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THE COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

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WITH POWER TO INCREASE.

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The Capital of this Company has been fully subscribed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The Royal Mail steamship *Ethiopia*, Captain Corbett, arrived at Liverpool on Friday, the 10th inst, with advices to the following dates: Benin, April 24; Fernando Po, 29th; Cameroons, 30th; Old Calabar, May 2; Brass River, 4th; Nun, 4th; Bonny, 7th; Lagos, 10th; Accra, 12th; Cape Coast Castle, 14th; Cape Palmas, 17th; Sierra Leone, 21st; Bathurst, 25th; Teneriffe, 31st; and Madeira, June 2. She had on freight 1,080 ounces of gold dust and 5,000*l.* in specie.

At the rivers the season was healthy and trade rather better. At Lagos fever and dysentery were prevalent, and many deaths had occurred. The expedition against the Ashantees had been stopped by the rains. Several people had died from the effects of exposure in the bush, and eight officers had been invalided. Nearly all the troops had been recalled from the Prah.

At the Windward ports trade was dull.

SHIPPING.

At Benin, the *Sunshine*, *Irene*, and *Medea*; at Fernando Po, the *Elgiva* and *Mary Hamilton*; at Cameroons, the *Elizabeth Emily*, *Gandiana*, *Caboceer*, *Nox*, and *Runnymede*; at Old Calabar, the *Elizabeth*, *Commodore*, *Royal Arch*, *Golden Age*, *Hannah*, and *Salkeld*; at Brass River, the *Selina*, *Virginian*, *Empress*, *Express*, and *Hound*; at Bonny, the *Faith*, *Manor*, *Fulton*, *Majestic*, *Clara*, *Ben Ledi*, *Kate*, *Grand Bonny*, *Ellerslie*, and *Belle of the Ocean*; at Lagos, Her Majesty's ships *Investigator* and *Handy*; at Cape Coast Castle, the *Africa*; at Cape Palmas, the *Hasty*; at Sierra Leone, the *Renshaw*, *Chatham*, *Ranger*, *Grace*, *Ellen*, and *Maria*; at Bathurst, the *Atalanta*; at Madeira, the *Let-her-rip* and *Despatch*.

LIST OF PASSENGERS.

From Brass River, Mr. Anthony; from Lagos, Messrs. Philippi, Schabert, Massine, Le Gros, Steinhusen, and Finlay; from Accra, Mr. Schrenk; from Cape Coast Castle, Staff Assistant-Surgeon Flynn, Lieut. Lees, Captain M'Kay, and Ensign Bulger (4th West India Regiment), Staff Assistant-Surgeon Lewis, and Sergeant Evans; from Sierra Leone, Staff-Surgeon Oakes, Mr. Quin, Sergeant May, and Lieut. Hall (4th West India Regiment); from Bathurst, Mrs. Moore and Miss Elizabeth Goddard.

RIVER GAMBIA.

We hope it is not necessary, but still we feel it to be our duty, to caution our native friends and correspondents at the Gambia to be particularly careful in the information they may forward to us. In our April number there was a statement published, on the faith of intelligence received from them, that a certain unfitness for his post on the part of the writer of the Colonial-office, which had been complained of in our number of September, 1863, had since then been remedied by his having been under instruction by the garrison schoolmaster. This latter gentleman now writes to us to deny that such has been the case—"that our correspondent has sadly misrepresented the state of things," and that the person whom he has had under his instruction "is a lad of only six years of age." We expect the exact and simple truth from our correspondents; so that if in our judgment the

interests of Africa require or justify the publication of their letters, we may insert them with confidence. Our journal is not intended to be made a vehicle for gratifying any evil passions; and we must beg our native friends to bear in mind that every misrepresentation on their part tends to bring disgrace upon those whom it is our earnest endeavour to benefit and to elevate. Our efforts for Africa will not, we hope, be impeded by Africans themselves.

SIERRA LEONE.

The subscriptions to the Sierra Leone Industrial Exhibition amounted to nearly 700*l.* at the date of our last advices from the colony.

The local press is endeavouring to stimulate the colonists to seek out objects for exhibition. The *Free Press* says: "Who can tell what would be the result, if pains are taken in searching out appropriate things for the Exhibition throughout the large tracts of land by which we are surrounded. Perhaps some useful and valuable articles of commerce might be brought to light." And England is naturally and justly looked to for money aid. Confidence is expressed that she will assist, since she "can rely on the integrity of the promoters of this highly-important scheme, and on the determination of the natives on this side of the Atlantic to render effectual, under God's blessing, the ends for which this most essentially requisite object are being brought about. England, we know too well, likes to hear off and takes interest in nothing better, as regards Africa, than her improvement in industry."

Commodore Willmot, who is otherwise very popular, because all acknowledge the active interest he takes in everything that will promote the interests of the Africans, has fallen a little into disfavour, from having written to the committee, when sending his subscription, that "education has left them (meaning the Africans) in a worse condition than they were before, because it has taught them nothing but idleness, and made them too proud to work." We wish the worthy Commodore had written "if," instead of "because." As it stands, no one can admit its truth.

We have received No. 2 of a new weekly journal published at Freetown, under the title, *The Sierra Leone Weekly Observer and Commercial Advocate*.

We are glad to see that several influential gentlemen are striving to induce the little petty traders who have too much abounded, to take to planting, instead of selling trifling articles of merchandise. Foremost among these "real benefactors" of the people are the Colonial Chaplain, Dr. Hibbard, C. F. Hazleborg, William Quin, and others, who are taking an active part in the coming Exhibition. In connexion with this a correspondent writes: "On the 10th May we had a ploughing spell at King Tom's Point, about half-a-mile out of Sierra Leone. His Excellency supplied four Madeira oxen. Dr. Hibbard (an American gentleman) supplied the plough and took the lead in the work. His Excellency, Lady Blackall, and several other Europeans, with a goodly number of natives, were present. At five p.m. the native troops, with a brass band, marched down to the point. Several of the officers, and the writer, had a spell at the plough. We made poor work of it at first, as we were all greenhorns; but, fortunately, towards the end a competent ploughman turned up in one of the natives, who handled the plough in a masterly style. This young man had seen some ploughing service in America; so the natives, for the first time, were witnesses of the superiority of the plough over hoe labour."

M. Jules Gerard was lately in the Boom Country (Sherboro) exploring. He states he will push on by and bye to Timbuctoo, and thence to Abyssinia! We shall be glad to hear of the accomplishment of this project.

An intercolonial steamer for the occasional use of the authorities, and for general purposes, is one of the great and pressing wants both of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone.

We are sorry not to be able to notice as we could desire a very clever lecture on "Agricultural Industry," by the Rev. George Nicol, native pastor at Regent.

SHERBORO.

One of our Sierra Leone friends who has visited Bendor writes most favourably of agricultural advancement in that district, since it has come under the British Crown.

The following are from the *Early Dawn*:-

"CORROX CULTURE.—We believe that the culture of cotton may become an important and profitable business in this country, but we believe that much wisdom and patience are necessary to make it quite successful. As the result of the experiments of the past year, we are convinced that more profit will be realised by planting the *best kinds of native cotton* than by raising the imported varieties. True, Sea Island cotton can be raised here, but it is an uncertain crop, liable to be destroyed by bad cultivation, by insects, and unfavourable weather. The native cotton is much more hardy, and some kinds are but little inferior to the Sea Island. We have recently seen some specimens of native cotton of most excellent quality, and we believe that if sufficient pains were taken in the selection of seed, the quality and quantity of cotton raised from native seed would be greatly improved. As the cotton-planting season is now near at hand, we hope that those who intend planting cotton will give the best varieties a fair trial."

"We learn that the Company of African Merchants are about to commence business in the Sherboro, and expect to give especial attendance to the preparation of fibres of the palm, pine-apple, &c. We wish them all success."

LIBERIA.

In a treaty lately ratified between the Republics of Liberia and of Hayti, the slave-trade is declared to be and to be punished as piracy. We hope that this will be imitated ere long in all treaties among European and other Christian Powers for the suppression of the slave-trade.

While at Cape Coast the rains have set in so early and so violently as to cause deplorable disasters among the West India regiments serving there for the Ashantee war, in Liberia the weather continued so unusually dry as to occasion scarcity of good water so late as April.

The *Liberia Herald* says: "Much activity will be exhibited in the planting of cane this season. Cane tops have sold at a high rate, and were difficult to be procured. A number of persons will be added to the list of farmers this year." This is moving in the right direction.

GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—I forward you an interesting letter that I have received from a gentleman at the Gold Coast, giving a description of the town, &c. I think that many of your readers in this country will be glad to read it.—I am, &c.,

ALFRED S. CHURCHILL.

