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Exhibition of Native Art, Manufacture, Specimens of Agriculture and Live Stock, WITH USEFUL AFRICAN PRODUCE OF EVERY KIND, ETC., To be held in Freetown, Sierra Leone (D.V.), in the Month of December, 1864.

Patron and President: His Excellency Major SAMUEL WENSLEY BLACKALL, Governor-in-Chief.

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Treasurers: The COLONIAL TREASURER; WM. SMITH, Esq.; and JOHN MEHEUX, Esq.

At a Meeting of Gentlemen interested in the welfare and the development of the resources of this Colony and of the Western Coast of Africa, held in Freetown, January, 1864, it was unanimously resolved—"That an Exhibition should be held in Freetown, in the month of December of the present year, and that the natives and all classes should be invited to exhibit specimens of their handiwork, and of the productions of the country, with the view of improving thereon hereafter, and of better ascertaining the Agricultural, Mineral, and other resources of this as yet but imperfectly-known Continent."

With these desirable objects in view, a Committee of Management has been formed, who, under the patronage of his Excellency the Governor of this Colony, and with the kind co-operation of the gentlemen who have so recently consented to become Vice-Presidents, earnestly trust for success in carrying out an undertaking which must result in the advancement of civilization and commerce, and the increased prosperity of this rapidly-progressing Colony.

The Committee therefore call for the active assistance of all classes to this desirable project, and urge them to bring forward articles of all descriptions suitable for exhibition—from the Artizan, in whatever work—from the Breeder of every kind of Live Stock, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, and Poultry—from the Farmer—the Gatherer of Curiosities—from the Zoologist—the Geologist—the Discoverer of Natural Productions, Botanical and Mineral, and of all things useful, or in any way tending to enhance the Commerce of Western Africa.

The Committee are further desirous of inciting profitable emulation, and of ensuring the very best specimens in every department; and, with this object, purpose offering small Prizes, and of awarding Medals to successful Competitors in each class of Exhibitors.

The Committee, in thus giving early intimation of the Exhibition and its objects, cannot too strongly advise all seeking improvement in their several employments to lose no time nor spare any efforts until the very best specimens of their work are produced.

It is the intention of the Committee to invite the people residing upon the whole Western Coast to become Exhibitors, so that the inhabitants of this Colony may be enabled to profit by and emulate their improvements and discoveries; and likewise with the object of more freely establishing the intercourse and trade between the numerous Colonies and Settlements on the Coast.

The Committee estimate that for the purposes of erecting a suitable Building in which the Exhibition shall be held, for awarding Prizes and Medals, and for defraying the numerous incidental expenses attending so novel but commendable an undertaking, the sum of 2,000*l.* will be only sufficient to ensure its successful issue, and in calling upon all friends and well-wishers of Africa in England, and more particularly upon the natives and residents of this Colony, to aid and liberally assist in subscribing towards the required amount, the Committee feel convinced that their appeal will be cordially responded to.

With the view of enhancing the interest of the intended Exposition, the Committee have decided upon reserving a compartment of the building for the purpose of exhibiting articles of European and other than African Manufacture, of Works of Art, Agricultural Labour-saving Machines, and Curios of every description, and the Committee earnestly solicit the co-operation of all interested in the welfare of this Colony in collecting and securing the loan of such articles whilst the building remains open.

Arrangements will be made in proper time with the African Mail Steam-ship Company for the safe conveyance of all such articles for exhibition to and from this Colony free of expense to the contributors or exhibitors.

Agents in London and Liverpool will shortly be appointed to expedite the necessary arrangements for the above, and to afford all requisite information on any matters connected with the Exhibition, as well as to collect and receive subscriptions in aid of the same.

Information on every particular may be obtained from the Committee and the undersigned, to whom all persons intending to exhibit are requested to send in their names as early as possible, and to state the nature and kind of specimens they are desirous of exhibiting. Further particulars will be speedily given, and arrangements made for the classification of the various articles to be exhibited; and public meetings will be held from time to time to report progress.

The Committee are fully aware of the many difficulties they have to surmount to carry out this enterprise properly, but being determined to spare no effort on their part to attain so desirable a result, they feel convinced that in commencing this undertaking and soliciting the support and substantial assistance of the public, their efforts will be crowned with success, and that the "Sierra Leone Exhibition of 1864" will be one worthy of the object it is intended to accomplish, and prove itself the stepping-stone to the speedy prosperity and advancement of Western Africa.

Sierra Leone, March 26, 1864.

Honorary Secretaries { R. W. HARTSHORN, M.A., Colonial Chaplain.
JOHN LEVI.

Subscriptions will be received at the African-Aid Society, 8, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. (See Advertisement, page 140.)

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The African mail steamer Athenian, Captain Smart, arrived at Liverpool on the 11th inst., with dates from Benin, March 24; Fernando Po, March 29; Cameroons, March 30; Old Calabar, April 1; Brass, April 4; Bonny, April 6; Lagos, April 10; Accra, April 12; Cape Coast Castle, April 14; Cape Palmas, April 16; Sierra Leone, April 21; Bathurst, April 25. The Athenian brought a large cargo, 704 oz. gold dust and many passengers.

Benin trade dull, and river healthy. Small-pox has appeared at Fernando Po amongst the coloured population. Trade improving. The health of the Europeans was satisfactory.

Very little trade at Cameroons; river healthy. Trade brisk at Old Calabar; river healthy. From Brass we learn that the Lord Burleigh was lost on the bar on the 8th March. Crew all saved. The morning after not a vestige of either ship or cargo was to be seen. Trade dull.

During the stay of the Athenian at Bonny, Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, Captain Burton, paid an official visit to the river in Her Majesty's ship Jaseur.

From Accra, Cape Coast Castle, and Cape Palmas, there is no news of importance.

MR. ASSISTANT COMMISSARY-GENERAL BLANC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Commissariat, Gambia, April 24, 1864.

Sir,—Whilst the class of persons who are usually your correspondents on this coast choose to abuse, libel, and misrepresent the gentlemen and officials who have to deal with them, and fear them not, I do not suppose the publication of their compositions, or the spirit and partiality of your comments, can be a matter of the slightest importance to the parties attacked, particularly when you never publish an unpleasant reply, but slur the matter over and vaguely allude to the subject in an editorial.

But when a person finds himself praised in your columns, he naturally feels he will be thought by his friends to be going downhill, into dirty holes and puddles. It is consequently with intense annoyance that I find myself praised for my proceedings, whilst on special service on the Gold Coast, by yourself and correspondents, in the last *African Times* which has arrived. I trust, therefore, you will publish this letter, in which I beg to assure those honest and straightforward gentlemen on this coast whose opinions I value, that I cannot conceive who could have made the communications to you which you have published; and that whilst, in common with themselves, I should be rather amused by any abuse heaped on me in your columns, I feel anything but pleased or flattered by laudation.—Your obedient servant,

C. J. BLANC, Assistant Commissary-General.

MR. ASSISTANT COMMISSARY-GENERAL BLANC will, we hope, at least acknowledge our desire to oblige him. He abhors praise.

Perhaps it is that, knowing himself better than any one else can know him, he is conscious of its being undeserved. He aspires to the honour of martyrdom at our hands. He says he should smile while being skinned. We cannot meet his wishes. We never make martyrs; we only execute criminals; and should be sorry, having once praised him, to have him under our hands in that character—though, if certain reports of floggings at the Gold Coast, which have reached us from a good source, should be confirmed, he may figure in that capacity sooner than he expected. In bringing the cleansing waters of public opinion through the Augean stable of official life and administration in Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the West Coast, we never expected to escape without some splashes from the filth therein. But we beg to assure Mr. Assistant Commissary-General Blanc, that whatever may be the flattering opinion entertained of us by himself and "the honest, straightforward gentlemen on this coast" whose opinions I value, "that stream will continue to flow on, until the work of purification be complete. There are many gentlemen in Her Majesty's service on the West Coast who do honour to Great Britain; and from none of these have we ever received aught but praise for the manner in which we have discharged our public duty, when compelled reluctantly—for it is always reluctantly—to expose such public and official conduct as is prejudicial to Her Majesty's service, and to the African people.—Ed. A. T.

RIVER GAMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

River Gambia, April 24, 1864.

Sir,—Grievous complaints have been made by the several traders doing business on this river of the great want of Government protection. How long are they to remain under subjection to the heathen chiefs and Mohammedan alcaldes, without any one to inquire into, or obtain them redress for, the cruel treatment received by them from those native authorities? The traders on this river are constantly exposed to great danger and loss owing to this want of Government protection. They are compelled by the chiefs and alcaldes to reside in their towns or stockades with their goods and produce. Formerly they built temporary stores and dwelling-houses at the river side or wharf of their several trading ports, by which they had little comparative risk from fire and native wars, the two chief accidents in this river. Of late that system has been done away with in some localities, through Government mismanagement, and the traders have sustained great losses; their goods and produce have in several places been consumed by fires, with the towns where they were compelled to reside, which would not have been the case had they been allowed to reside at the river side. This year the trade has been so dull, that cotton goods scarcely sold, and the very small portion of produce collected has been ultimately destroyed by fire; some thousand pounds worth at Sanding, some hundreds at Zambakotto, Juroonku, Dassilamsee, and Seeker, and several other places—all by fire. Why should the traders be thus exposed, by being compelled to live in native towns, which are always taking fire, when this river, from the mouth to its source, is supposed to be under the management and control of the British Government? Is it not through misgovernment?

The traders having no one to assist them in their dangerous position on this river, and their letters on the subject to the local Government having been without effect, they beg through you the aid of the African-Aid Society, to obtain for them that they may be allowed to separate from the natives in their several trading ports, by building their temporary houses and stores on the river side.

I hope that I shall be understood. The whole of the native chiefs and alcaldes in this river do not thus coerce the traders. But the great question is, why should traders at Carrawan and Swana Coonder, in the late kingdom of Baddiboo, not be allowed to reside out of those towns, seeing that these districts are more or less under the influence of the Government since the late British war against that kingdom? Twenty months ago a letter

was written to his Excellency the Governor, at Bathurst, by some of the traders then residing at the above-named ports, on the subject of their removing from the towns to the river side, in case of accident; because, from the mode in which the natives on this river build their huts, and cover them with combustible grass, and their great carelessness, their towns are burnt down year by year. The letter was forwarded by a gentleman, a merchant of this river, to his Excellency the Governor. It was kindly received, and losing no time, his Excellency undertook to make some arrangement. He embarked on board H.M.C.S. Dover, and proceeded to Carrawan and Swana Coonder (the two towns using nearly the same landing port). Immediately on arrival, the chief member was sent for, being some distance in the interior. On the following morning the meeting was held under a large tree, between the landing ports and the town of Swana Coonder. The parties were: his Excellency the Governor; Mahabah, the supposed chief of Baddiboo; and the two alcaldes of the above-named towns. The discussion was as follows:—

Governor: I am desired by some of the merchants at Bathurst to request that you will allow their traders to reside at the river side, instead of being in the town with their goods, in case of accident. Do you agree to this?

Mahabah: That is well said. I am happy to hear such message. But you must know that all our property consists in slaves; and should the traders reside at the river side and our slaves escape to them, are they protected?

Governor: Oh, no. If the traders reside there, and your slaves escape to them, you will be at liberty to claim and take them away. But if you see a man-of-war anchor in this creek or port, and fly the Union Jack, if your slaves make their escape on board of her, then they are protected—you will never get them back.

Mahabah: Upon this understanding I could not answer you at present. I must consider it well.

Governor: Oh, well, if you do not agree, say so; because I am only sent by the merchants; that is not my duty; I do not come up altogether for that purpose; let us enter upon another subject.

