latter as slaves. Year by year this decimating process has been going on, until the wasting effects of war and famine have so reduced the Manganja, that extinction almost seems to threaten them. The Ajawas, it seems, are in their turn driven forward by other warlike tribes beyond them, so that the tide of aboriginal humanity still continues to press on southward. In the Manganjas the cause of civilization would lose a useful ally. They have always shown a friendly and servile disposition, and no danger need ever have been apprehended from them. With the Ajawas, different relations subsist, but of this we shall speak hereafter. Of the tribes south of the Zambesi nothing is known. That region remains *terra incognita*.

In brute life there is some variety. Elephants are not common near the coast, but hippopotami abound, and it is no unusual thing to see a herd of fifty or sixty wallowing in the river. Herds of ten or twenty are quite numerous. They are harmless unless encountered singly, when at certain seasons, these huge brutes are apt to be ferocious. A provoking misfortune once occurred through the agency of a sea cow. After an interval of some months had elapsed without the receipt of home letters, a canoe was at last coming up the river with the long-looked-for mail in her, but unhappily behemoth took it into his head to upset the boat, and to drown, irrecoverably, the anticipated letters. Imagine the provoked disappointment this created. Other large game, such as elephants, rhinoceros, or lions, do not appear to come under the notice of the mission. Panthers are numerous, and the "buck" tribe very plentiful, but snakes are not particularly troublesome.

Such were the more prominent features of the country which became the sphere of the mission experiences, and which was soon to be the burial place of so many brave and enlightened men. When Bishop Mackenzie arrived there, in 1861, one object alone animated both him and the rest of the party with him. That object was the evangelization of the heathen tribes. At the outset the Bishop displayed that singularly tender and forbearing temper towards the surrounding barbarians for which he was distinguished here. He obtained, with one exception, from all his coadjutors a promise that under no circumstance would they lift an arm against a native. One of the party objected to this, on the principle that self-preservation was, humanly speaking, the first law, and that such a promise might prove, in fact, quite impracticable. The sequel justified this objection, and Bishop Mackenzie had, alas! before very many months were over, seen how totally inapplicable in dealing with a savage race is the utopian theory, which, from a distance, had seemed so appropriate and beautiful.

It is not our present purpose to follow the mission party through all their varied and painful experiences, nor have we a desire to forestall the interesting narrative which Mr. Proctor has promised to give on his return from Zululand. The mission, as such, has confessedly been a failure. It is idle to deny or to conceal what would otherwise be presumed. Never, perhaps, were hopeful and enterprising men so completely disabused as were these pioneers. The impressions they had formed regarding the country were rudely and summarily subverted. Instead of a country comparatively healthy, and pleasant to live in, a country endowed naturally with the main necessities of life, they found a climate where disease was an inevitable condition, a land very meagrely

supplied with the means of existence, a scene of extreme hardship, danger, and toil. Instead of being able to start at once upon the prosecution of their high calling, they found every moment of their lives taken up by a bare struggle for existence. What with moving about from place to place, what with sickness, absence, and death, what with having to fetch stores, contend with the natives, and wait upon each other, the great mission work was practically untouched and unapproachable.

The leading feature in the history of the movement has been the relations in which it stood towards the native tribes. We have before explained that these consisted in the Ajawas and the Manganja. It was with the latter that the fortunes of the mission became more or less implicated. The first native following secured by the party was the result of a curious circumstance. Dr. Livingstone and the Bishop Mackenzie were travelling through the country, when they met a party of Ajawas driving down to the coast about a thousand natives, men, women, and children, whom they had captured as slaves. These unfortunate people were chained after the fashion common there in such cases, two and two, to heavy bars of wood, and the Doctor, with his usual determined promptness, put his hand upon the shoulder of one of them, and declared them all free. He then recommended the Bishop to take them as the basis of a settlement. To this Mr. Mackenzie naturally objected, and advised that the people be sent back to their tribe. On being told this they loudly intreated to remain with their protector—their villages had been burnt; their property taken away, and if left to themselves, their only alternatives were starvation or slavery. On hearing this the Bishop's scruples were appeased, and these people thenceforward remained with them, and were found useful.

This occurrence proved the beginning of evils. It was the ultimate means of bringing about those hostile collisions between Bishop Mackenzie and the Ajawa that caused so much adverse comment in the religious circles of England a year ago. When the Manganja found that the Englishmen were exercising so powerful a function as protectors and liberators, they speedily applied for similar acts of assistance and interposition. The first occasion on which the party were drawn into open hostility was wholly unpremeditated and fortuitous. Bishop Mackenzie was proceeding to a certain village with the view rather of expostulating than fighting. He was accompanied by most of his companions, as well as by a number of the friendly Manganja. On reaching the village in question, or getting near to it, they were attacked by the native residents, who shot poisoned arrows—with large barbed iron heads—at them. Self defence then became the order of the day, and the good rifles, with which both the Bishop and his little force were armed, did efficient service. This encounter necessarily led to others of a similar character, and in them all Bishop Mackenzie showed significantly enough, that although naturally a man of peace, yet when occasion rose he could be also a brave and determined warrior. It is said that before his death he regretted having taken up an hostile attitude, and in some senses it might be a mistake. But it was a mistake which probably any man similarly circumstanced would have committed. He saw the peaceful people around him being carried off into slavery by a powerful foe; he found himself insulted, defied, and attacked, and few indeed are the men who would in such a situation have acted otherwise. The Ajawas appear to have had a wholesome respect for British rifles. They never showed fight against the new enemy—so different in point of valour to the cowardly Manganja—in other than a covert and defensive manner, and they always retired before the mission forces, leaving their villages to be retributively destroyed.

(To be concluded in our next.)

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