Gold Coast, May 14, 1864.

Dear Lord Alfred Churchill,—As your lordship is well known to take an interest in the welfare and progress of Africa, my first impressions of the condition and prospects of this settlement may not be unacceptable to you. The natives here appear to me to be finer men than those I have seen either at the Gambia or at Sierra Leone. They are, I think, for the most part, lighter in colour, and are a well-made set of fellows. Some of them, who have been taught to read and write, display a fair amount of intelligence, and seem to me to be capable of a considerable degree of civilization. With regard to the condition of the town of Cape Coast—and I have not been more than a mile or so out of it—I can only say that the description given of it by Dr. Clarke in 1858, and published in the colonial report of 1860, is still a very accurate one. No sanitary improvements, as far as I can ascertain, have been even attempted since he wrote. The tank which he mentions, and which he considered would be a great boon to the town when completed, is still unfinished. It is, I hear, in the hands of a company, and some of the merchants here, or their principals in London, &c., are large shareholders. They have no funds to complete it, and pursue the dog-in-the-manger policy. As to the condition of the great majority of the inhabitants, no

language can convey an adequate idea of the state of filth, squalor, and positive barbarism in which they are immersed. No attempt seems to have been made on the part of the Government to improve their condition. I do not attribute blame to any one in particular, and I hope your lordship will not consider that I intend to make any personal animadversions. The difficulties in the way, however, as far as I can see, are simply of a pecuniary nature. The available funds have been insufficient, hitherto, to allow any material progress being made. The Government grant of 4,000*l.* a-year is scarcely sufficient to pay the civil staff required here. The revenue, I believe, is now very small. Thus between both sources just enough is got to keep Her Majesty's servants here with *fine titles*, &c., but without money to make any public improvements or really to do any good. Surely it would be worth while for the Government to give an extra 2,000*l.* a-year to be applied solely for improving the place and civilising the people. The authorities here are, I believe, considering some means of raising additional revenue in the settlement, by imposing a duty on the retail of wines and spirits, and rendering it necessary for the keepers of houses in which these things are sold to take out licences. Advocates and attorneys have also now to take out licences, for which they have each to pay five guineas a-year. This will not bring in much, I should think—but every little counts; while, for other reasons, this measure seems to have been desirable. It is also proposed to make some change as regards native burials. The natives here are in the habit of burying their dead within their houses. You may imagine what a nice place the centre of a cemetery must be to live in in a hot climate like this, and I can say that we are at the present moment doing nothing else. Nor is this the fault altogether of the natives. I understand that they would willingly conform to any rule we may make to prohibit them doing so for the future, and that they do so now principally for the want of some safe and proper place of burial elsewhere. As to the Colonial or Government Burial-ground, it is in the very centre of the town, and to windward of the best part of it, as animadverted on by Dr. Clarke. It is not longer than an ordinary country churchyard, and it is at present so full, that they are burying persons only three feet deep. I hear that there is some intention of issuing an order that in future all persons must be buried in a new burial-ground, which was purchased some time ago, and which has not yet been consecrated. Contrary, however, to the express recommendation of Dr. Clarke, this also is to windward of the town. It is small, and, I fear, would soon be filled up; and a proper cemetery ought to be made to leeward. I hear also that the military authorities are going to build a military hospital near the present Parade-ground.

The natives carry on their palavers in a very orderly and able way. Mr. Barry, who came out lately as Queen's Advocate, is now, for the time being, Acting Chief Justice, and Acting Colonial Secretary also. I was in court when a man named Ricketts was tried for stealing 200*l.* of Government money—I mention this because he had been in English employ—and yet the principal witnesses he called were his own slaves, and it shows how slavery is interwoven with everything here.—I remain, in haste, your lordship's faithful and most obliged friend,

Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P.

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, May 13.

Sir,—You are quite right. The obtaining a revenue from this country itself by any other means than import duties, is simply impossible. Of course, if the Gold Coast were actually and *really* a British colony, something might be done with it; but, nominally, we only claim a protectorate, which, as a matter of fact, the natives have no clear idea of, and believe that the whole territory belongs to the Queen. But as long as a technical point embarrasses and impedes the administration of affairs in the colony itself—such is the anomalous position of a government which possesses the confidence of the people, but which, at the

same time, at any hand's turn, is timorous lest it should exceed its powers according to our home-conceived notions of the jurisdiction of a protectorate—very little material progress can be hoped for. The existence of domestic slavery is the second great drawback to a better state of things. This is also a matter of considerable difficulty to the local Government. If they put an end to it by any sudden or violent declaration, they must supply some social organization in its stead. If people work, they must be paid—there is no real circulating medium on the Coast, no way in which the great majority of the people can be paid by their employers, except in the rude manner in which they are at present, by being supplied with the necessities of life. The situation of master and slave is well understood by them. It means, that a man being a slave, must work. The relation of master and servant, employer and employed, is one which the great majority cannot comprehend; it is foreign, indeed, to the whole of their social organization. Under these circumstances, it is plain that time and perseverance and an efficient administrative organization alone can achieve what philanthropists desire for Africa. Some means of making progress ought to be afforded to those who, under a tropical sun, borne down by many natural difficulties, are inducing a slow but steady advance here. Some effort should certainly be made to increase their means of improving the condition of the people; without this, little can be hoped from the people themselves. The result would be advantageous to the improvers—i.e., the British people—and the improved. *We should make Africa comparatively healthy for Europeans.* The Africans would develop their powers, and the resources of a rich and fertile country would be at our command. At present, any one can by clearing a portion of land within the neighbourhood of Cape Coast, which costs about 12. an acre, call the soil his own. Thousands upon thousands of acres are covered with thick bush—the exception is, the oasis of cultivation. Here is a country fit to grow cotton—where splendid pineapples grow wild—where almost every crop known in the tropics will flourish. The industry and attention of man is alone wanting.

With regard to the Ashantee war, everything remains *statu quo* for the present. Lieuts. Ganagan and Stewart, who came out by the last mail, have been sent up with a detachment of men to the Prah for the rainy season. The remainder of the troops who arrived by the Tamar from the West Indies are here at Cape Coast, about half in the town and half in the Castle. Colonel Conran seems resolved to succeed next campaign. *Nous verrons!*—Yours, &c., JULIUS.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, May 12, 1864.

Sir,—In the impossibility of any present advance into Ashantee, Prahsoo, lately head-quarters of the expeditionary force, is now a detachment station. The long-looked-for Tamar arrived on the 8th April, just six weeks too late for an advance on the other side of the Prah. She brought out 300 men of the 1st West India Regiment and the left wing of the 4th, about 400 strong. Two companies of the 1st were on landing put in orders to proceed to the Prah to relieve the men of the 2nd and 4th, who were doing duty there.

Soon after the last mail left two companies of the right wing of the 4th and one company of the 2nd West India Regiment, under the command of Lieut. Duthie, left Prahsoo for the sea-coast. The men were so exhausted, especially those of the 4th, by repeated attacks of fever and dysentery, that they were even unable to carry their muskets. There were two deaths on the way, and all the officers, without exception, were prostrated with fever, diarrhoea, or dysentery, immediately on their arrival on the Coast. On the 24th April the detachment of the 1st West India Regiment, under the command of Capt. Bravo, left Cape Coast Castle for the camp at Prahsoo, and arrived there on the morning of the 30th. The remaining companies of the 4th and 2nd, under command of Capt. Knapp, who had held Prahsoo till this detachment arrived, left on the morning of the 2nd for the sea-

coast. The detachment of the 1st were accompanied by two officers of the 5th West—viz., Lieuts. Stewart and Gavegan.

In your March number you remarked that "the health of the troops on the Prah was reported to be excellent, the officers enjoying even better health than the men." But the men had only then lately arrived at the Prah, and there were no means of forming an opinion as to the future. The effects of the bush life are not instantaneous on the constitution, but the first unpleasantness generally commences after two or three weeks' residence there.