This was the conclusion of the matter. And the answer to the letter was and is, up to this present time, that Mahabah objects to the traders residing at the river side. But who is Mahabah? A subject of the late King of Baddiboo. Who was the King of Baddiboo? Why, a subject of the British Government, who, when he rebelled against his superior, was chastised, his strong fort Sahbah being taken twice and burnt by the British; then he was taught he was nothing but a British subject. Why, then, should Mahabah be consulted upon what it properly belongs to this Government to decide? Is he the Chief of Baddiboo? But and if he (Mahabah) has really become Chief of Baddiboo, he cannot have greater rights in his relations with the British Government than his predecessors had. Were not Carrawan, Swana Coonder, Keentey Coonder, and Sahbah destroyed and burnt to ashes by the British in their war against that kingdom? Certainly they were; and since then Carrawan and Swana Coonder, also Keentey Coonder and Sahbah, are all supposed to be under the British Government. If they were not so, the large amount of money expended in the late war would indeed have been without effect.

The great evil is in the want of a line of demarcation which shall always remind the natives that they are under British subjection. It is quite surprising that this part of the duty of the British authorities here has been neglected. A mark to show that a higher power is over the native is handed down from generation to generation. At Barra the mark was engraved on a large tree, which stood for upwards of twenty-five years. At Bambakoo it is still there, engraved also on a large tree. The trees in the territory of British Combo are all marked. Why, then, is Baddiboo exempt from that mark, which threatens strangers, corrects unruly youths, and reminds the aged of awful days that are past. This demarcation line, or mark, on the late kingdom of Baddiboo is urgent. I hope and trust, dear Mr. Editor,

that you will not cease to give all the assistance in your power to further the civilization, improvement, and welfare of this river,—I remain, &c.,

THE GAMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gambia, April 1, 1864.

Sir,—The river Gambia is in an unsettled and shocking state from plundering and kidnapping, and unless our Government interfere and put a stop to it, we shall know great want, if not starvation. Not many weeks ago Saikoo, one of the chief warriors, entered the house of a British subject, and trader to one of the first houses of business at Bathurst, seized one of his sub-traders, a native, and murdered him by severing his head from his body. When such an act of violence can be perpetrated in and under the roof of a British subject, we feel that our lives are in constant jeopardy from these savages and children of the wilderness. No British trader is now safe in the river Gambia above Baddiboo. Trade this year has died away. Traders generally buy from 15,000 to 20,000 bushels of ground nuts, but this season we could scarcely obtain 4,000. The cause is that the Maraboos or Mohammedans have covered the whole river with pillaging and kidnapping; the planters or agriculturists were compelled to flee in all directions for safety. Farming was, therefore, neglected, produce became scarce, and famine spreads its destroying hands among the natives, and sends numbers of them to eternity. A French trader is much more respected and dreaded than one of ours; the French Government would on no account permit the traders of their subjects to be insulted or plundered, much less murdered. At Baddiboo it is all right; no custom duty is paid unless you choose to give a little trifling present; all that is wanted there is a right to reside out of their towns; but further up we are compelled to pay whatever amount the chief may please, in goods at their own fixed prices and selection. We learn that Sherboro, that once most savage country, has become tame, civil, and polite. You will be pleased, Mr. Editor, to move the influence of your Society to aid us poor liberated Africans here. Foulahs, a race of people whose sole occupation is in rearing cattle which provides them with food, have lost almost all their cattle by a disease very contagious amongst them. A lump about the size of a large bladder of lard forms within the upper part of the chest, above the lungs, so that it completely hinders them from receiving free air; in a few days the head drops from its natural posture, the nose ejects a semi-watery and slimy fluid; in this state the poor animal lingers on till death. This race of people will likewise feel the sharp distress of starvation all over the river.

The approaching rainy season will probably terminate the existence of many of us poor Africans, as our hospital at Bathurst is empty of medicines, or if not, from what cause we cannot tell, we cannot obtain even a dose of common jalap. On applying at the hospital to buy medicine, the answer will be, "No jalap, no salts, no castor-oil. Go to the stores of Messrs. Quin or Foster and Smith." A building under the name of a hospital must and will surely supply medical necessities. If merchants' stores are now to take the place of a hospital, why was the hospital built? Why are stewards and attendants employed, receiving handsome salary? Or are Europeans only to obtain medicine whenever they are in want, which is now an undoubted fact. We do not believe it has been so determined in England.

Now to another matter which reflects no credit. Several months ago a female was put in prison as a debtor, until the amount she owed should be paid. This young woman whilst in gaol became pregnant, and bore a child. She remained there many months after, until she was bailed out. No inquiry was made as to how this female came by her pregnancy and baby. We thought, and still think, that when a person is within the precincts of a prison they should be freed from all exposure to vice. But it seems certain that the person who committed this act is some prison authority, as no one dared but him. Yet it has been overlooked and connived at; and Lucy Jones, who was put in gaol for debt, got out with a child to comfort her in her old age.

SHERBORO.

All seems peaceful now in the neighbourhood of this important river. Bendo is said to be giving indications of great prosperity. "The town is rapidly increasing in size, and several fine new roads are being laid out by the surveyor." We rejoice to hear of these early indications of that prosperity which ought to attend the security afforded by British rule. All our desire for the extension of British territory in Africa proceeds from the certainty that, notwithstanding the drawbacks arising from occasionally inefficient or vicious administration, more can be done for the advancement of civilisation in one year under British rule than in half a century under the continued sway of native chiefs, whose atrocities are uncontrollable save by the strong hand of a civilised superior.

M. Jules Gerard, the lion hunter, has turned up again. It appears he is now in the Sherboro, detained there, it is said, by sickness. The *Early Dawn* thus alludes to him, and to his supposed intentions: "We rejoice that M. Gerard, who is now in the Sherboro, is about to explore the countries to the eastward of us. He has spent the past year in travelling in Dahomey, and purposes to devote two or three years more to visiting the great unknown countries between Dahomey and Timbuctoo. This will embrace the sources of the Niger, and that country about which such fabulous gold stories have been told. He takes with him instruments for accurate scientific surveys."

And again: "We learn that Mr. E. Geslinger has just returned from a visit to the chiefs in the vicinity of Boom Falls. He went to make arrangements for the safe transit of M. Gerard, the French traveller, through their country, and was successful in all his efforts. M. Gerard is still detained in the Sherboro by sickness. He proposes to spend the coming rainy season in the mountains, and there write his book of travels in Dahomey, after which he will push forward in his explorations."

We fear M. Jules Gerard (whom we had supposed to be in the Senegal) has been romancing a little among our friends at the Sherboro. M. Jules Gerard's travels in Dahomey extended from Whydah to Ahomey, and back, and a few miles along the sea-coast to the Popos—all well-known ground. We shall be very glad to hear of his successful travels in the "great unknown countries between Dahomey and Timbuctoo," but we have our doubts as to this performance "coming off."

LIBERIA.

That indefatigable American missionary, Mr. Hoffman, well known to some of our English friends, has added another laurel to his wreath in the establishment of a "Home for the Blind," at Cape Palmas, in the immediate vicinity of that important institution, St. Mark's Hospital, intended for the sick of all nations (see advertisement). The "Home for the Blind" is a simple, unpretending stone edifice, and has already two inmates. Every facility exists for extension should funds be forthcoming. Patients are, unhappily, not likely to be wanting. It is said that at the *Gambia*—our British *Gambia*—there are not less than one hundred destitute blind for whom nothing has even been attempted. It is indeed honourable to the infant negro nationality of Liberia that such institutions as that of St. Mark's Hospital and this "Home for the Blind" should have been founded on her soil, and advanced to their present state chiefly, we believe, by contributions raised in Liberia. We earnestly recommend these institutions to the sympathising support of our Christian friends, and shall be happy to be made the medium for transmitting their contributions to Mr. Hoffman.

We are more sorry than surprised to find that the *Liberian Herald* takes exception to our opinion with regard to the North-West Coast Territories, its claim to which was not admitted by the British Commissioners. It thinks we are singularly illogical in objecting to the extension of the Liberian coast line, on the ground that Liberia is not strong enough to occupy and rule the countries in question, and would scatter its strength by spreading (under such circumstances) along the coast—and then pointing to the "elasticity" of her interior boundaries, and her power of stretching indefinitely in that direction. The *Liberian Herald*

forgets that if the right of Liberia to those coast districts had been established and acknowledged, it must have immediately endeavoured to rule them, which we again assert, without fear of contradiction, would have been ruinous for the Republic—while it need not, and will not, attempt its forward march interiorward until it has acquired that population and wealth which will at the same time necessitate the expansion of its frontiers and enable it to achieve what it requires with unmixed benefit both to itself and to the native territories brought under its civilising sway.

We are convinced that our views are more consonant with real Liberian and other African advancement and civilisation than are those of the Liberians who crave an extended coast line. Once for all, we must say that it is ridiculous for Liberia, with such a coast line as she already possesses, to talk of being "cramped." She has room enough and to spare for a mighty nationality; if her people become millions, instead of as now, 15,000, there would be room enough for all their civilising energies to work in.

We are sorry to learn that the Cavalla River is in a very disturbed state, and that the Liberian Government find it impossible to keep peace among the rival tribes, who are constantly at war with one another.

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

April 11, 1864.

Sir,—I have only a few words to write to-day. I cannot be quiet about the state of affairs in our Eastern District. Governor Pine seemed bent lately on marching to Coomassie with his small force. He ordered all the chiefs of the Eastern District to join him at Sadr, which they, however, refused to do, and I believe they were right. As soon as the Accras march to Sadr, the Ashantees will descend upon Akim, Aquapem, and Accra. Besides, the Eastern District people do not understand regular bush fighting. They are only available if the Ashantees come to the plain. Governor Pine threatened to depose the chiefs if they did not obey. How will this help him? There is talk, also, about a blockade, and a taking up of the Kroboe affair again, at the same time with the Ashantee war. There is a threat of selling the Kroboe land to the Aquapems! This is absolute nonsense. At Jamestown, I am credibly informed, things are as bad as possible. The Acting Commandant is a young man, a sub-agent of Foster and Smith. The famous James Bannerman, who was imprisoned for one year for his malpractices in conjunction with Major de Ruignies, is already free, and is the right hand of this young Commandant! For that large Eastern District there are only, I believe, two magistrates. Everybody does as he likes. *Of course the Volta is not yet stopped, and the supply of ammunition to the Ashantees is still going on.*—Yours faithfully,

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Gold Coast, April 8.

Everything is at a standstill, and will be so for some time to come. Prahsoo camp, which I attempted to describe to you in my last, occupies at least ten acres of land, which was cleared by the soldiers on their arrival. The reinforcement which had been for some time daily expected to arrive from the West Indies by the transport Tamar has not yet come, and there is all probability that we shall have to go into winter quarters, and not resume the offensive until after the rains. Nearly the whole of the 400 men in the camp have been ill, some with fever and others with dysentery; the officers have every one been laid up either for short or long periods; four-fifths of them have been sent down from the camp to the seacoast in wretched condition, and many of these have been invalided to England. Such is the present state of the expedition. The difficulties in the way of invading the Ashantee territory are greater than had been supposed; but there is a stop put at present to any aggressive movements of the Ashantees. The rains are now pouring in torrents, and the river is no longer fordable. Orders have just been sent up to the Prah to the effect that two companies of the 2nd and

4th West Indian Regiments, with their officers, are to remain in charge of the station, &c.; the rest, with the sick, are to proceed to Cape Coast Castle. I am told that it has been proposed to the Duke of Newcastle to make Prahsoo a permanent military station. As soon as I have time I shall write you on the advantages and disadvantages of such a measure. One thing I must not fail to notice—viz., the perfect concord and harmonious and zealous action of the Medical Department, at the head of which is an active officer, Staff Assistant-Surgeon Gardiner. Every appliance necessary for the sick was brought to the field. Medical comforts were abundant; and every officer under him was ready at a moment's notice to render his assistance, when required, at any distance. The only drawback was the employment of young medical recruits, who were quite unused to the climate, and who after the slightest exposure became entirely unfit for the field, and were consequently sent back to the seacoast or invalided to England.

PROCLAMATION

By his Excellency William Hackett, Lieutenant-Governor of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, &c., &c., &c.

Whereas Her Majesty, by Royal Warrant under the sign manual bearing date at Windsor the eleventh day of September, 1863, has been graciously pleased to appoint me Lieutenant-Governor of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, in the event of the death, incapacity, or absence of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the said Forts and Settlements; and

Whereas his Excellency Richard Pine, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements, is now absent from the limits of his government; and

Whereas, having this day taken and subscribed the usual oaths of office, I do hereby, in terms of said Royal Warrant, strictly charge and command all Her Majesty's officers, civil and military, and all other inhabitants of the said Forts and Settlements, to obey me as Her Majesty's Lieutenant-Governor accordingly.

Given under my hand and the public seal at Government House, Cape Coast, this sixth day of April, 1864.

By his Excellency's command,

W. A. Ross, Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, April 14, 1864.

Sir,—Doubtless the British public will expect to hear by this mail of some bloody battle between the Ashantees and our troops. On the contrary, we have not had occasion to fire a shot; but sickness is doing, and will continue to do, more harm than Ashantee bullets or knives could have done. The campaign, begun with so many hopes of success, is now a most complete failure. The troops are not half officered, and every mail takes home on sick leave three or four. This mail, for instance, carries home five.*

For nearly two months the 500 men of the 4th and 2nd W.I. Regiments have been encamped on the Prah. An auxiliary native force was to have supported them; but not a single man has moved! This is most singular and unaccountable. Why should a handful of men be marched up to, and left unsupported on, the Prah? The natives say it was to make the King of Ashantee laugh; but as there is to be no forward movement, ought not the enormous sums of Government money that have been literally thrown away cease now to be issued from the Commissariat chest, seeing that instead of creating terror in the Ashantees, we only make ourselves a laughing stock to them and our own people. It is said the failure must be attributed to a want of agreement between the civil and military powers.

The troop-ship Tamar, from Jamaica, with the long-expected reinforcement of 700 men, arrived on the 9th inst.; † too late for anything but to die of disease. There has been a great deal of sickness at the river Prah. The last accounts were, that 60

* Captain Hay, Captain Bernard, Lieut. Blacklyn, Staff-Surgeon Schroder, Staff-Assistant Surgeon Oughton.—Ed. A. T.

† Under command of Major Anton, 1st West India Regiment.

men were in hospital, and 100 requiring only a chance to go in. The few remaining officers were all sick.* Is not this frightful? Has there not been gross mismanagement in keeping those troops uselessly there? Who is the culprit: for highly culpable some one must be. Those at home will have to find out who the delinquent is. Another thing: 200 men, called Volunteers, have been placed on the same footing, and receive the same pay as regular soldiers. And for what? I know of nothing, except that 200 scarecrows should follow a few large drums about the streets here, making a noise that would almost tempt a civilised man to cut his throat.

To the utter astonishment of every one, his Excellency Governor Pine left most unexpectedly, on the 5th inst., on board Her Majesty's ship Rattlesnake, for a cruise of, it is said, four months.

The troops at the Prah have now been ordered to come down, and two unfortunate companies of the late arrival are to go up to guard the munitions of war and provisions there. Is this not frightful? Since we have those 200 Cape Coast Volunteers, why could they not have been sent up? They are natives, and must be better able to bear the wet season there than poor soldiers who have just arrived. Really, Mr. Editor, you must exercise your power to bring about a better state of things. In a few days we shall have 1,300 soldiers in Cape Coast, a thing almost unknown before; and although the reinforcements were hourly expected, our chief authority has left us to take care of ourselves for three or four months. True, he has left the government in the hands of the Chief Justice; but we should have more confidence in a chief. Mr. Hackett may be a very good Governor; but it is scarcely fair, to him or to us, and above all to the troops, that the experiment should be made just now, unless (which we have not heard) Governor Pine's health rendered his departure imperative. At the swearing in of Mr. Hackett not a single chief or respectable native attended, although they were invited to attend. They (the chiefs) seemed most indignant that the Governor should call upon them in such strong terms to proceed with him to the camp, and then leave without any countermand to them. Mr. Hackett is also, I fear, not popular among the natives.

I do not believe you can now depend on any native assistance against Ashantee. The Fantees are disheartened at our want of decision. A grave responsibility rests somewhere, and we hope the Colonial-office will find out where. We are all tongue-tied here. As soon as a correspondent to your valued journal is found out, he is hunted down, and every possible means is adopted to injure and oppress him. There could not be a greater proof that your paper is doing what it is intended to do than the fact above related.—Yours, &c.,

AN AFRICAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, April 14, 1864.

Sir,—You will admit that no one has written to you more strongly in favour of Governor Pine's administration than I have, and whatever I have written of him I will willingly endorse now. But I have therefore the more right to ask why a body of naked men, almost savages, should bear the name of Volunteers, and receive heavy pay here, when our forts and every house in town are full with above 1,000 soldiers, who have nothing to do but die? Should not Governor Pine, if he had any considerations for the public chest, have disbanded these men? I dare say you will hear of this from others, for everybody is talking about it.

Cape Coast, Anamaboe, Winebah, and Accra require all the money we can possibly scrape up, to clean the filthy streets, and repair our broken-down forts. If there is so much money to spare, we want churches at Anamaboe, Accra, and Winebah; we want schools where our black brethren may be taught the only way to happiness. The money that the Cape Coast Volunteers have uselessly received would have built a very nice church.

I am also informed that grants of money to certain parties have also been recommended to the Colonial-office. I hope this

* Dr. Lewis and Lieut. Berry with dysentery; Lieut. Bulger with fever.—Ed. A. T.

† Under Captain Knapp, we believe.—Ed. A. T.

is not true; but should it prove to be so, I shall have something more to say on the subject.

It is reported that the troops are to advance to the Prah again in force in about three months' time.—Faithfully yours,

P.

GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Kpong, Kroboe, April 10, 1864.

Sir,—On the 24th ult. Darko Yaw, the bloodthirsty and traitorous King of Aquamboe, was put to death by his own people under the following circumstances:—

At the time that the Ashantees invaded these Protected Territories last year, Quacoe Duah, King of Ashantee, sent messengers to Darko Yaw with several presents, including a gold ammunition pouch and 200 oz. of gold dust, as an inducement for him to secede with his people from the alliance formed between himself and the other chiefs of the Accra or Eastern District, and come over to his side and assist his troops in the invasion of the Coast by the eastern route. These facts were at the time only suspected, but within the last few days they became matters of certainty. It appears that the King of Ashantee had arranged with Darko Yaw to come over to his side with all his chiefs and people, and in case the latter should decline to join, Quacoe Duah promised to send a small but efficient force to escort Darko Yaw and his immediate adherents within the Ashantee lines; after which a larger army was to proceed without delay to reduce the refractory Aquamboe chiefs to subjection, and then the whole were to march on to Accra through the Aquapem Mountains. It was also stipulated by Quacoe Duah that in order to prove his sincerity and desire to return to his former master, Darko Yaw should, when he was ready to start for Coomassie, send to Coomassie by certain confidential messengers of Quacoe Duah's then in Aquamboe, the heads of all those Ashantee chiefs that were killed by the Aquamboe part of the allied forces at the Battle of Dodowah in the year 1826, and which were kept as trophies in their hands. Darko Yaw having made all his preparations without the knowledge of his chiefs, secretly despatched the heads of the deceased Ashantee chiefs to Coomassie, and was about to follow with such few of his personal adherents as were privy to the conspiracy, when the whole affair was revealed to the chiefs by a mere accident. The chiefs at once assembled, consulted together, and resolved to act promptly, as the next day would see their King in the midst of the Ashantee force sent to escort him. It was agreed that they should go to the King there and then, and if he could not give them a satisfactory account of his recent conduct, they should at once kill him. They went to his palace, and told him that they had come to consult with him what was best to be done to avert dangers that appeared to be coming upon them from different quarters, alluding to the threats and suspicions of the British Government and their native allies, that they were going over to the enemy. During the consultation the principal fetish priest counselled them to seek advice from their grand fetish. It was then resolved that they should all proceed to the village of Quajoe Ossoo and consult the fetish. They went there with the King, who had not the slightest suspicion of their intentions; and everything being ready, the fetish priest was asked to tell what was the cause of all their recent misfortunes, and what they should do to avert further calamities. The priest replied, that they must at once send for the heads of the Ashantee chiefs that were in the King's possession, and perform certain rites over them. The King upon this displayed great uneasiness, and endeavoured to treat the matter as a joke, but the chiefs insisted on the production of the trophies, which, however, were not forthcoming. This being considered clear proof of the King's guilt, one of the chiefs pushed his chair from under him, another struck him with one of his own musical horns, which he took from an attendant, the rest then despatched him with clubs and cut him to pieces.

Immediately after this tragedy they placed his nephew on the stool, and made him swear eternal enmity to the Ashantees and allegiance to the British Government, and friendship to the allied tribes of the Accra district. All these circumstances took place during the time I was in Krepce, not twenty miles from the

scene of action. However we may regret such a barbarous execution, still it must be admitted that it was done for the good of the public; and if it was unlawfully carried out, it was only because the Government that ought to have done it had long ceased to do its duty in those parts, and had formally withdrawn its protection from them. During the last twelve months the King of Ashantee has expended in Aquamboe alone no less than 1,500 or 2,000 ounces of gold in the purchase of salt, gunpowder, and lead, only without these supplies he must have given in to the demands of the British Government. The trade is still going on, or rather was, up to the time of the execution of Darko Yaw.

If the Government had despatched a force to occupy Aquamboe twelve months ago, it would have done much more to put an end to this war than could possibly be done by sending some 600 troops to perish in a useless campaign on the Prah.

It is very difficult for thinking men to believe that the British Government is sincerely desirous of bringing this disastrous war to a termination, for while the regular troops are encamped on the Prah, and supposed to be only waiting for the junction of the allied native forces before marching on Coomassie, the Government is issuing proclamations declaring its own people enemies; and to crown the whole, at the same time the Accra tribes are ordered to take the field, the Government is threatening the Kroboes with an invasion. What for—for aiding the Ashantees? No; but to compel them to pay an iniquitous fine, which has ruined all who ever had anything to do with it. The present phase of this Kroboe business is most disgraceful. We hear that the Government is enforcing the payment of this fine, and even threatens to sell the palm oil tree plantations of the Kroboes to the Aquapems to pay the contractors for the fine, thereby setting one tribe against another, and this at a period when unanimity is required amongst the tribes of the Eastern Districts.

The Governor called at Accra on the 6th inst., in H.M.S. Rattlesnake, Commodore Wilmot, but did not land. His Excellency was going on a cruise for the benefit of his health. Trade is very dull indeed at present in general produce, but that in cotton appears to be rapidly on the increase, as this mail will convey about 12,000 lbs. to England of that article grown in this neighbourhood, and shipped at Accra. There is also a little gold trade, thanks to the apathy of the authorities in regard to the matters of the Aquamboe and Krepce districts.—Yours faithfully,

AQUAPEM MOUNTAIN ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Abokobi, March 9, 1864.

Sir,—The agents of the London houses* who promised you certain subscriptions towards this road, conditionally on the report of its being really constructing, have refused to pay those subscriptions. It is said, "The Basle missionaries are making this road entirely for their own benefit, and we see no reason why we should help them." It will not be difficult to defend ourselves against such an attack, which seems to imply motives of selfishness, generally not expected from Christian missionaries.

1. We fully admit that we missionaries shall have the first use of the road, as soon as it may be completed, but only because we have prepared ourselves, at great expense, in training bullocks and constructing waggons to be used in the transport of the necessities of life to our stations in the interior. But who will envy us this advantage? Are the expenses which our Society has had not to bring in any recompense? We have made alone, without one farthing assistance, a road from Akropong to Aburi, twelve miles, which is worth 240*l.*, if not more. The late Chief Civil Commandant, several governors, and a few officers, have congratulated us; but none of them gave us a farthing towards these expenses. We have offered one or two Europeans to construct the road from Aburi to Abokobi without payment, which is worth at least 50*l.* We have lost one European, while he was making a road towards Kroboe, probably by too much exposure to the

* Messrs. Foster and Smith. Mr. Swanzy.

sun. This man has made fifteen to sixteen miles of road, without any charge from our Society, the Government paying only the labourers. This is worth another 80*l.* Thus our Society has paid, or will pay, for such a road from Accra to Akropong the handsome sum of 370*l.* Now I beg to ask whether we are not entitled to some advantage in return?