From the position of Prahsoo, it is self-evident that it must be unhealthy, at least for some time to come; and the position of the camp is such as to secure for its inmates the maximum of unhealthiness in the district. It is constructed at the base of a gradual descent; so that when, as of late, it rains very heavily, all around the camp is something like a mud swamp. The bush having been only so lately cleared, the earth which has thus become exposed cannot be expected to exhale anything else but malaria, and therefore it will be contrary to all the rules of hygiene to expect the camp at Prahsoo to be healthy. Its close proximity to the river, although pleasant, tends, of course, to increase the dampness of the encampment. The contrast between the atmosphere during the day and night is too sudden for health, the variation being more than 20 degrees. Whilst the excitement lasted there was very little sickness, but after a residence of sixteen days one, and another, and another, became so dreadfully ill, that the medical officer in charge was obliged to invalid them to the sea-coast; so that within eight weeks of their arrival in the bush nearly the whole of the officers left the Prah for Cape Coast in a dreadful state. The troops arrived at the Prah about the 1st February, and on the 8th April, when the Tamar anchored in Cape Coast roadstead, there were fourteen officers of the 4th West at the Castle; and such was their state of health, that at the dinner given to *féte* the arrival of the reinforcement, only one was able to leave his bed and meet them, and even he was in a dreadful state of debility. Out of twenty-six officers who left the Coast for the field, fifteen, or thereabout, have been invalided home, in a very precarious state, three have died, and four are still obliged to keep their bed, though not sufficiently ill to be invalided. Of the soldiers many have died, principally from dysentery. A great many are so weak, that, in all probability, they will not be fit for active service in the field for the next twelve months. Of the twelve medical officers on the Coast, three have been invalided, one has died, and three are still prostrated with fever. Of the soldiers of the detachment of the 1st West India Regiment sent up to Prahsoo on the 24th April, we gather from the report of the medical officer in charge that seventeen were admitted into hospital within three days of their arrival in the camp, and that an average of twenty were daily reported sick. Such, then, is the present position of the troops on the Gold Coast. It is dreadful to both Africans and Europeans; and should the Government intend to have it supplied with troops from the West Indies, it must be prepared to find means of properly rationing them with fresh provisions. It is a great pity to bring a lot of men here to sacrifice their lives; and whenever a lasting peace is proclaimed between our Government and the King of Ashantee, I think it will not be an imprudent act to have the Coast supplied, according to the recommendation of Sir Benjamin Pine, with a strong police constabulary and a small detachment of only about 100 men. The troops on the whole of the West Coast should, I also think, be under the command of a major-general, whose residence should be at Sierra Leone, and the detachment here should be relieved every year. This will be a very great improvement on all sides, both for the officers and men, and the mortality will be by far less than it would be if the men were to be fed continually for three years on salt beef and pork.

Having now detailed the position and condition of the troops at Prahsoo, it is natural for us to ask what advantage is there to justify a detachment of 200 men being continually kept there through the whole of the rainy season. The reason given is, of course, the guarding the military stores. It is therefore justifiable in that point of view; but then it will be ruinous to the next expedition, for I consider that I am reckoning below the mark

if I say that thirty out of every hundred men who have served at Prahsoo will be unfit to proceed to the field during the campaign, which it is said will commence in the month of October or November; and as regards the officers, three months in the bush should be regarded as more than equal to twelve months on the sea-coast. Six months at home for the officers who have endured this, might without impropriety, and ought to be granted; and the officers now in the bush, after they have served their four or eight weeks there, will find themselves perfectly unfit for the campaign, unless a trip to a more genial climate is previously granted to them. The River Prah has risen about twelve feet since the troops have been up there. Several canoes have been placed in it for the use of the officers and for recreation, and I can assure you it has been found delightful to row up and down the river. The scenery, although in many places monotonous, is also in many others grand and picturesque. The evening is the best time for rowing, and when the boat is quietly moving down with the stream, the first thing that strikes one is the excessive sinuosity of the river, which makes very peculiar turns. Large blocks of wood are seen on either side of the river, and occasionally a stray tree lies almost across it, impeding the navigation. Sometimes an alligator, but more generally a fish, may be seen springing on to the neighbouring bank, and some of the latter have even leaped into the boats, causing a pretty scrimmage for a moment among the crews. The banks, from a little above the water's edge, are covered with *Cyperaceous glumefera*; and hosts of kingfishers, with their spotted wings, hover overhead. The beautiful golden variety is also numerous; they are so small as to resemble the honey sucker, with its bright red beak. The white flower of the lily shows conspicuous above the dense collection of evergreen grasses. The forest, which gives a peculiar charm to all tropical bush, is here very charming. The leaves of the forest trees have a great variety of hues; openings in the bush disclose here a turf of light green slightly sprinkled with dark blue, there of deep green, displayed to perfection by the setting sun, which penetrates through the interstices among blue, green, brown, bright and delicate red leaves. Add to this the noise of the gay parrots crossing and recrossing the river far above the head of the beholder, and you will admit that the River Prah has its charms; but, like every other thing, it loses these when too constantly seen, and necessarily fails to divert the mind from the painful thoughts which the attendant unhealthiness in the camp, where brave men sicken and die, without any seemingly useful result, is so calculated to produce.

ACCRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

May 12, 1864.

Sir,—The King of Akwamu (Aquamboe) was killed lately* by his subjects, because he was a good friend of the King of Ashantee. They enticed him to a small village, and there despatched him. Another reason, it is said, was that not only did he not care to encourage the cotton transport, now beginning, but actually hindered it. The new King is friendly to the English, and wishes to be on good terms with the traders. This is a great step in advance, and quite an unexpected one. An interesting instance of intercourse of our authorities with the wild Aungla people, beyond the Volta, shows how our late Acting Commandant, Mr. Cuthbert, dealt in matters of justice with them and our own people. A Kroboe trader had sent a canoe to Addah, to buy a puncheon of rum. The rum was bought on board the ship, and put into a small river canoe which was in the waters of Addah, fastened by a piece of rope, while the canoe men went to the town to buy provisions. Meanwhile an Aungla man comes over the river, unties the rope, and slips off with canoe and rum, conveying them to his own place. The trader was a Teshi man, and applied to his relations for help. These sent a message to the King of Aungla, to assist them in getting the stolen property back. This worthy King knew no other help than to advise that the Teshi King should *panyar* a number of Aungla people, as

the thief was a rich man, who would not obey him. The Teshi people followed this advice, and took hold of a number of Aungla people who were quietly passing their town. But their relations in Aungla, instead of applying to the rum thief for redress, knew a better way. They summoned the trader before the Chief Civil Commandant for panyaring their people, and received ample justice. The panyared people were set free, and the trader had to pay two ounces of gold dust (thirty-two dollars) as a fine. At the same time Mr. Cuthbert told the trader he would undertake to bring the Aungla man to justice. Accordingly, the man was summoned, and a constable sent to the King of Aungla requesting him to send the thief up. But matters would not go at this quick rate. The King assembled his elders, and sent for the thief, who at first refused to appear, but at length came. "Is it true," he was asked, "that thou hast taken a canoe and a cask of rum to Aungla from Addah?"—"Yes, I did it, because a canoe was stolen from me by Addah people; so I took one in return."—"But the rum?"—"As the rum was in the canoe, I took it too."—"Thou art a thief!" But the man of course refused to go to Accra. The Aungla chiefs sent answer to the Chief Civil Commandant to this effect: "The man will not come; and besides, the money demanded as damages (between five and six hundred dollars) is not by any means sufficient; the thief must be made to pay more than that. The best thing you can do is to seize as many Aungla people as you can, and put them in prison. If you do this, their relations here will lay hands on the thief, and you will soon have your money. You should not have released those who had been already seized at Teshi, but have kept them until you obtained satisfaction." What the Chief Civil Commandant will now do, I am at a loss to say.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

ANAMABOE.

TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT ON THE GOLD COAST.

The second anniversary of the Anamaboe Temperance Society has been held at this place, the principal scene of its operations. The meeting was on the 24th of March, 1864, at the Wesleyan chapel, S. C. Brew, Esq., J.P., in the chair, in company with the President and Vice-President and two other friends of the movement. His worship made an excellent address, very favourable to the cause, the substance of which will appear in the society's report for the past year.

THE NEW BISHOP OF NIGER.—The Rev. Samuel Crowther, who is officially announced as the new Bishop of Niger, corresponds to the name of his future diocese as being a black man—the first Anglican bishop of his race and colour. His history, extending over fifty years and more, from a state of abject servitude to the episcopate, is a very romantic one, and attracted the attention of Her Majesty and the late Prince Consort, by whom he was graciously received at Windsor on one of his visits to this country. His original name was Adjai, and his family lived at Ochugu, in the Yoruba country, 100 miles inland from the Bight of Benin. In 1821 he was carried off by the Eyo Mohammedans, was exchanged for a horse, was again exchanged at Dabdah and cruelly treated, was then again sold as a slave for some tobacco; was captured by an English ship of war, and landed at Sierra Leone, in 1822. He was baptized in 1825, taking the names of the Evangelical vicar of Christ Church, Newgate-street, Samuel Crowther. In 1829 he married Asano, a native girl, who had been taught in the same school with him. He was then for some years schoolmaster of Regent's Town, and subsequently accompanied the first Niger expedition. Arrived in England, he was sent to the Church Missionary College, Islington, and was ordained by the Bishop of London. In 1854 he accompanied the second Niger expedition, of which he has written a very able account. He has since been an active clergyman at Akessa, has translated the Bible into Yoruba, and has undertaken various other literary works of a religious character for the benefit of his African brethren.