2. But I deny that this road is constructed entirely for the benefit of the Basle Mission on the Gold Coast. Those who say so are either ignorant of the country or wilfully misrepresent our intentions. If Cape Coast people said so, I would not touch a pen to contradict them; but that residents of Accra should assert such things, shows plainly that they do not care for the development of the resources of the country, but only for their own profit, and that it matters nothing to them if the black people perish. Yet to judge from a mere worldly point of view, they cut the branch upon which they are sitting. In former times the Kroboes brought part of their oil to Prampram, part to Accra. The Shai people did the same; the Aquapems bring all to Accra. Now the Aquapems have increased their palm plantations to a great extent. But they do not carry their oil to the market except they want rum, &c. There are petty traders at Accra who send their people to the Aquapem Mountains to buy the oil and carry it down. These will soon take to carts, because the same person can bring down three and four pots with a cart, instead of carrying one on his head. But does it not strike our merchants, that by buying the oil on the spot they would gain much more, as soon as they can bring the oil down in puncheons?

This is only one advantage of this road. There are others of much more importance. For military purposes it must be obvious that a good road is of immense advantage in ruling a country. Thus it would be the duty of a good Government to construct roads. This was felt even by Governor Bird. Had former governors listened to good advice, the Eastern Districts would not be in such a deplorable state, Christiansborg would not have been destroyed, the unhappy poll-tax would have been, not gathered, but a means of improving the country, by making the people work in lieu of money payments. But money was wanted to increase the salaries of the officials; and the good promises of making roads, tanks, schools, and paying medical men, were all mere words. This our people saw, and refused to pay!

Roads are very much appreciated by our native people. As soon as we have cut a straight line through the bush, the people pass by that way. But I know a number of negroes who have already supplied themselves with carts, and have them in use, or who want them, and who will immediately follow our example, by using bullocks instead of men to draw them.

These are some of the advantages of the Aquapem Road. If our resident merchants will not assist us, I feel sure that we shall find other persons interested in the welfare of the Coast who will not allow the work thus commenced to stop. Shall it be said by our negroes that white men began to make a road, and have not sufficient money to finish it?

Still, when the road is constructed, only half the work is done! Who will repair the road? Shall a society of missionaries do it? We have done it for several years, because the Government would not undertake it. But this is wrong: it is both impolitic and unjust.—Yours truly,

C. L.

CAMEROONS.

As the Rev. Alfred Saker is temporarily absent from the Cameroons for the recovery of health, we cannot refrain from giving our meed of praise to this Baptist missionary for his long and arduous labours there. He has planted on a barbarous coast, and amidst a most savage people, a Christian colony, whence civilization and the Gospel may spread. He has taught them some of the arts of civilised life; has reduced their language to a written form; has translated and printed the whole New Testament and portions of the Old, as well as prepared a vocabulary, a grammar, and several primary school-books. The Rev. Alfred Saker is the gentleman who formed for native

Protestant refugees from the persecutions of Fernando Po, when that island was restored to the Roman Catholic Spanish authorities, the steadily progressing settlement of Victoria, on the shores of Amba Bay.

NEW CALABAR.

In our March number we gave an account of the destruction by fire of a number of English trading vessels at New Calabar by fire. By accounts which have just reached us, having been delayed en route, we learn that the matting with which the ships were "awned" had been rendered so dry by the "Harmattan winds," that it caught fire on board the ship which was first in flames from a mere spark that escaped from the cooking-house on deck. This vessel had above 1,000 quarter barrels of gunpowder on board, and its explosion was terrific. All the other ships in the river were, of course, in an equally inflammable state from the "Harmattan winds;" the concussion started many of their timbers; six of these ships then caught fire from the explosion of the first, and one of these having some 1,500 quarter barrels on board, shortly after exploded also. Altogether seven vessels were entirely destroyed, and one other was damaged. Three, the property, as before stated, of Messrs. Horsfall, of Liverpool, and of the Company of African Merchants, alone escaped. We are glad not to hear of any loss of life; and have no doubt that in future such precaution will be taken as will render any similar catastrophe impossible.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Recruiting is being carried on here successfully for the 5th West India Regiment.

The notorious Major de Ruvignes, who "absquodulated" from Accra, is said to have shot a female gorilla in the Gaboon territory.

You have more than once made allusion to the necessity of frequent consular supervision in the Bight of Biafra, if consular supervision was to be of any use at all. Your views are confirmed by my past experience and by the following extract from a letter dated, "Old Calabar, March 31," which has appeared in our local paper:—

"Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul, is here at present in Her Majesty's ship Jaseur (Captain Grubb). We are happy to say that, owing to our own determination, we have the natives in a thorough state of subjection, and we feel justly proud of a victory gained after protracted struggle; consequently we have no 'palaver' with the natives; but we are glad to see Captain Burton amongst us, and I feel sure that the oftener he repeats his visits the more popular he would become. But we stand in this position (and I write without meaning any slight to him), we require either a consular officer to visit or advise us frequently, or not at all; for if we are sure of having at all times his advice and assistance, we learn to look up to and depend on it, and apply for it in every case of need; but if we cannot have this, we learn a far better lesson—that of 'self-reliance;' and we look to our own 'stability of purpose' to help us to overcome obstacles which otherwise we would not attempt to surmount; and if by our own determination we are able to keep the kings and chiefs in this country in subjection, and make them succumb to our legitimate demands, for the space of two years, the same moral force will enable us to do it for ten; we gain strength by time, and precedent becomes recognised law."

The news we have received within a day or two from Abeokuta shows that the Dahoman defeat has been a most complete one.—Yours, &c.,

N. B.

LIBERATED AFRICANS LANDED IN BRITISH COLONIES BETWEEN 1843 AND 1863.—A return has been published showing that in the above period the British West Indies received 981 negroes, taken from on board slave-ships captured; 14,002 from St. Helena; and 12,382 from Sierra Leone. Mauritius also received 1,497 from captured slave-ships; 632 from Aden; 325 from Ibo; and 39 from Madagascar.

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The African Times.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1864.

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

In the Estimates for the Post Office Packet service 1864-5, we find, as heretofore, 30,000l. for the service between England and the West Coast of Africa.

The money value of cotton imports into Liverpool within a space of ten days during the month of April, is stated to have been 5,858,045l., nearly six millions of pounds sterling. And certainly not more than one thousand pounds worth of this came from West Africa, the native home of the cotton plant. How much has yet to be accomplished!

Commander J. St. John Hawley Glover, R.N., late Acting Governor of the Colony of Lagos, has now been appointed Colonial Secretary for Lagos. We congratulate our Lagos friends on this realization of their wishes.

The last mail from the Coast brought 12,000 lbs. weight of cotton, the produce of the Eastern Districts of the Gold Coast.

The Ashantees continue to receive supplies of arms, ammunition, and salt, by way of the Volta. But for the scandalous neglect of proper precautions for cutting off supplies, the Ashantees would before this have been ready to arrange the differences between them and the British authorities on the Gold Coast, and an awful sacrifice of valuable life might have been avoided.

The drought on the Gold Coast, which has caused so much suffering in some districts, lasted from November, 1862, to February, 1864. The rains have since been very abundant.

At the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society, it was stated officially: "The Sierra Leone Missions have proved a great success. They have been erected an independent Church, which is being well supported by the people."

Coffee, tea, chicory, indigo, cloves, black pepper, and tobacco, are, it now appears, all indigenous within the Protected Territories of the Gold Coast! We have only time this month thus briefly to direct our readers' special attention to the letter of Dr.

Horton on this subject in our present number. Are we not right in urging incessantly that these territories be made a real British colony?

We have grievous complaints of the insecurity of traders and of the kidnapping and pillaging carried on in the upper part of the river Gambia, above Badiboo.

ABUSES, MISGOVERNMENT, AND MALADMINISTRATION ON THE WEST COAST.

We never felt so deeply as now the weight of the work that we have undertaken, and the heavy load of responsibility that rests on us as the public guardians of the cause of humanity and progress in British Western Africa. We do not publish a tithe of the revelations that are constantly reaching us. We exclude, as far as possible, everything that is personal. We are reproached, on the one hand, for the concealment of wrongs done; we are abused, on the other, for daring to interfere at all; and even where we have been giving praise, our praises are rejected with contumely, because (as in the unwarrantable attack on us by Mr. Commissary Blanc) some associates have justly been complained of.

We have on the present occasion given more than usual prominence to complaints. Among these there are some charges of a very heavy nature. The revelations as regards Cape Coast, the gaol, and the administration of justice!! are horrible. If true, speedy redress is imperative; and we know of no way of eliciting the truth save that recommended and urged by the man who denounces the iniquities—viz., that a commissioner be sent down expressly to make due inquiry on oath as to the truth or falsehood of the incriminations.

As regards Cape Coast, we must say that the whole system seems to be wrong and rotten in every part. We have before alluded to the composition of the Legislative Council—a Council composed of four commercial agents of one London firm. In our last we showed that one of these asserted his being possessed of power and influence over the head of the Government there to the extent of being able to influence and control all appointments. We do not believe this. We do not believe that Governor Pine is a man likely to allow himself to be made such a tool of. But we can imagine the case of a needy Governor and other public officials coming under pecuniary obligations to a leading member of a Legislative Council thus constituted, until all the power became virtually vested in him. And the possibility of such an abuse as this ought not to be allowed to exist. Then, again, we learn that the acting Civil Commandant for the important Eastern Districts—a young sub-agent of the same firm, and whose nomination to this office was obtained by one of the members of the Legislative Council—that this young man has taken for his chief counsellor and guide the Mr. James Bannerman who was last year sentenced to one year's imprisonment, &c., for gross abuses in the administration of justice, in complicity with Major de Ruvignes, the then Chief Civil Commandant, who surreptitiously left the Coast rather than meet the charges against him, and is now said to be shooting, for a wager, gorillas at the Gaboon. Is it any wonder that the Eastern Districts are disaffected? Is it any wonder that with a Legislative Council so constituted, there should be rumours that the Kroboe fine, the source of so many past evils, was to be the cause for fresh complications and disasters, fresh impolicy and injustice? "Cæsar's wife should be not only pure, but above suspicion." The abuses at the Gold Coast have reached a height that must, we think, induce some vigorous action on the part of the Colonial-office. But we despair of any effective measures until the anomalous position of the Gold Coast, as regards its connexion with the British Government, be totally changed. The British Government is in a false position there, and some decision as regards a change must soon be arrived at. Our views on this subject are well known. We are bound as a nation to the Gold Coast by ties that we cannot, dare not sever; and it becomes incumbent on us to assume such a position as may be made at the same time creditable to Great Britain and largely advantageous to Africa. We hope and believe that the disastrous and hitherto ill-managed Ashantee war will at least effect the

good of hastening a wise and resolute determination on this subject.

TERMINATION OF THE SECOND CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ASHANTEES.

Last month, when the mail left that place, the Tamar, with her reinforcements, without the promise of which, we believe, the advance of 500 men to the Prah would never have been made, had been for some time daily expected at Cape Coast. The season was rather advanced; we had our misgivings; but there were still great expectations at Cape Coast. It was supposed that in a few days, at least, 1,000 disciplined troops would be ready for the march to Coomassie, assisted by three native divisions of 10,000 men each. Two guns, six mortars, two rocket tubes, a pontoon train, were all ready at the Prah, and a rapid push forward was contemplated. We doubted this, and would not give rise to expectations not certain of being fulfilled. The event justifies our reserve. The Tamar—by what mismanagement we do not know, whether from long indecision in England, or dilatory action in the West Indies when the order of departure arrived, or that the ship, which is just possible, may be an inefficient, crawling tub of a vessel—the Tamar, with her precious freight of 700 warriors, expected at the end of February, did not arrive till the 9th of April. Before she came the rains were on—the Prah was swollen and violent—the Ashantee bush, never easy to thread, must have become impassable—the Governor had declared the campaign at an end—handed over the government to Mr. Hackett, as Lieutenant-Governor (see Proclamation), and steamed off on a cruise on board the Commodore's ship, the Rattlesnake—Col. Conran, himself ill at Cape Coast, had ordered down a portion of the now almost officerless troops, and all was at an end for the season, save and except, alas! that some two hundred of the poor West Indians were appointed to remain in the encampment at the Prah, to guard the stores, artillery, &c., until the time shall arrive for a third campaign. We say alas, because we fear the mortality will be great among these devoted men.