Lagos has been very sickly; eight Europeans, out of a very small community, have died during the first four months of the present year.

* See *African Times*, May, 1864.—Ed. A. T.

† *Panyar*—steal, kidnap.—Ed. A. T.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

May 8, 1864.

Sir,—I am sorry to have to report to you that the visit of Governor Freeman to Abeokuta has been postponed, the Bashorun, &c., of that place having gone to the camp at Makun, as the Ibadans had been making some demonstrations. His Excellency is still anxious for an interview with the Egba magnates, and has offered to go to the camp or to Abeokuta, whichever they prefer. We hope and believe that this interview, whenever it does come off, will result in peace and the re-opening of the roads; but "hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and none have experienced the truth of the proverb more fully than the Lagos merchants have done of late.

The work of Captain Burton on Abeokuta, and "Wanderings in West Africa," by an F.R.G.S., are creating some sensation, especially amongst the Sierra Leone people and others.

The French are anxious to introduce a man-of-war steamer into the Lagoon, for service at Porto Novo, &c. Knowing how exclusive France is in her colonies, it is to be hoped that the Home Government will never sanction such a proceeding.*

The Commodore has lately been off the port, but held no communication with the authorities. It would not surprise those who know him to learn that his object in coming was to send letters to Abeokuta, as he has rather a fondness for that place and its inhabitants. Several of our Sierra Leone traders are now in Abeokuta, probably exercising their talents as amateur diplomatists.

Mr. R. B. N. Walker, agent to the West African Company, is also at present in Abeokuta, on business connected with the undertaking. This company has recently lost by death a clerk and an engineer at Lagos—which has been very sickly—no less than eight Europeans having died since the commencement of the year, of dysentery, &c. The Governor has lately been to Badagry. During his absence an affair occurred, through the officious and arbitrary conduct of the police magistrate, which might have had serious consequences. This official took upon himself to imprison a number of chiefs because they would not—*sic*, could not—force their people to make Calabar mats, now extensively employed here in lieu of the old country thatch. This *very just and politic act* naturally caused a considerable disturbance, and might have ended in a dangerous *émeute*, had the police magistrate not released his prisoners in time.

We are expecting Commander Glover out again by next mail. He will be most heartily welcomed by all the European portion of the community at least. May he remain many years among us!

The King of Dahomey is ransoming his people who were made prisoners on the occasion of his defeat at Abeokuta as fast as he can, and declares that he will attack Abeokuta early next year. This is probably an empty threat, but there is no knowing what wounded pride and vanity may urge him to do. *Quos Deus vult perdere, prius dementat*. He will never succeed in entering the walls of the Egba capital.

The Egbas have just sent back to Lagos two Europeans, clerks, who were sent there without permission. This has no political importance whatever.

We learn that the steamer King Eyo Honesty will shortly be sent to England, having been declared seaworthy. She has proved rather an expensive bargain to the West African Company, I suspect.

I will write you further next month; time is precious with me just now.—Yours, &c.,

VERITAS.

BATHURST, GAMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

May 24, 1864.

Sir,—As the period of service on the West Coast of Africa of Assistant-Surgeon Michael Quinlan, of the Army Medical Staff, has expired on the 8th inst., although that officer's relief has not been yet sent out, and as the inhabitants of

* We believe we are correct in stating that Governor Freeman gave consent without referring to the Home Government.—Ed. A.T.

Bathurst believe that his successor will probably arrive by the next steamer, they cannot suffer him to leave the station without placing on record their feelings of admiration of Dr. Quinlan's conduct as a medical officer during the few months he has resided with them.

Mr. Quinlan's deportment has given the greatest satisfaction to all classes at Bathurst, McCarthy's Island, and Cape St. Mary's (the different places where he has served while in the Gambia), and his zeal towards the natives in general is most highly to be commended. His kind and gracious manner at all times, while endeavouring to save the lives of those who had need of his professional skill, have justly endeared him to the people of colour in this colony.

Dr. Quinlan will carry with him when he leaves the Gambia the good wishes and prayers of the community to whose wants he has so feelingly and conscientiously attended in the exercise of his professional and official duties.—At request and on behalf of the Gambians, I remain, dear Sir, ever faithfully yours,

C. T.

ABYSSINIA.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MRS. STERN TO THE REV. C. J. GOODHART.

As I know not whether you have received any news from Abyssinia, I now hasten to communicate the tidings which reached me from Egypt by Saturday's mail. I cannot do better than give a copy of a letter from Mr. Cohen, dated Cairo, April 28, addressed to Mrs. Stern:—

"This afternoon brought me a letter from the Political Resident at Aden, giving us more information from Abyssinia, which I now hurriedly send you. The Resident sends me word that Mr. Speedy received a few lines from Colonel Cameron, in pencil, under date February 14, of which he sends us a copy:—

"Myself, Stern, Rosenthal, Cairnes, Bardel, McCrairie, and McKelise, are all chained here. Flad, Staiger, Brandeis, and Cornelius are sent to Gaffal, to work for the King. Mrs. Flad, Mrs. Rosenthal—all of us well. Write this to Aden and Mrs. Stern, 16, Lincoln's-inn Fields."

The Resident says: "Directly I am furnished with the requisite means, no endeavour shall be wanting on my part to effect the release of the unfortunate captives. I do not think they are in any danger of any personal injury beyond the inconvenience of imprisonment."

The requisite means required by the Resident is a man-of-war, to go to Massawah, with an officer fully authorised and instructed to demand the immediate release of the captives, not only English subjects, but other Europeans, and to be supplied with a guard from the ship. He hoped to have that vessel at his disposal in a very few days, when he will carry out the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, transmitted to him by Mr. Colquhoun.

Although the condition of the poor captives is very deplorable, yet the fact of their being alive and well gives me great hopes, and is a cause of deep thankfulness. I earnestly pray that the means about to be used may prove effectual for the rescue.

DEATHS.

May 4, at Lagos, West Coast of Africa, of dysentery, in his 32nd year, Arthur Robert Chinery, deeply regretted.

At Sierra Leone, of hardships in the Ashantee War, Captain Thomas Hugh Vaus Dalrymple Hay, fourth son of the late Sir James Dalrymple Hay, Bart.

TRIBUTE TO "AFRICAN TIMES."—From a distinguished Christian labourer in Africa: "From a twenty years' African experience, I know some of the difficulties that beset your path in advocating the interests of Africa, and in seeking to promote the amelioration of her millions of inhabitants; but your path is that of truth and justice, which has prevailed, and will prevail, in doing good at home and abroad; therefore, take courage, and go on in the good work."

OFFICIAL ENGLAND ON THE WHITE NILE.

[Translation.]

Khartoum, January 28, 1864.

A few days ago we received intelligence that the English Government had resolved to abolish the consulate which it established in the Soudan in 1849. This decision has troubled the sound portion of our colony, because, under the painful circumstances in which it is placed, it found in the experience and character of the British Consul a favourite rallying-point.

To the slave-dealers and men of their class, to whom the presence of a British consul was a restraint, it is a cause of triumph. It appears to me that if, in 1849, the British Government had sufficient motives for establishing a consulate in the Soudan, there exist at the present time much more powerful reasons for maintaining it. The recent discoveries of Capt. Speke and Grant must result in the organization of other scientific expeditions, of which Khartoum will form either the point of departure or that of arrival. England, which may lay claim, and with justice, to the honour of nearly all new discoveries in Africa, will certainly take the lead in these expeditions; and I cannot conceive it possible that she will willingly deprive them of the protection of a British consul at Khartoum. This protection will become especially indispensable to those expeditions which will require Khartoum, or some other place in the Soudan, as the point of departure; for in the absence of consular intervention with the local authorities, or the mediation of a man of local experience, who from his position is under obligation to render service, I am of opinion that it will be impossible effectually to organise any expedition there. They will be scandalously fleeced, or leave badly provided, and so will fail. It would not be difficult to cite instances in support of what I advance. A higher motive renders it desirable to maintain at Khartoum the British Consulate. The slave traffic in the White Nile country (for a long time held in restraint sufficiently feeble) has had for some years—thanks to the encouragement of certain high functionaries, who find their profit in it—an extension truly frightful; and it is exercised with such horrors, that I hesitate to describe them. Every year more than 100 vessels leave Khartoum for the purpose of hunting down the negroes; and slaves who formerly were brought in by stealth, are now dragged publicly along the highways of the country, and even through the streets of Khartoum, with the yoke on their necks. The British Consul, Mr. J. Petherick, initiated measures which would have soon placed a limit to this traffic; unfortunately, owing to the aversion of four-fifths of the Khartoumers, who live by it, and of the high functionaries their accomplices, he saw his reputation tarnished by false accusations; his fellow-citizens, his friends, misled, on his account, he found no sufficient support, even before his superiors, who were doubtless thus prejudiced against him.