The non-accomplishment of any definite results for bringing the war to a close, coupled with the effects of the climate upon the health and lives of the officers who have been exposed in the "Bush," and the dismay of the "reinforcement," at finding, on their arrival in the rainy season, that no adequate preparations had been made for their reception (some companies, when the mail left, were under canvas on the parade ground, and this in the rainy season!), has caused the subject of the Ashantee war to be mooted in Parliament, and several very strong letters (which we reprint) to be addressed to, and published in, the *Times*.

Our readers were made aware of the ravages committed by the Ashantees last year within the Protected Territories. And why has this inroad not been repeated? Partly, perhaps, because the Ashantee arrangements with the King of Aquamoo (whose execution by his own chiefs and people is described in a letter we publish to-day) had not been completed; but chiefly, we have no hesitation in affirming, because of the threatened invasion of Ashantee itself—the opening a route (for it does not deserve the name of a road) to the frontier at Prahsoo—the formation of an encampment there, with a battery to guard the fords of the river, and eventually cover the passage of the troops, and the advance of those 500 disciplined troops to the Prah. The sacrifice of health, life, and money there has not, therefore, as alleged, been utterly useless. Far from it. A moderate estimate of the loss of native life within the Protected Territories last year, immediate and contingent on the Ashantee ravages, places it at 10,000 human beings. From the greater completeness of the Ashantee preparations, there can be little doubt that the loss of life this year, had they again made an unopposed invasion, would have been still greater. Is it worth nothing to have prevented this? The disappointment is great at Cape Coast that Coomassie has not yet fallen into our hands, and we have thought it our duty to give expression to that feeling. But to us it seems that the Government at home should either not have sanctioned the projected invasion of Ashantee, or should have taken care that the

reinforcements indispensable for such an invasion should have arrived in proper time. Whatever other faults, if any, there may have been, Governor Pine and Colonel Conran cannot be answerable for the fatal delay in the arrival of the Tamar.

There must necessarily now be a pause, and we are not therefore called upon for an immediate opinion as to what should be done to assure the capture of Coomassie, should it be determined that the war is to be carried on until that be accomplished. But there are some things at least that ought immediately to be done. The road to the River Prah should be made a good military road; those precautions on the River Volta and in the Eastern Districts generally—for which we have constantly pleaded from the time war was imminent—for preventing the passage of guns, powder, lead, and salt (as also from Elmina), &c., to Ashantee, should be taken and made effective. Then communications should be opened with Coomassie—the fixed resolution of the British Government, unless terms of agreement are come to, should be made known—and every proper effort be employed for re-establishing peaceful relations. It was British power that first checked the conquests of the Ashantees. The mere organization of the native forces by Englishmen led to that series of discomfitures which lost them the sovereignty of the Territories and led to its transfer to us under the name of the Protectorate. But for us, the Ashantees would have massacred or sold off to slave-ships the whole of the population. They would do this even now but for our presence and protection. They therefore respect, while they hate, the British name; and we firmly believe that, if they were once persuaded of our being fully in earnest, some terms of adjustment might be agreed upon. But this they will never believe while we allow them to receive supplies and sell slaves by way of the Volta. Whoever it may be that is justly answerable for their having been allowed hitherto to do so, is answerable also for all the precious life that has been lost, the expense that has been incurred, and the comparative disgrace that has been sustained.

THE DAHOMAN DEFEAT.

The great attack of Dahomey on Abeokuta has been made. Repulsed from the walls, then assailed by the elated Egbas in the open field, in front and flank, the Dahomans retreated fighting for some miles, until, the number of their enemies constantly increasing, the retreat became a complete and disastrous rout, in which the King was very near being taken prisoner. Considering the length and difficulties of the way, it must be presumed that as the known loss of the Dahomans amounted to 4,000, not more than half the expeditionary forces could have returned alive to Abomey.

The King will now be able to estimate at its proper value the good advice given to him by Commodore Wilmot fifteen months ago. He was warned that he had no chance of success against such a town as that of Abeokuta, defended by such people as the Egbas, assisted by a powerful Oyimbo* element. But the vanity and pride of the King and his army were so inflamed, that nothing short of a disastrous defeat such as that they have now sustained would have sufficed to make them abandon their purpose. Abeokuta was too hard a nut for them to crack. They would not believe this, and have broken their jawbone in the effort. For there can be no doubt as regards the result. Dahomey has received a check that may be fatal to her existence as a kingdom unless she abandon that atrocious system under which her own population has continually decreased, and that of neighbouring districts has been annihilated. Unless she discontinue the constant and horrible waste of human life for which she has become so infamously celebrated—get rid of the foreign slave-dealers from her coasts—rigidly prohibit the export of another slave—and cultivate the arts of peace with all the power of her remaining population in lieu of the destructive ones of war—unless she do this, she is lost. We cannot avoid expressing our deep regret that Commodore Wilmot is not now on his way for a second visit to the monarch and people with whom he became so great a favourite, although they turned a deaf ear to his wise

* White, and educated black people, Christians, &c.

counsels. We believe that if he were now at Abomey, he could have induced that change of system which we so ardently desire. Dahomey is especially marked out by nature for a vast cotton field, stretching thence across Yoruba. Unlike the western settlements of the Gold Coast, hers is an open, and not a forest country; the soil, which can be very easily cleared, is particularly favourable to the cotton plant, which here becomes perennial, and produces two crops a-year, with very easy and inexpensive culture; and if the King and his chiefs would direct the energies of his really agriculturally-inclined people to the production of cotton, he might save his country, his coffers would soon be much better filled than they have ever been by the slave-trade, and the value which human life would acquire in the eyes of all would induce the speedy abandonment of every vestige of those horrible customs where human blood has been spilled like water, and human agony has been feasted on by a savage people as if they were a host of fiends.

But whether these extreme results be induced by the late defeat or not, Abeokuta will feel a security on the side of Dahomey to which she has been hitherto a stranger. All that she now requires for a great prosperity—for an indefinite extension of her palm-oil and cotton culture—is to make peace with the Ibadans and their allies. She may then safely extend her farms and plantations far beyond the limits within which, as a matter of precaution, they have hitherto been confined. We earnestly hope that the visit of Governor Freeman, of Lagos, to Abeokuta, will lead to the complete restoration of tranquillity to the Egba and Yoruba countries, and of the amicable relations which ought to exist between Abeokuta and Lagos, and which are indispensable to the prosperity of both places. 1864 bids fair to become a year memorable in the annals of Western Africa for events conducing to the spread of civilization in her long-suffering countries.

BANKING AT SIERRA LEONE.

WE were enabled last month briefly to announce that the Company of African Merchants were about to commence banking* operations at Sierra Leone, under the auspices of the authorities and at the solicitation of some of the most influential persons there. It has been long felt that banking operations had become necessary on the West Coast; while at the same time there was not a field large and rich enough to justify the establishment of a banking company for such operations alone. But for the formation of a powerful company such as that of "The African Merchants," the want, therefore, must have remained unsatisfied; and an important stimulus to industrial development being absent, the progress of industry on the West Coast would have had still to struggle on with all the difficulties to which it has hitherto been subject. The large capital of this company offers an ample guarantee for its banking transactions, while the fact that it is not dependent on them alone for profits for its shareholders, will enable it to offer greater advantages to its customers than any mere bank could have given.

To say that we rejoice at this new boon to Africa would but feebly represent our satisfaction. As we behold one after another our hopes and projects for the industrial development, and consequent advancement of civilization in Western Africa, realised, we gain new strength for the difficult, arduous, and too frequently ungrateful task that we have undertaken. Sierra Leone claims for so many reasons a large share of our anxiety, that we congratulate her in especial on this new element of prosperity within her borders. In any undertaking of this kind on the West Coast, she was clearly pointed out by position and circumstances as the great centre and focus in and from which all the monetary transactions of the West Coast with England and America should radiate and converge. The selection of Sierra Leone, therefore, in preference to any other point, must have been a necessary decision of the Board of Directors, and not a matter of favour to the colony. Nevertheless, we congratulate the latter on this desirable addition to its mercantile facilities and importance, and hope that the advantages to be derived from the bank will

* ERRATUM.—Page 124. For "Company of African Merchants have commenced building operations in Sierra Leone," read "banking" operations.

be so felt by the general population, that this necessity of every small town in Great Britain will in Sierra Leone be universally acknowledged also. The risks of fire and of robbers to which coin in private receptacles is exposed has conduced to the prosperity of banks of deposit everywhere; and we know of no part of the world where the inducement to seek the accommodation and security of a bank against such casualties can be greater than on the West Coast of Africa.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, April 9, 1864.

Sir,—The most important intelligence from here this month is the recent attack on Abeokuta by the King of Dahomey, and his complete defeat. Early on March 15, the field piece at Aro gate gave the alarm to Abeokuta; and at about seven A.M. the Dahomans attacked. The battle appears to have lasted until about eleven in the morning, but the Dahoman attack was weak and badly supported. The Dahomans were soon put to the rout, abandoning everything in their retreat, the King himself narrowly escaping capture. The Egbas pursued beyond Ishagga, killing many and making a great number of prisoners. The Dahoman loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners is said to amount to four thousand, which statement is probably not exaggerated. The Egbas only acknowledge a loss of fifty killed and double that number wounded; this is probably very far under the mark, but so far as I can learn they lost no man of note.

The Oyimbos* are now in great favour at Abeokuta, in consequence of their conduct during the attack, and great hopes are entertained of a speedy re-establishment of friendly relations between the Egbas and this colony. His Excellency Governor Freeman is about to visit Abeokuta. This visit has been contemplated some time, but has been retarded by the Governor's illness and the hesitation of the Bashorun and elders to receive him. A person of colour who conceives himself to have been injured by some former acts of the Governor has for months past been staying in Abeokuta, exerting all his influence to prevent a rapprochement between the authorities of the two places, whose interests are so closely united. The Bashorun has, however, responded favourably to his Excellency's intimation that he was desirous of going to Abeokuta, with a view to an amelioration of the existing state of things, and little doubt is entertained that much good will result from an interview and direct communication with the Bashorun and elders. My own impression is that the Egbas will be only too glad to listen to the Governor's overtures, and that, being tired of the long stoppage of trade, they will avail themselves of any good excuse to open the roads and let our produce come down. Bad counsels may, however, prevail over their own better intentions, or their easy victory over Dahomey may have further inflated them. The Governor's mission may fail, and then I think that, repugnant though it may be to the ideas of many, the authorities here must adopt some very coercive measures, as the only means of rescuing Lagos from ruin. War feelings against Abeokuta were strong here lately, when they hesitated to receive the Governor, and will be fanned into a flame should his overtures be rejected, as we all believe that the fault will not be his.

Governor Freeman has been much abused, but he had an invincible task before him, as the first Governor of this colony; and though few here care to admit that he executed his work in the least obnoxious manner, it may be doubted if any one in his place would have incurred less obloquy than he has done. It is, however, true that our late most worthy popular Lieutenant-Governor was more the man of our choice; and all the European population at least would most heartily welcome his return, even though only as Colonial Secretary.

A good measure has just been adopted. The foreign merchants trading both here and at Porto Novo have been landing their goods for Porto Novo on the beach there, the duties here, especially on rum and tobacco, being too oppressive. An ordinance has just issued that goods passing through Lagos to Porto

* White, or Sierra Leone men.—Ed. A. T.