The non-success of Mr. Petherick in his proceedings against certain persons accused of this traffic has given licence to these slave-dealers. Assured henceforth of impunity, and of the inefficacy of the law, they have thrown off the mask. It is an everlasting scandal to civilised Europe thus to authorise by her silence the infamous piracy which has stained the White Nile with blood; and for anti-slavery England, who, instead of declaring herself impotent by abolishing her consulate at Khartoum, should have surrounded it with all the *prestige* possible, authorised severe measures, and extended a hand to enforce their execution.

From a review of the interests involved in the question, it may still be said there was a time when neither the number of British subjects established in the Soudan, nor the importance of English commerce in these countries, required that England should maintain a consul at Khartoum. But now financial societies are being formed for the exploration of the Soudan, which in a triple point of view—agricultural, industrial, and commercial—already attract the attention of Europe. New routes of communication by land, and perhaps by sea, will soon be opened. In this movement ought not the commerce of England to have a large interest; and will she be able to dispense with a consulate in a country much more in its infancy as relates to the law and its administration than to its industry and commerce?

Although personal consideration may be for us of secondary importance, and we are not the defenders of Mr. Petherick, we ought to add, that this consul (a man of intelligence, possessing a knowledge of the Soudan from a long experience) has performed the duties of his office with an integrity and firmness which may well serve as an example to his colleagues. In the blow which has deprived Mr. Petherick of office, that which is the most distressing is the fact, that his deposition followed quickly upon energetic measures taken by him against this traffic and against that oppression which the local authorities endeavoured to bring to bear upon Europeans. I repeat, this deposition of Mr. Petherick passes current through the country as a disavowal of these measures, and is regarded as a censure publicly inflicted upon Mr. Petherick by his superiors in consequence of the attitude he assumed.

I am ignorant whether the British Government can now reconsider the decision it has taken; but I do know that the re-establishment of a British Consulate at Khartoum would be a measure which all those who have at heart the triumph of the principles of civilization in this barbarous country would receive with joy.

DE VREYSENNAIRE, Belgian Resident at Khartoum.

THE AFRICAN JOINT STOCK TRADING COMPANIES.

The Company of African Merchants made a further call of 1*l*. per share last month on their 40,000 shares.

We are requested by the West African Company to state that, having disposed of additional shares since the date of their report (1 January, 1864), their total issue is now 7,540 shares, on which 7*l*. 10*s*. per share has been paid up.

The Lagos paper, quoting the statement of our March number as to the relative financial position of the African companies, says: "The above statement is incorrect in one particular at least. From direct and positive information, we are prepared to say that the number of shares allotted, of the 'London and African' Company is not 3,200, but 3,500, at 25*l*., on all of which there is not a penny due; besides which the company has an available capital, not in the form of shares, of 50,000*l*., making its effective capital over one hundred and thirty thousand pounds." But we beg to assure the gentleman who has received such "direct and positive information" that he is in error. The London and African Company, to which we wish all success, and with whose sorrow in the loss of their esteemed agent, Mr. Chinery (of Badagry and Lagos), we most deeply sympathise, have issued about 3,200 shares, nominally 25*l*. each, on each of which 5*l*. has been paid up. As to the further capital of 50,000*l*. not derived from shares, we, of course, can know nothing.

At a meeting in Lagos, Mr. Phillips, the Southern States American Baptist missionary at Abeokuta, said: "There are two parties in Abeokuta, one of them favourable to Lagos and to trade, and the other entirely opposed to both. The latter party is powerful; but I believe steady, persevering efforts will finally overcome their opposition."

THE DIVISION ON SIR JOHN HAY'S MOTION.—Ayes, 226; Noes, 233. It would be impossible to describe the deafening roar with which the division on Sir John Hay's motion was received. Early in the evening it was doubted whether the motion would be pressed at all, but as the debate proceeded, it became manifest that a vote of censure was intended, and that the Opposition would try their strength with the Government. The House became well filled about ten o'clock, and when, shortly after 12.30, the question was put, the utmost uncertainty was felt as to the result. It prevailed up to the last moment; for although the tellers for the "noes" came in a few seconds before those for the "ayes," the difference was so slight, that it could not be taken as indicating the victors. But when the paper was handed to Mr. Brand, and the numbers were immediately afterwards announced, tumultuous cheers arose from the Ministerial side. This was answered by counter cheers from the Opposition; and the demonstration of feeling, the most marked and intense witnessed during the session, was continued for several minutes.—*Morning Paper*.

SIERRA LEONE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION FUND.

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

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

Subscriptions in the colony and in London up to end of May £693 12 0
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The African Times.

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NOTICE.

We have been reluctantly compelled to defer many important communications and papers until our July number.

The African Times.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1864.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The ratifications of a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation between the Netherlands and Liberia have just been exchanged by the Baron Bentinck and Mr. G. Ralston, the plenipotentiaries of their respective States.

A postal convention for the conveyance of patterns, samples of produce, &c., between Great Britain and Liberia has also been satisfactorily arranged. The rates are the same as for printed papers.

Lieutenant Barry, Ensign Morales, and Mrs. Hall, died on board the African mail steamer during the passage from Cape Coast Castle to Liverpool. Their bodies were committed to the deep.

The Governor of Lagos has given permission for the French gunboat *Darlmuth* to pass through British waters into those of Porto Novo, for the service of the French authorities there.

Mrs. Mosely, who when resident at Cape Coast Castle made herself so much beloved by the female native population at Cape Coast Town, is endeavouring to raise the necessary funds, by subscription, for establishing a *female school* at Cape Coast, to be afterward self supporting. We shall give further notice of this interesting endeavour in our next.

THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY, THE COLONIAL-OFFICE, GOLD COAST, AND ASHANTEE.

The statement of Mr. Cardwell, which we give in the Parliamentary proceedings of May 20, embodies the substance of his despatch of May 23 to the Governor of the Gold Coast. While we regret the effect that may thereby be produced in Ashantee, there can, we think, be no doubt of the necessity for removing the troops. The want of an adequate supply of fresh provision presents an almost insuperable obstacle to the lengthened stay of so large a body of men there.

In view of the gravity of the situation, since as the crops promise to be abundant everywhere on the Gold Coast this season, the Ashantees, if no arrangement be previously come to, may be expected to re-invade the territories in November or December, a deputation of the Council of the African-Aid

Society sought and obtained an audience of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on Saturday. Fortified by the letter of Mr. C. Fortescue, which appears in page 159, the Council earnestly recommended—

1. That the road from Cape Coast to Prahsoo should be made a good permanent military road.

We do not believe that the Ashantees would ever dare to penetrate for any considerable distance within the territories, when troops with artillery, &c., could, by means of such a road, be moved to their flank and rear within eight-and-forty hours.

The Colonial-office having some time since replied to the Society that they only deferred the reoccupation of Quittah Fort until they should have disposable troops to place there, the deputation asked—

2. That the Fort of Quittah should be reoccupied, and some troops be also stationed in that of Adda, on and near the mouth of the River Volta.

For obvious reasons, they also recommended—

3. That the Governor should obtain a cession of the Dutch settlements on the Gold Coast.

4. That when deemed advisable a Commissioner should be sent to Coomassie for a pacific arrangement; and the deputation pointed out to the Secretary of State how much might be made by an able negotiator of our power to cut off the chief supply of salt to Ashantees, which they receive from Adda, by way of the Volta, and without which grievous sickness and disease would devastate Ashantee.

It was also recommended that for the future safety of the troops, and more especially the European officers employed in the Coast, a sanitarium should be formed on the Cameroons Mountains, at Ambas Bay; the good results of a similar one in the Spanish island of Fernando Po having been recently shown by a statement of Mr. Consul Burton.

Mr. Schenk, Basle missionary from the Gold Coast, who was present with the deputation, and who was listened to with marked attention by the Secretary of State, enlarged forcibly on the absolute necessity for good roads, and the advisability of the Gold Coast authorities bringing the whole of the chiefs within the Protected Territories, east and west, to unite in one common league for mutual defence, under the supervision and with the assistance of the British.

We are reluctantly compelled to postpone further observations on these important subjects till our next.

THE (COLONY OF THE) GOLD COAST.

"TEKEL" has been legibly written by the unseen hand on our Gold Coast system. Weighed in the balances, it has indeed been found wanting. Our government and institutions there were only a makeshift. They were never more than the feeble expression of home indecision; and unchecked until lately by anything like public opinion, abuses grew and multiplied, until the whole (miscalled) system became rotten and effete. Is it any wonder, then, that at the first real difficulty it should have given painful evidence of its utter worthlessness and inefficiency? The time has come when we as a nation must determine what principles we intend to carry out in our African rule, and more especially at the Gold Coast. Our position and possessions there are a legacy of evil; they are the results of past and long-continued national guilt. We could not expect that repentance and reparation would be easy work; but however difficult they may be, we must go on with them. We have had the heritage of infamy forced upon us—we have become the providential depositories of power. What will we do with it? If the national conscience had been fully awakened, we should know very well what to do with it. In such a case, we should never have thought of having the peas boiled in our shoes of penance pilgrimage. We should have set ourselves resolutely at work, determined to do and to atone. But the conscience has not been awakened; and the result is, that our Gold Coast possessions are looked upon as a bore and a nuisance. Vacillation and uncertainty have marked all our course there since as a nation we rid ourselves of the slave-

trade, and determined to rid others of it, if possible. At every difficulty we kick and complain. Instead of swallowing the bitter pill like men, we try to spit it out like spoiled children. Look at us now! We have drifted into a little war with inaccessible barbarians. Lamentable events have occurred. Not the sword of the enemy, but sickness and death, have dogged our footsteps. Many valuable lives have been uselessly sacrificed. The cries of the suffering, the anathemas of the bereaved, have made themselves heard. And how do we meet this visitation of retributive Providence in a country that we robbed of hundreds of thousands or millions of lives by the slave-trade, which we and others carried on there for above one hundred and fifty years, at the twenty-six slave forts established by Europeans on a coast line of only two hundred and fifty miles? Let us get rid of the thing altogether, is the cry. Because it does not pay—when we have done nothing to make it pay; because it robs us of lives—when we have done nothing to remove from it those things that are fatal to life; because we have not yet got money by our repentance—we fret, and fume, and kick, and rebel, and "will have none of it." But we cannot away with it. We cannot get rid of our disagreeable responsibility. There is what the heathen termed a "Nemesis," but which we know better as Divine Retribution. We are told that, 250 years ago, those now protected territories contained a population of not less than five millions of people; that they were almost clear of bush or forest; were like a garden, and cultivated in every part. We and others set to work to depopulate them by the slave-trade carried on at those twenty-six slave forts. How well we effected it is established by the fact that, even now that the slave-trade has been discontinued there for fifty years, the total population cannot much exceed 300,000. As population disappeared, bush and forest grew up. They are created rapidly where vegetation marches with such giant strides. With such tropical bush and forest, with decayed vegetable matter poisoning every stream and watercourse, and fifty other sources of disease, a country must be fatal to civilised man. We are suffering now under those fatal influences. But again we say, we cannot therefore give up our charge; we cannot, as has been hastily suggested, give up our protectorate (unless to convert the territories into a colony); we cannot confine ourselves to certain points of the coast, and leave the remainder of the country to its fate. Our doing so would inflict lasting disgrace upon us, and we should be compelled by a cry of public indignation here to retrace our steps. For what would be the immediate result of our abandonment? The Ashantees would recommence forthwith the work of devastation, slaughter, and slave-catching, from which nothing short of our influence and power would ever have induced them to desist; and the population, except within range of the guns of our forts, would be exterminated. It is necessary, in all such cases, to look a position fully in the face; and doing so in this instance, we repeat that, barbarous though (the majority of) the people of those territories still are, and fatal as some parts of the country are in their present state to civilised life, we dare not consign those 300,000 to certain and bloody destruction. The Ashantees can bring fifty or sixty thousand men into the field for offensive operations; and without us and our influence and aid, and the prestige of our power, there is no possibility of a native organization capable of resisting such forces. We have load enough of guilt already on our shoulders as regards that part of the world—load placed on us by our forefathers—without our adding to it by so horrible an abandonment to slaughter of the residue of their victims.

We have felt it necessary to state this clearly, because when an influential organ of public opinion counsels a certain measure, people not intimately acquainted with the subject might naturally suppose such measure to be practicable. And the sooner all idea of the possibility of our abandoning the protectorate of the Gold Coast Territories in any other way than the very advantageous one of connecting them into a Crown colony is put out of mind the better. Since the slave-trade has been suppressed there, a legitimate trade in palm oil and other produce has gradually sprung up and developed itself, until the trade exceeds 300,000*l.* a-year. As a colony, with full protection for property, and the power of obtaining positive secu-

rity for capital advanced or employed—that trade might be increased tenfold within a comparatively short period. Many of the rising generation taught in the Wesleyan mission schools are learning to read, and the work of civilization is on foot; while the natural elements of wealth, equal to, if not surpassing, those of any other tropical country, abound on every side. We showed in our last month's number that not only palm oil and cotton, but also indigo, chicory, tea, black pepper, and cloves, are indigenous there, and that tobacco and coffee may be cultivated with great success. And although it is true that some considerable time might elapse before all these articles could be produced in merchantable quantities, they certainly offer considerable inducements to perseverance in a course of national justice towards those hitherto depressed and degraded portions of the world.

BISHOP OF NIGER.

BEFORE we again go to press, the Rev. Dr. Crowther (the degree of D.D. having been conferred by the University of Oxford) will have been consecrated Bishop of Niger. The ceremony is to take place at Canterbury, on the 29th inst., his Grace the Primate of the Anglican Church officiating. We shall endeavour to give some account of this interesting ceremony of the consecration of a native African, formerly sold and resold in the country, and finally liberated from the charnel-house of a slave ship, to be a bishop of the Church, the first of his race so consecrated since the fathers fell asleep. The importance of the African Church during the first ages of Christianity gives us great encouragement to hope that this new bishop is but the first of a long line of illustrious men who will restore its glories, and prove eminently useful in the regeneration of Africa.

NAVIGATION OF THE RIVER NIGER.

THE Niger can only be navigated for commercial purposes by steam. Its case is therefore an exceptional one. Wherever trade is elsewhere carried on by Europeans in Western Africa, the ordinary means of navigation suffice. Commerce is only subject there to ordinary expenses and risks. It would be a gross injustice if the assistance of the State were there given to any one individual or body of merchants, placing him or them in a position of advantage in relation with competitors. And the State is not justified in interfering at all, except to preserve order and give protection, wherever trade is thus established. To a public conviction of this truth we owe the abolition of trading consulates. It was felt that the merchant Consul, deriving an income from Government independent of his trading operations, was in an exceptionally advantageous position. Consuls have therefore been forbidden to trade.

It has been sought to apply this principle to the question of Niger navigation and trade. Our efforts to procure the establishment of these since the death of Mr. Macgregor Laird are well known. It may with justice be said that we left no proper effort untried. We urged upon the Government the necessity of giving inducements. We made ourselves beggars to those engaged in African trade to obtain from them an united effort. All was unavailing. Year after year rolled on. Men laughed at us. "The loss is certain, should any one attempt it," was the general response to our solicitation. What we wanted them to embark in was a company for navigation and trade in the River Niger alone. Once we thought we had nearly obtained what we asked for. Some enlightened men would condescend to manage such a company, giving it for adequate compensation the benefit of their African experience, provided the public could be induced to furnish the greater portion of the funds, and that Government would grant a subsidy. This latter was a *sine qua non*. Without this, nothing could be done. It would take years to develop production and trade, so as to allow of either navigation or trade becoming remunerative. But this qualified assent did nothing, and could do nothing for the Niger. We found ourselves alternately on one or other horn of a dilemma. Government would certainly not promise a subsidy as an inducement to the formation of a company—a company could not be formed for the Niger navigation and trade without the promise of a subsidy from Government.