Novo, or re-exported from here to that place, shall pay only one-half the duties levied on those sold in this colony. This will operate favourably on the colonial revenue. Large quantities of goods will now pass through our Custom House, which, under the former system, would have been landed on Porto Novo beach. The Executive appears to have come to the wise conclusion that half a loaf is better than no bread.

En attendant, the benefits that will accrue from the Governor's intended trip to Abeokuta next week, trade is worse than ever, and we are all most busily employed in doing nothing.

There have been more fires at Porto Novo, but no great harm appears to have been done except to native dwellings.

Our harbour has lately been enlivened by the presence of no less than five steamers; but H.M.S. Investigator, which is supposed to remain here for the protection of the place, is now frequently sent to cruise off Whydah, where she is, I believe, at present. Why have we not a colonial steamer, or why is the Commodore allowed to withdraw a ship built and sent here expressly for service in these lagoons? The King Eyo Honesty, a steamer lately bought and sent here by the West African Company, until the season for ascending the Niger arrives, is now in a sinking state, and will probably never cross the bar again. She appears to have been a very bad "spec" on the part of the Company, who should have sent a good stout, serviceable vessel, capable of towing over the bar and carrying cargo. The steam-tug Advance (Mr. McCosky's) is in a precarious condition, and we are all asking, "How are we to get our ships in and out?"

—Yours;

VERITAS.

THE DAHOMAN DEFEAT BEFORE ABEOKUTA.

The third expedition of the Dahomans against Abeokuta, and the second attack, has been made. The first (attack) was in 1851, the second in 1863, and this third (attack), and most probably last, on the 15th March, 1864. The result of a great defeat such as the Dahomans have now sustained may be so important, that it behoves us to chronicle briefly the leading incidents of a struggle so honourable to the Egbas, so humiliating to the King of Dahomey and his notoriously vainglorious army.

In the letter of our Lagos correspondent the attack and its issue are alluded to. He did not enter into detail, because he knew we should receive the little Abeokuta journal, the *Iwe Irohin*, which contains a full account; from which, by-the-by, a correspondent of the *Times* (in a letter inserted on the 12th inst.), signing himself "An African," has derived all his facts, without one word of acknowledgment, while the errors are undoubtedly his own.

There is a ditch outside the wall of Abeokuta, which makes the wall very difficult to mount. A Dahoman column of 3,000 advanced from the Aro side of the town to within fifty yards of the walls, at about seven A.M. on the 15th March (the anniversary of their appearance last year). Many thousands of Egba muskets now opened upon them from the top of the wall, which is fifteen feet high. This at once checked the general advance; but some of the Amazons justified their previous reputation by scaling the wall in face of such fearful odds and with certain destruction as the result. The *Iwe Irohin* says (copied almost literally by "An African," as before mentioned): "One of these ferocious women had already had one of her hands cut off in endeavouring to get over the wall, when she discharged her musket with the other hand and killed an Egba; but at the same moment she received a severe cut with the sword, so that she fell back into the trenches." "The fierce struggle lasted about an hour," during which there was a continual roar of musketry, "when the enemy retired a short distance, being unable to stand the fire of the Egbas any longer." The loss of the Dahomans during this first hour seems to have been nearly 200 killed, seventy of whom were in the trench or ditch. "The wounded were numerous, and were

* The Commodore, acting upon intelligence sent from the Foreign-office here, has very properly ordered every disposable vessel of the Slave Protection Squadron to cruise near the Dahoman coast. Great praise is due both to the Foreign-office and to the Commodore for the promptitude with which this has been done; and we hope the result will be the capture of the Circeron (see April number) and another new slave steamer.—Ed. A. T.

removed by the enemy, but many of them afterwards died. The work of destruction among the Dahomans during this hour was frightful. The battle was by this time pretty well decided, and Abeokuta saved; as soon as the enemy retired from the walls, the Egbas rushed out and renewed the battle in the open field. The Egbas fought nobly; they knew what they were fighting for; all depended on this day; if defeated, they have no friends near; they fought for their homes, their wives and children, their country, their liberty, and their lives. For many years past the Dahomans had carried destruction and slaughter into the Egba territory; they came now to make an end to the Egba tribe. The Egbas were exasperated, and each wanted to do his duty on this day. The men fought in good order, though they had only a few leaders; the women were singing and dancing, being sure of victory. They carried plenty of water and agidis to the camp to refresh the fighting men; many of them armed themselves with swords and kept near the walls in case their assistance should be required. A sharp fire was kept up for about two hours near Aro, the enemy gradually retreating and leaving great numbers of dead behind them. They retired towards Ibara, which town they had destroyed last year. At Ibara the Dahomans sought to make a stand, but could not, and many sought safety under cover of the thick bush there. They were greatly distressed for water; all the watercourses were dried up; the dust and heat of a midday sun, with a forced retreat, soon demoralised them. They were attacked in the flank by another party of Egbas, and lost many of their carriers, one of their cannon, and several hundreds of muskets, many of which were quite new. Some miles beyond Ibara they had their encampment, which was evacuated; here the pursuing Egbas captured the King's horse and many other things belonging to him. Great numbers of prisoners, men and women, were taken all along the road; and in this encampment the second cannon was captured. Beyond Ishagga, a town which they destroyed two years ago (also on the 15th March), the Dahomans stood once more to check the Egbas in pursuing them. A severe encounter took place, in which several Egbas were killed and wounded, but the Dahomans had heavier losses, and were driven from the field, the Egbas still pursuing them closely, killing and catching many of them. It appears that the Dahomans had never before experienced such a total defeat. It is difficult to give the exact number of dead and of prisoners, from Abeokuta to Ishagga, a distance of about fifteen miles, above 1,000 dead were counted, whilst beyond that place it is said that the number of dead was still greater. The prisoners cannot be fewer than 1,000 or 1,200, some say above 2,000. The Dahomans were probably above 10,000, but one captive states that their number was 16,000. Thus the Lord has frustrated the diabolic plan of the Dahomans to capture Abeokuta, and many of the heathen recognise the hand of God in this complete defeat of their enemies. The people rejoice greatly and congratulate each other on their escape. The Lord God of Hosts said: "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

There can, we think, be no doubt that this was the last attack on Abeokuta by the Dahomans that history will have to record. It appears from the report of one of their Sierra Leone prisoners who escaped after the action (and who has been many years captive at Abomey) that the army numbered 14,000, including carriers. It was in four battalions, under the chiefs "Migen," "Mewu," "Ajawo," and "Topo," each entitled to a stool, flag, and umbrella, as signs of dignity. The army left Abomey on the 24th February. They travelled twelve days from six A.M. to two P.M., resting at intervals eight days, thus reaching Abeokuta 15th March.

The King himself crossed the Ogun at Aro, and was not far from the wall of Abeokuta during the first advance.

Though the only four Dahomans who entered Abeokuta were women, the great majority both of killed and captives are men.

By the last accounts a large additional slaughter of the Dahomans had been made at a narrow and deep river, the Yewa, where a pursuing party of Abeokutans found from four to five hundred in a state of such complete exhaustion, that all were slain on the spot.

AFRICAN PRODUCTS.

BY AFRICANUS HORTON, M.D., S.A.S.

I have often thought of giving you a short notice on this most important subject, which lies necessarily at the very root of African improvement, and consequent civilization. Circumstances have hitherto prevented my doing so, and I should perhaps have deferred writing about it at present, from the conviction that the materials at my command are insufficient to enable me to give you a report such as a matter of so great importance demands. Considering, however, that you have always more articles for your valuable journal than your space will allow you to publish, I shall try to give you *multum in parvo*. It has been one of the great aims of the *African Times*, from its formation, to point out to the rising generation of Africa the fact, that the great wealth of a country depends upon the amount of its agricultural products; and that the immense riches of Africa can never be developed unless its people put their shoulders to the wheel, and perform their part. You have seized upon every occasion to point out the immense advantages to be derived from a systematic pursuit of agriculture, and you have also particularised important and fertile soils at points which might be taken as nuclei, for operation. For instance, you have thus singled out Quiah, at Sierra Leone; the interior countries of the Gold Coast; the lands on the banks of the several rivers on the country of Yoruba, as well as those of the Niger, the mother river of Western Africa, and the great high road to its central territories. At Sierra Leone, the yearly burning of its fields; the excessive amount of iron in the composition of its soil—especially the Peroxide; the practice of upturning that soil yearly from the time of the formation of the colony for sowing purposes, without any external assistance by manure; the imperfect knowledge of the science of agriculture and of chemistry by the farmers, which teaches that the difference in the inorganic ingredients of plants leads them to select different inorganic materials from the soil, and therefore that rotation of crops is essential where manures cannot be obtained—have led its soil to be rightly pronounced as not the most fit for agricultural pursuits. It is therefore highly pleasing to find that his Excellency Governor Blackall is using his influence to popularise the subject amongst the young men of Sierra Leone, and to point out to them the fertile region of Quiah. The lecture lately delivered by the Rev. George Nicol, on the agriculture of that colony, ought to be regarded as a *rade mecum* for every one. The lands bordering the sea on the Gold Coast are dry and arid, and contain throughout the year but very little moisture. They are rich in phosphate and other inorganic matters, but the uncertainty of rain consequent on the geographic position of the lands forms, in the absence of irrigation, a great barrier to planters. It is to the interior we must therefore look for a field of effectual agricultural operations. The inhabitants of the Eastern Districts, through the indefatigable exertions of the Basle missionaries and Mr. Freeman, are now becoming alive to the advantages of agriculture, and every man of consequence is devoting the best portion of his time to it. In the interior of Cape Coast, or the central portion of the Gold Coast Government, the soil is admirably adapted for sowing any kind of crops. The best is to be found in the regions bordering on the Ashantee frontiers or that of the Prah. It is there excellent for almost every kind of vegetable, and is rich in inorganic ingredients. It is an argillaceous superficial loam, intermixed with a species of sand formed by the disintegration of quartzose and felspathic rocks. The river communication should make this part the fulcrum for agricultural pursuits. It is needless for me to say a word on the fertility of the Yoruba and Niger soils, as all history goes to prove that they are rich in productive materials.

I must now allude briefly to certain products which among others ought to be cultivated here. In doing which I shall leave unnoticed those which have been continually alluded to by writers on African products, and which are now furnishing staple articles of trade—viz., palm oil, cotton, benny seed, and palm kernels. There are certain new ones which recent investigation has established that this part of Africa is capable of producing.

First.—COFFEE. This article is consumed in considerable

quantities on the West Coast of Africa, from the Senegal to Cape St. Paul de Loango. The soil is well adapted for planting almost any species, and yet, alas! with the exception of Liberia and the Gold Coast, the larger portion of what is consumed is obtained from Europe. Formerly it was planted in some quantity at Sierra Leone, but at present the cultivation is almost wholly abandoned there. In the Eastern District of the Gold Coast, through the example set by the Basle missionaries, more than 40,000 trees have been planted, and not only is the daily consumption of the inhabitants supplied, but some is exported. Coffee planting is unknown amongst the industrious populations of Yoruba and the Niger, and it is most desirable that the missionaries in those countries should take the matter in hand and show the natives what great benefits may be derived from its cultivation.

Second.—Homologous in the active principle of its composition, and by no means of less importance, is the TEA PLANT. The tea plant, I believe, has never before been known to exist in Africa, and the species which has only been recently discovered I call *Thea Ridlia*. It answers exactly to the description of Bohea tea, and is a most common shrub scattered over the dry and arid soils near the sea on the Gold Coast. It is found in vast numbers, flourishing in great luxuriance, at Anamaboe, Cape Coast, &c. Mr. Ridley has found it in great abundance at certain localities. In the interior of this coast, however, from Douquah up to the Prah, not a trace of it is to be found. I cannot vouch for its existence at Sierra Leone or Lagos; but being indigenous on the Gold Coast, it is likely to be found in those two places, and a proper investigation might perhaps lead to its discovery. It is now established beyond dispute that the tea plant is indigenous in Western Africa. Why, then, should it not now be extensively planted, and form one of the staple articles of export? Mr. Ridley, I am happy to say, is endeavouring to prepare a certain quantity for exportation. It is to be hoped that he will succeed, and that this will lead to some attempt on a larger scale.