It became therefore evident that navigation and trade in the

Niger as an isolated effort was impracticable. Was all hope of effecting its establishment to be therefore abandoned? Was the blow to the slave-trade which it would give to be no longer thought of? Were barbarism and unproductiveness to be prolonged *ad infinitum* throughout extensive regions in which a noble river flowed, and with which it was the natural channel of communication? We could not accept this as the worthless result of our labours. It became evident that some other means must be employed. There was but one—a commercial combination that, having other principal operations, would, on certain conditions, make what we wanted in the Niger an accessory. That combination was found in what is now the "Company of African Merchants." But their condition of action was necessarily the same as that previously imposed by those who would have made it a principal—viz., Government co-operation, by a subsidy for a limited period. The difference was, however, an essential one. Government aid was no longer required to enable a company to be formed, or to bolster up a company. Here was a powerful body, with an ample subscribed capital, who, though having a profitable field for its full employment elsewhere, were yet ready to treat with the Government on terms of equality for a work which it was everywhere believed the Government were anxious to have performed. They made their proposals to the Government for enabling the latter to achieve what had been long regarded as a great national object, and as indispensable to the spread of Christian civilization in Africa. They did not seek any exclusive advantages. So far from this, they have, we believe, consented to associate another company, the West Africa, with themselves in this noble work. They offered to carry up traders and their goods at fair rates. They offered to repay the Government advances out of profits, should there be profits out of which to repay them. They stated distinctly that if the Government could find any other person or persons to perform the same services for a specific period, such as would alone suffice to solve the problem as to whether the Niger could or could not be made the field of a self-supporting commerce, they were perfectly willing to leave the work in such persons' hands, without in any way opposing or embarrassing them in their efforts. Would it have been believed that this should have given rise to a virulent and combined opposition on the part of others, not one of whom would come forward for the work, and very few of whom had anything whatever to do with the trade on the Coast within 500 or 1,000 miles of the embouchure of the Niger? And yet such has been the case. We mentioned last month that a deputation of the African trade had been received by Lord Palmerston. The object of that deputation was to oppose any Government grant for the Niger. Since then memorials have followed in the same track. If the Niger cannot be traded in the same simple way in which trade is carried on with the Coast districts, or in rivers not requiring steam navigation, the Niger, forsooth, ought to be left un navigated and untraded in. The principle established in the discontinuance of trading consuls has, as we have already stated, been contended for as applicable to this case of the Niger. But surely nothing can be more dissimilar. If the parties opposing the grant, for several of whom we have a personal esteem, had trading establishments up the river, or if they were offering guarantees to the Government that they were about to form and maintain such at their own risk and charge, the principle would apply. But without these it does not apply. Not one in twenty of the opponents could be even indirectly affected by it; and we can only see in the opposition the evidence of that hostility to progress in Africa which declares roads to be unnecessary, which deprecates the establishment of civilised in place of barbarian rule, and which does not hesitate on occasion formally to declare that Africa suits best as she is.

But we hope and believe that such an opposition cannot avail to stop the onward march of African civilization and development. The interests of the Imperial Exchequer, to say nothing of those of Africa, can only be promoted by the onward march. Even supposing there were no offer to return the Government advances in case of success, still the assistance stipulated for is so small in comparison with what the national advantages will be should the Niger trade be developed in the course of the next ten years

to the extent of a quarter of a million a-year, that were there no other considerations, the result would be all in favour of the Imperial Exchequer, which is replenished by the increase of trade and commerce. We cannot, therefore, conceive a better or more justifiable and profitable employment of public money than to make it the means of opening a new and extensive field of future enterprise to the trade and commerce of the country, where it has been clearly established, as in this case, that, from particular and exceptional impediments, it cannot be so opened without temporary Government aid, as a substitute for that exclusive monopoly which would formerly have been accorded—monopoly such as led to the establishment of our Indian Empire. Government are also under promise to the native kings and chiefs that navigation and trade shall be established there; and the failure to establish it would be a national disgrace.

SICKNESS AND DEATH AMONG THE GOLD COAST TROOPS.

A GREAT political battle has been fought in England over the sick and dead officers and troops of the Gold Coast. A *mélée* of this kind differs entirely from a calm, dispassionate inquiry. Men who do know something of the matter make fearful exaggerations in the fervid heat of party excitement; and men who know nothing, make up in violence and assertion for their lack of information. The false giants of exaggerated facts, when knocked down, are pertinaciously replaced. They have the good fortune not to know when they are killed. They are no sooner slain than they stand up again as good men as ever, and nothing can get rid of them until after the close of the debate. We never knew a case in which assertions were more recklessly made, and more intentionally adhered to after disproof, than in that of Friday night. The "foregone conclusion" was, as Lord Palmerston said, irresistible. The political Falstaff stuck to their men in buckram; and casualties, which all deplore, were almost made ridiculous, instead of horrible, by the raw-head and bloody-bones spectres of men who never were sick or dead, that were so recklessly invoked from the self-created sepulchres of party invention.

The truth, of itself alone, was bad enough. Sickness and death did their work rapidly at the Gold Coast; and everybody sympathised with Sir John Hay in the loss he had sustained. And we therefore most deeply regretted that an unfair colouring was given to events in order to obtain a party victory, if possible, out of what may properly be termed a human defeat. For as our friends on the Coast well know, the deaths were the triumph of malaria and decomposition over vital powers. The real facts of the case prove this. We do not say that there has not been some error and oversight both here and in the colony, but not such as have been charged. The night before Sir John Hay's motion came on there was talk of an unprecedented mortality among the officers, and as many as 600 *men were said to have perished!* But these were only "men in buckram," as we of course well knew; and we denounce this trifling with the public sympathies for party purposes.

The "returns" furnished by the Government showed that the troops employed were as follows:—

	Officers.	Men.
On 1st July, 1863, there were at Cape Coast		
Castle	15	686
Landed 14th August, 1863, from Megara	19	416
" 9th April, 1864, from Tamar	27	643
In all	61	1745

The casualties of *two campaigns* are included in the list of deaths and invalided cases, and these are—

	Officers.	Men.
Deaths	12	45
Invalided	22	18

And many of the invalided cases are serious. The greater portion of these cases have been the results of this *last campaign*, the deaths from which, including Captain Hay and the two officers who died in coming home, have been six. Well, this is to be deeply deplored; but in the same way that revolutions

THE AFRICAN CLIMATE.

LETTER OF MR. CONSUL BURTON.

Sir,—I venture to hope that in the cause of suffering humanity you will find space for these lines, though forwarded at so full a season.

When I landed at Fernando Po, in September, 1860, Santa Isabel, the harbour town, was the only settlement of the new Spanish colony. Pallid men were to be seen sitting languid in their verandahs, or occasionally crawling about the grassy streets, each with a cigarette hanging to the lower lip. My lodgings being unpleasantly near a military hospital, the breakfast-table was frequently enlivened by the spectacle of something covered with a blanket being carried in, and something within a deal box being carried out on four men's shoulders. The Europeans died persistently in the dry season from November to April. After three years' service, out of 155 picked young linesmen, only 47 returned to Spain, the rest being either invalided or having fallen victims to the climate. The rains witnessed the destruction of the negro *liberados* and the ex-English colonists. At length, in March, 1862, yellow fever, the gift of the Grand Bonny River, fell upon us, and in two months swept off 78 out of a grand total of 250 whites.

Already the Fathers of the Jesuit mission had built an out-station at Banapa, a native village about two direct miles from the harbour, and 500 feet above the sea level. During the last three years the principal, S. Padre Campillo, has kept his health, and he may still be seen working in his garden as alert and vigorous as though he had never left the *natale solum*. The example of the Fathers was presently followed by my friend Major Noeli y White. In 1862, when Her Majesty's ship Griffin, Commander Perry, touched at this island, two of her officers, young and powerful men, were prostrated by coast fever; they were carried up in hammocks to Major Noeli's lumber cottages at Banapa, and in less than a week they walked down the hill convalescents. As Banapa abounds in sandflies and wants level ground, D. Pellon, an *employé* of the Woods and Forests, preferred a higher site, where he also built for himself a bungalow of boarding at a place which he justly called "Buena Vista."

Seeing that the yellow fever did not abate at Santa Isabel, his Excellency Governor de la Gandara resolved to beat it by altitude. In June, 1862, he ran up a timber house, and transported to his temporary hospital nineteen patients, of whom half would certainly have died in the lowlands. Of these men only two were lost. Encouraged by the success of his predecessor, the present governor, his Excellency Senor Brigadier D. Pantalion Lopez de Ayllon, thought Santa Cecilia (such is the name of the charming spot) worthy of a *Maison Caserne*, containing quarters for the me on the ground-floor, rooms for himself and five officers on the first story, and a chapel in the loft. It was opened in November, 1863.