Third.—The plant which yields the Indigo of commerce, known to botanists as the *Indigo tinctoria* and *Indigo carulea*.* It is one of the most common shrubs in Western Africa, from Senegal to the Gaboon, and is used extensively by the natives for dyeing purposes. I have found it the principal shrub in an extensive plain in the Bight of Benin, and I am certain that Africa will be able, if only proper means be adopted, to supply all England with indigo, as well as with tea, with greater ease and far cheaper than she can be supplied from the East Indies and from China. I succeeded in making the deep blue whilst stationed at Quittah, in appreciable quantities, from plants obtained there; and with very little pains and expense it can be prepared in any quantity.

Fourth.—THE CHICORY PLANT, or the *Battayanna chyrabalana* (African chicory). This plant, I think, has never before been noticed as existing in Western Africa. I only came across it lately while examining the flora in the vicinity of Mansoo. A short description will enable most or some of your readers to find the plant, should it exist in their neighbourhoods. It is an annual; a shrub of the natural order *Compositae*; found principally in hedges and waysides, having a fibro-tuberous rootstem, and a soft, yielding cellular stem, which latter presents a tuber at the inferior portion of each node, occupying a fifth of the internode, observable more in the full-grown stem than in the younger ones. Each tuber is composed of a lot of cells, and when fractured yields a colourless fluid, which, exposed to the air, becomes of a deep blue colour. The leaves are sheathy at the base, opposite, exstipulate, oblong lanceolate, distantly serrated, and when pressed yield a light yellow fluid (which becomes deep blue on exposure to the air) and has a disagreeable odour. The flowers are collected, as in all the compositae, into dense capitula on a common receptacle; the florets are tubular, and of a whitish colour, having four equal teeth. The fruit is an achene, with erect solitary seed. The blue matter exists in every part of the plant, even in its liachs.

* I beg to call the notice of the Rev. George Nicol to the existence of this plant in West Africa.

This plant is distributed on this coast in an uncultivated form. Will it not be of great importance to the farmers and to the merchants if proper attention be paid to it? There would be not only the exportation of chicory made from the root, but a useful commercial blue might be made from every part of the plant.

Fifth.—THE BLACK PEPPER; or, the *Piper Nigrum v. Africannum*. All the world has looked to the East Indies for the supply of this most important article, and it has almost been regarded as a plant exclusively belonging to that portion of the globe; yet it is quite as much West African. It abounds in extensive quantities in the forests of Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast. In the latter I have found it in the forest between Mansoo and the river Prah, but more especially in the vicinity of the latter. In the former place it is in the forest in the mountain district, and is known by the name of "*Bush pepper*." Its leaves are used medicinally by the natives as a vermifuge. It has a very pointed stem, and grows wild, climbing principally on very tall trees. It requires but very little attention, and Western Africa will, sooner or later, become an exporter of great quantities. The specimen before me, obtained from the forest at Prahsoo, has an exquisite aroma, and if cultivated would surpass the East Indian in the freshness of its stimulant and aromatic properties.

Sixth.—THE CLOVES OF COMMERCE, obtained from the *Caryophyllus aromaticus*, common in almost any part of Western Africa. I met with specimens lately in the bush between Mansoo and Prahsoo. It is indigenous on this part of the Coast, and like the other plants mentioned, with but very little trouble any quantity could be obtained for export.

I might also mention several medicinal plants, such as the *Senna acutifolia*, *Lanceolata* and *Obarata*, the Sarsaparilla plant, or *Smilax officinalis*, the Tobacco plant, &c., were I not convinced that I was occupying too much space in your valuable journal.

It is my earnest wish, as it is yours, that West Africa should be made an extensive field of commercial enterprise; as her civilization must thus be promoted; and if you think that the few brief indications of her latent wealth here given will assist in hastening its development, you will, I am sure, give it a place in your columns.—Yours, &c.,

AFRICANUS HORTON, M.D.

IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

In the three months ended March 31, 1864, the quantity of cotton imported from the various countries amounted to 1,131,968 cwt., being an increase on the returns for the same months in 1863 of 338,932 cwt., and on those in 1862 of 557,830 cwt. The subjoined statement, showing the quantities imported from each of the more important countries in the first quarter of the years 1862, 1863, and 1864, is pregnant with particulars of interest at the present time:—

	1862.	1863.	1864.
United States . . . Cwts.	5,276	3,401	1,787
Bahamas and Bermuda . . .	—	11,971	63,940
Mexico	—	14,781	49,227
Brazil	39,469	49,749	61,210
Turkey	4,432	12,661	47,756
Egypt	196,085	233,642	309,091
British India	260,605	387,701	459,028
China	9	26,951	105,476
Other Countries	68,262	52,179	34,453
Total cwt.	574,138	793,036	1,131,968

DOWNING-STREET, MAY 9.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Commander John Hawley Glover, R.N., to be Colonial Secretary for the settlement of Lagos.

The West Africa Company has 6,500 shares of 10l. each subscribed for, including the fully paid up shares, instead of 6,000, as stated in our March number; and the London and African Company's shares are of 20l. each, and not 25l., as then stated.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MAY.

ASHANTEE WAR.

Sir J. HAY, in asking the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it was true that war had commenced with Ashantee, whether precautions had been taken to meet the drain of life which must ensue in so deadly a campaign, and whether a largely increasing expenditure might be looked for in consequence in the Gold Coast colony, stated that the lives of several valuable officers had been lost, and that other distinguished officers had been obliged to return home on account of ill health.

Mr. CARDWELL said that it was probably within the knowledge of the House that a war had commenced last year between the King of Ashantee and the friendly tribes around our settlements by an unprovoked incursion on the part of the King of Ashantee, and that there had consequently been much loss of life and property. Reinforcements had been sent to our Governor, and he believed that every precaution had been taken to supply the troops with everything that was calculated to ensure a continuance of health and life. The expenditure had no doubt increased, but the object of the vigorous measures which had been adopted was to prevent the necessity of that expenditure in future years.

FRIDAY, MAY 13.

On the motion of Colonel DUNNE, the following papers and returns were ordered: "Copies or extracts of any despatches from the Governor of the Gold Coast, explaining the cause of the war with the King of Ashantee; of any despatches from the Secretary of State to the Governor of the Gold Coast directing him to prosecute the war; returns of the expense already incurred in this war; and of the number of officers and European troops landed at Cape Coast Castle, and date of landing."

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH.

The following letter appeared in the *Times* of the 12th inst.:—

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir,—The Government of Portugal some years ago gave a contract to a steam-packet company to convey the mails between Lisbon and St. Paul de Loando, calling at Teneriffe. The officers of this line wear a uniform, the vessels so employed carry a Royal mail flag with pennant, and I do not hesitate to add that these boats are as well known on the West Coast of Africa as our own monthly mail steamers.

Now, Sir, you will scarcely credit it when I inform you that two of our cruisers overhauled and boarded the Zaire on her last voyage to Lisbon, bringing her to with a round shot across her bows, and on one of the occasions the boarding officer, not being apparently satisfied with Captain Beanco's papers, expressed a desire to have the hatches opened. To this indignity the captain remonstrated so firmly that the demand was withdrawn.

It is for these ill-judged acts that we are so disliked on the Continent. Here is the mail-packet of a small friendly Power forcibly detained some three hours on an important voyage because two young commanders of the Royal Navy will not use the discretion of a middy to discriminate between a slave steamer and the well-known Loando mail-boats!

It is to be hoped that the earl at the Foreign-office will check this extraordinary zeal; for, however desirable it is to obliterate the slave-trade, some care should be taken not to insult flags who "traverse the ocean on their lawful occasions."

AFRICANUS.

The writer of the above, who seems to think that it may possibly be desirable to "obliterate" the slave-trade—whatever that may mean—seems not to have been at all aware that the said mail-steamers conveying the mails between St. Paul and Lisbon have only too frequently carried also slaves, under the name of "free emigrants," from St. Paul to the Island of St. Thomas. The slave-trade is very active just now from the Portuguese rivers north of St. Paul, being carried on in launches between those rivers and Prince's Island, with what ultimate destination of the wretched captives our readers will be able to conjecture; and we are glad to see that our cruisers pay an occasional visit to the

mail-steamers plying between St. Paul de Loando and Lisbon. We have no doubt of the sincere desire of the Portuguese Government to put an end to the slave-trade. But we have great doubts about any such desire on the part of the authorities in the Portuguese African settlements, whether on the West or East Coast. We have very little doubt of a slave-trade being still carried on from the Portuguese settlement on the mainland near Bulama. We know, as above stated, that it is actively carried on between certain rivers and Prince's Island, and the Portuguese possessions on the East Coast, Mozambique, &c., are unhappily notorious as regards the slave-trade. The Portuguese Government know and lament all this, and are not, we think, disposed to take umbrage at our endeavours to assist them in restraining the unlawful acts of their distant officials. We care very little about the impression on the minds of the latter on occasions of such inspection as above alluded to.—*Ed. A.T.*

ROADS FROM LAGOS TO THE INTERIOR OF YORUBA, ETC.

To the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE WEST AFRICAN COMPANY, LIMITED, Showeth,—That your memorialists have a deep interest, as a commercial company, in the promotion and prosecution of trade, and in obtaining an adequate supply of cotton from the West Coast of Africa, in which quarter they have for several years anticipated with sanguine hopes and expectation its extensive and increasing cultivation.

That judging from the rapid increase in the growth of this plant up to the year 1859, at which time 3,447 bales were exported from thence to England, your memorialists have had reason to expect the exportation to this country, since that time, of large quantities from the districts of Abeokuta and Lagos, stimulated, as its growth must necessarily have been, by its recent great increase in price.

That, notwithstanding these reasonable expectations, the exportation of this article, as well as of palm oil and other products, from those districts, has wholly ceased.

That your memorialists, and many other merchants, have several hundred bales of cotton, and many thousand pounds' worth of other produce lying at Abeokuta in a wholly useless and deteriorating condition, arising solely from the fact that they are not allowed to remove their property from thence to Lagos for shipment, either by road or river.

That, as a consequence of this prohibition, the mercantile establishments of your memorialists, and of other merchants, which in such a climate of necessity entail very considerable cost in their maintenance, are totally inactive; and if the existing obstructions to trade and to the removal of their property are permitted to continue, they cannot look forward to any other result to themselves than that of absolute ruin.

That your memorialists have well-grounded reasons for believing that this state of things is attributable solely to the conduct of the tribe inhabiting the Egba territory, at Abeokuta, and the tribe inhabiting the Ijebu territory, and to their respective advisers; and the following statement may be relied upon as affording the true explanation of the causes which have subjected your memorialists and other merchants to the obstacles, losses, and apprehended consequences to which they have adverted.

The two above-mentioned tribes entertain towards the European settlers of the new colony of Lagos a jealous and unfriendly feeling; and partly from this cause, and partly also from the fact that they are at war with the tribe inhabiting Ibadan (who are anxious to trade with the settlers at Lagos), they have united together in a compact to close up against all traffic and communication the river Ogun—the high road from Abeokuta to Lagos, and the ancient high road from Ibadan by way of Ikorodu to Lagos, and by these means to lock up all British property in the interior.

Your memorialists are perfectly satisfied, by information which has been given to them by the Rev. Samuel Crowther

(now in England), Wm. McCoskry, Esq. (an African merchant), and their own correspondents at Lagos, that were it not for the obstacles thus presented, the inhabitants of Ibadan could trade direct with the merchants of Lagos, and are, in fact, anxious so to do; and they are equally satisfied, by testimony from the same sources, that a legal and indisputable right of road between Ibadan and Ikorodu exists, and has existed from time immemorial, and that an equally indisputable right of road exists, and has in like manner existed, between Ikorodu and Lagos; and that therefore the line of communication between the latter town and Ibadan would, were it not for these unjustifiable obstacles, be complete throughout the entire distance.

As the war which has been adverted to has continued for several years, to the great loss and prejudice of your memorialists and other merchants of Lagos, and as no prospect at present exists of its termination from voluntary causes, your memorialists beg respectfully, but earnestly, to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the absolute necessity of such steps being taken by treaty, or otherwise, as may be required to effect a free, unobstructed, and permanent opening of the roads and river before referred to, and by these means to enable Her Majesty's subjects to obtain a release of their property which, from no fault of their own, is at present locked up at Abeokuta and elsewhere; and to enable them henceforth to traffic in merchandise with such of the tribes in the West of Africa as are willing to enter into commercial relationship with them.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

To the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., D.C.L., &c., &c., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE COTTON SUPPLY ASSOCIATION,

Respectfully showeth,—That your memorialists are actively engaged in promoting the growth of cotton in all parts of the world, and have endeavoured to extend its cultivation on the West Coast of Africa. The progressive increase up to 1859, in which year 3,447 bales were received, seemed to justify the expectation that larger quantities would be obtained from this quarter, but since that period, notwithstanding the prevalence of high prices, the imports from this source have fallen off, and appear now to have ceased altogether.

That your memorialists are informed that thousands of bales of cotton, and other property of great value, are now lying useless, and suffering great injury, at Abeokuta, the removal of which is prevented by the wars now raging between neighbouring tribes, and by the stoppage of the ancient road from Ibadan to Ikorodu, and thence direct to the British colony of Lagos, as also of the communication by the river Ogun and the road from Abeokuta to Lagos, thus entirely preventing the outlet of a large amount of British property now lying in the interior of the country.

That your memorialists, therefore, beg earnestly and respectfully to represent to Her Majesty's Government the importance of taking such steps as may be practicable, by treaty or otherwise, for the immediate removal of the obstructions to trade now existing, and for securing uninterrupted intercourse between Abeokuta and Lagos, as well as between the latter town and Ibadan and Ikorodu.

And your memorialists, &c., &c.

The first four ships of the Company of African Merchants, established last July, are now on their way home to England with cargoes estimated in value at 20,000*l.* to 30,000*l.*—*Standard.*

NEGRO SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.—The laws on slavery are far more humane than those of most slave countries. One provision enables the slave to have his name registered and his price fixed by a magistrate, and then pay that price as he can get small sums—the sale of the slave being no bar to counting previous payments—so that when the price is paid he is free. In 1850 the slave-trade was prohibited in Brazil. Since the present reign commenced, the number of slaves has decreased one million, while the products of the soil have increased thirty-five per cent.

THE TIMES AND THE ASHANTEE WAR.

The following appeared in the *Times* of the 12th inst. :—

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—In the name of humanity, will you prevail upon one of the "economical" or other members of the House to move for returns showing the expense which has been incurred, the number of English officers who have died, and the number who have been invalided, with health ruined beyond redemption, during the course of the present "Ashantee war," which has now been dragging on for eighteen months, in which time it is reported that one of the enemy has been seen by a sentry, but the report is not generally believed?

The whole affair would be an outrageous farce if it were not so terrible a reality to us who are engaged in it.

If my health be spared long enough, I will try, by one means or another, to give to the English people some faint idea of the reckless manner in which valuable lives and hardly-won treasure are being expended in the pursuit of worse than a chimera; and I think that, if any one will take the trouble to read, there may be found in such an account ample matter for reflection.

Should the *Times* desire a special correspondent to relate the thrilling adventures connected with the Ashantee war now in progress, let it apply to

AN OFFICER NOW SERVING ON THE GOLD COAST.
Cape Coast Castle, the Gold Coast, Western Africa.

No one can lament more than we do the loss of life and treasure caused by this deplorable Ashantee war. But our readers are too well acquainted with its rise and progress to be misled by a clap-net letter, in which the invasion of the Gold Coast Territories last year by three divisions of the Ashantee army, the loss of some thousands of native lives, and the destruction of many towns and villages, is so completely ignored, that it is stated to be doubtful whether one of the enemy has been at some time or other seen by a sentry. We can only further refer our readers to letters and articles in this present number of our journal on this interesting and painful subject.—*Ed. A.T.*

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

The two following letters have been published in the *Times*. They are evidently from officers of the West India reinforcements, which reached Cape Coast on the 9th April, in the Tamar. The exaggerations and misstatements contained in them are very excusable. The position in which officers and men have found themselves on arriving at Cape Coast, at the beginning of the rainy season, without any adequate provision for their comfort or safety, and the wretched determination to station two companies at Frahsoo, to guard or consume some miserable stores, might well weigh heavily on the minds of honourable men, determined to do their duty, but beholding themselves wantonly sacrificed by neglect, and for considerations too paltry to be weighed against such valuable lives.

[No 1.]

"Cape Coast Castle, Africa, April 15.

"As it is, here I am, and must make the best of it, but unless you were on the spot and could see the result of a few weeks' residence in the Bush, as shown in the unhappy persons who have just returned from it—you will hardly realise the amount of philosophy it requires to come to this sensible resolution. It simply means dying (as many have already) or, what is fifty times worse, coming out of it with a constitution ruined for ever. No less than six officers leave by this mail; two or three will never reach England, and the rest can never be what they were before. To call the tragedy now being enacted here a farce may appear an anomaly, but so it is, for a war it can hardly be when they have been in what they call 'the field' (the swamp would be a more appropriate term) for the last three months and never seen so much as a single Ashanteeman. The amount of human life and money being expended is something awful to contemplate, nor can the end—taking Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee—ever be attained—no, not if ten times the number of troops now here were sent, and well the King knows this; hence his taking no notice, and his wise remark, 'that though the white men have sent

plenty of guns into the Bush, he knows the Bush will prove stronger than the guns.' One has only to be here a day or two to perfectly coincide with his sable Majesty. The rains have set in, and nothing can be done until November, when they will be over, but as a large quantity of stores have been collected at the camp—a collection of mud huts eighty miles in the interior—situated in a dense forest now under water—it will be necessary to keep a force there to protect them. The officers and two companies of my regiment have been selected for this service, and we start next week. If I ever return I shall be very much surprised and pleased, but I am free to confess I do not in the least anticipate it, for to send us at this season of the year into the Bush with no shelter but what a mud hut affords, and no food but salt pork and biscuit, is well known to all acquainted with this climate to be simply death. I go, my friend, as I am bound to do, and will meet my fate as a gentleman should, but if I were offered this minute to choose between allowing my company to pop at me at 300 yards for half an hour, I should readily accept the alternative."

[No 2.]

"God help us! Here we all are at last! I fancied I had seen some of the worst places there are, but imagination never pictured such a reality as this. We had been expected for two months, and yet no preparation was made for the reception of 200 men and twenty-nine officers. Most of the men could go into the Castle; none of the officers could do so. Some of them are under tents with some of their men; the rest of us were quietly told to go and shift for ourselves, neither quarters nor lodging-money being given. The town and country are one mass of filth, and the stench is almost unendurable. We are allowed a gallon of water a day for washing, cooking, and drinking. When we landed, out of the nineteen officers we found here there were only three who were able to crawl about. Five go home—if they live long enough—by this mail; some went by last, and I don't know how many have died before they could be got off. This is from Bush work during the dry season; and what are they going to do now? Why, keep two camps 80 miles up in the Bush, in the middle of a swamp, where it will rain perpetually for six months. And what are they going to do it for? To eat up some stores which have been taken up and are in excess there, and which they do not wish to carry down again. And, to complete the whole matter, it is not certain that one Ashantee has been seen during the whole time such humbug has been going on, which is now for nearly eighteen months, at a cost of upwards of 1,000*l.* a day to you at home."

It is stated that Captain Speke has had a long and interesting audience of the Emperor of the French, whom he found perfectly willing—nay, anxious—to assist the views which Captain Speke entertains relative to the development of the resources of Equatorial Africa. "If England begins as you propose, France will begin on the other side, and we will make the two ends meet." Such is reported to have been the *denier mot* of this interview.

THE RIVER PRAH.—This river is the boundary between Ashantee and the Protected Territories of the Gold Coast; the water is very low in the dry season, about six feet deep; it rises in the rainy season about thirty feet; it is wider than a stonecast. The road from Fantee Yancom-assie to this river Prah is not so bad as other roads; when cleared, the ground is almost level, but there are zigzags as in an ordinary road.—*Mr. Ghurley's Itinerary.*

A DEPUTATION, introduced by Mr. Ewart, M.P., the Hon. Algernon Egerton, M.P., and Mr. C. Turner, M.P., had an interview with Lord Palmerston, at Cambridge House, upon the subject of the African trade. The deputation consisted of Messrs. R. and W. King, the Anglo-African Company, of London; Messrs. Lucas Brothers and Co., of Bristol; and Messrs. Thomas Harrison, G. H. Horsfall, A. Ashmall, Peter Stuart, Peter Douglas, T. Cookson, E. Hatton, J. Tyson, S. J. Arnold, G. J. Cornish, T. Cleaton, and J. B. Cooper (secretary to the African Association), all of Liverpool.

* We must again declare our ignorance of any such company.

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Of every description, adapted to all climates, made portable, so that inexperienced workmen can easily re-erect them. THEATRES, CONCERT-ROOMS, HOTELS, BARRACKS, WAREHOUSES, VILLA RESIDENCES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SCHOOL-ROOMS, SHOPS, MARKET-PLACES, LABOURERS' COTTAGES, STABLES, LODGES, &c., &c.

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WEST COAST of AFRICA, MADEIRA, and TENERIFFE.
—The African Steam-ship Company's vessels (carrying Her Majesty's Mails) leave LIVERPOOL monthly, with goods and passengers, proceeding direct to MADEIRA, TENERIFFE, BATHURST, SIERRA LEONE, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, LAGOS, BENIN, NUN, BRASS, BONNY, FERNANDO PO, CAMEROONS, and OLD CALABAR.

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The splendid new steamship CALABAR, 1,200 tons and 250-horse power, A. J. M. CROFT Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on Tuesday, May 24, at 12 noon. Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the North Landing Stage at 10 A.M. punctually. Goods and heavy baggage must be alongside the ship at the loading berth, Huskisson Dock, not later than six P.M. on Saturday, the 21st. No goods or parcels can be shipped without pre-payment of freight.

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

Is an agreeable effervescing remedy, of great efficacy in all kinds of Fever and Blood diseases, especially those occurring during hot weather. Dr. Gibbon, Staff-Surgeon in the Crimean war, states that European residents in hot countries find that the use of this refreshing beverage prevents exhausting perspiration and its alternative deadly fever.

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

It acts by purifying and lowering the temperature of the blood; hence its great importance to all persons seeking to reside with safety and comfort in tropical countries, or subjected to unusual heat.

His Excellency the Governor of the West India Colonies, in a letter of request for an additional supply, states, "After a residence of seventeen years in the Colonies, I am bound to admit it is the finest and best preparation I have ever met with. I keep it on my sideboard, hoping that others, seeing it, will be induced to take and profit as I have done by it. I attribute the excellent state of my health to its use, and I lose no opportunity of urging others to take it."

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

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

William Stevens, Esq., M.D., D.C.L., states, in his work on West India Fevers, that wherever the saline treatment is adopted the fatal yellow fevers are deprived of their terrors.

Out of One Thousand cases treated on the Saline plan, "the astonishing number of Nine Hundred and Eighty-nine recovered."

Orders for the West Coast of Africa promptly executed per return of mail by the Sole Manufacturer, 113, Holborn-hill, London, W.C., or by M. L. Levin, Shipping Agent, Bevis-marks, he having special correspondents at Bathurst, Cape Coast, Anamabo, Accra, Lagos, Cameroons, Bonny, and Old Calabar. Agent for Sierra Leone, J. B. Elliot, Esq.; Messrs. Biden and Gardner, Cape Town, who are appointed also for the sale of the

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