Since that time Fernando Po has changed its deadly nature, as the coming chocolate and coffee planters will find. Whenever a Spanish soldier or sailor falls ill he is carried up to the station, the altitude of which is about 1,200 feet. These figures, borrowed from official returns, show the result:—

	Dec. '63.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. '64.
Fever, simple intermittent	14	16	11	1
Do., remittent malignant	3	2	2	0
Do., intermittent malignant	0	0	1	0
Dysentery	3	1	2	0
Minor	2	3	2	0
Totals	22	22	18	1

It may be observed of this list that all the disease, except the mildest simple intermittents, was brought up from below; moreover, that among a total of sixty-three not a single death has occurred. Invalids soon recover at Santa Cecilia. Healthy men, wearing the thinnest forage caps, and showing the ruddy hue of health, may be seen working in the sun at all hours. The officer commanding (a man of delicate constitution) has never had a day's sickness. The excellent Governor, not content with showing the effete West African coast what can be done—even in the Bight of Biafra—by not letting ill alone, proposes carrying

ROADS ON THE GOLD COAST.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE COLONIAL OFFICE TO THE COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY, DATED APRIL 22, 1864:—

My Lord,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Cardwell to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which your Lordship addressed to his predecessor in this office, suggesting, on behalf of the African-Aid Society, the construction of certain roads in and through the Protected Territories on the Gold Coast; and I am to state in reply that Mr. Cardwell is very sensible of the importance of making good roads in those territories, but that, unfortunately, the revenues of the Gold Coast are wholly inadequate for the object.

Every effort, however, will be made to render the roads now cleared for military purposes permanently available.—I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient servant,

(Signed) C. FORBESQUE.
To Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P.,
Chairman of the African-Aid Society.

A DEPUTATION from the African-Aid Society had an interview with the Right. Hon. Edward Cardwell, at the Colonial-office, on Saturday, with a view to procuring peace and prosperity in the protected settlements on the Gold Coast. The deputation consisted of Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P.; Mr. Robert Barnes, Captain Close, R.N., the Hon. A. Calthorpe, Dr. Morton Shaw, Dr. Crawford, Mr. J. T. McLeod, Mr. F. Fitzgerald, Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P., the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, M.A., Sir John Boileau, Bart., the Rev. M. Schenk, Basle missionary from the Gold Coast, Colonel Sykes, M.P., and Mr. Henry D. Seymour, M.P.

on the road to the Santa Isabel, or by Clarence Peak. It rises upwards of 10,000 feet above sea level. Champagne is there self-frappé, and all the materials for mint juleps abound.

Nothing can be more genial than the aspect or the atmosphere of the place from which I now address you. After sunrise the temperature is often 68 deg. Fahrenheit, reddening the hands and cheeks of the white man. Few views are softer or more pleasing than the bird's-eye prospect of the lowland regions when no longer forced to feel them. Nothing is more encouraging than the power of taking exercise without the sudden burst of perspiration which attends every movement on the seaboard.

Though pleased to see the Spanish authorities taking sanitary measures which no other nation on this coast has thought proper to attempt, I regret that we are not following, however humbly, in their steps. An English sanitarium on the Camarouns mountain was proposed a score of years ago; nothing has yet been done for the preservation of health and life. We have lately lost during one month in the Brass River six whites out of a total of sixty. Lagos, the European population of which does not exceed seventy, has disposed of eight men in a single fortnight. Cape Coast Castle, not to be beaten, kills in two months, besides two staff officers, four officers of a single corps (4th West India Regiment). Verily, it is not in all things good to be an Englishman!

The importance of the subject must be my excuse for this lengthiness.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD F. BURTON, F.R.G.S.

Buena Vista, Fernando Po, West Africa, April 18.
—Times.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MAY 20.

ASHANTEE.

Sir J. PAKINGTON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what causes had led to the war with the King of Ashantee; whether there was any prospect of Her Majesty's troops being relieved from the destructive effects of that climate by a peaceful solution of the question, and whether he would lay the papers on the table. After alluding to the expenses that had been incurred, and the grievous sickness and mortality among the troops employed, the honourable member expressed a hope that they would hear from the Government some assurance that these proceedings would be put a stop to. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CARDWELL explained, at length, the causes of the war, the policy of the Government, and the measures that had been adopted. He finished by making the following important announcement: It had been determined to announce by the mail which would go out next Monday that a transport would be immediately sent to remove a portion of the troops from the Coast, and so reduce the troops to a number which might be accommodated by the ordinary means on the Gold Coast, with a due regard to their restoration to health, and that the troops in the interior should be removed altogether. The stockades which had been erected on the Kraa would be given over to the native chiefs, for them to protect the river and their own country. The stores would be removed as far as practicable; and it would not be a very great pecuniary sacrifice if such stores as could not be removed were presented to the friendly tribes who undertook the protection of the stockades. Every measure would be taken to secure the safety and well-being of the troops at the Gold Coast; and, with regard to the future, he entirely sympathized with the feeling that we ought not to make expeditions into the interior of a country like Africa. (Hear.) We should make no war for vengeance, and we had no desire of conquest; and as the rains had put an end to the warlike operations, it was not the desire of Her Majesty's Government that the preparations for the invasion of the King of Ashantee's territory should be renewed. (Hear.) In conclusion, he might add, that he had already consented to a return, which would give information respecting most of the points to which the right honourable baronet had alluded.

Sir J. D. HAY thought it was satisfactory to know that the war with the King of Ashantee was about to terminate, but he considered it would not end with much honour and credit to our arms. Some blame attached to the Government for not having provided sufficient accommodation for the troops. Immediate steps ought to be taken to convey the officers to a climate where some hopes might be entertained of their restoration to health.

Mr. A. MILLS asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention had been called to the disastrous condition of the colony of Lagos, and to the circumstance that the policy adopted by the Governor had destroyed the trade with Abeokuta, and compelled its inhabitants to defend themselves against the recent attack of the King of Dahomey with ammunition purchased in exchange for slaves from French merchants at Porto Novo; and that thus the colony of Lagos, founded for the alleged purpose of suppressing the slave-trade, had been the direct means of stimulating it; whether the Governor of Lagos had been or would be recalled; and whether, in order to avert the recurrence of such costly disasters as have recently taken place, both at Lagos and on the Gold Coast, Her Majesty's Government had considered the expediency of relinquishing all territorial protectorates on the West Coast of Africa.

Mr. CARDWELL said the Governor of Lagos had written to him by the last mail stating that he was about to proceed upon a mission to Abeokuta, in the hope of restoring, by pacific measures, the peaceful relations between the people of that district and the King of Ibadan, the war between whom was the chief cause of the depression of trade to which the honourable gentleman referred, and also to obtain redress for the long-standing claims of British subjects. The answer which he had returned to the communication of the Governor was that he should confine himself to pacific measures in the prosecution of his mission. In reply to the last part of the question, he was not prepared to say that there was any change in the policy pursued by the Government. He conceived that our object was to promote legitimate commerce, and to discourage human sacrifices by all legitimate means, and he should be always ready to use his best efforts to promote those objects, with the smallest possible expenditure of blood and treasure on the part of this country. It must be satisfactory to the House to know that the slave-trade was now almost unknown in Lagos; and he wished to add that he must not be regarded as concurring in the assumption that it was the policy of the Governor which was the principal cause of the difficulties in that quarter. The chief cause, on the contrary, he believed to be the war between the Abeokutas and the Ibadans, which the Governor was endeavouring by pacific measures to put down. He could not, he might add, countenance the imputation conveyed in the question that the French merchants at Porto Novo had been concerned in the slave-trade. The Government had not determined to recall the Governor of Lagos, nor was it his wish to say a single word in that House to discredit a public officer who was engaged in the discharge of such arduous duties as that gentleman had to perform.

JUNE 14.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

Sir J. HAY asked the Under-Secretary of State for War to lay upon the table of the House statements of the number of officers and men in the Cape Coast command on the 1st day of July, 1863; of the number of officers and men landed from the Megara, at Cape Coast, in August, 1863; return of the number of officers and men landed from the Tamar, at the Cape Coast, on the 9th day of April, 1864; nominal list of the thirteen officers who have died up to last returns; nominal list of the fifteen officers invalidated up to last returns; nominal list of the nine officers remaining sick at Cape Coast; list of the number of men dead since the 1st day of July last; list of the number of men invalidated since the 1st day of July last; list of the number of men in hospital at last return; and statement of the remaining effective force at Cape Coast Castle on the 14th day of May. He said he should be able to prove that those men had died from the criminal incapacity of Her Majesty's Government. (Cries of "Order.")

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said that all the information they had on the subject would be laid on the table to-morrow, though the returns did not contain the names of all the officers referred to by the hon. and gallant gentleman.

On the vote of 14,355l. to complete the sum required to defray the charges of the civil establishments on the Western Coast of Africa,

Sir J. D. HAY asked for some explanation of a charge of 2,000l.

for the Ashantee war, the expense of which must have been more like 200,000l.

Mr. WILLIAMS said that it was a misnomer to speak of this as a war expenditure. Although we had lost many men by the climate, he believed that not a shot had been fired.

Mr. CARDWELL said that when this estimate was framed the Colonial-office had received an intimation from the Governor that he had drawn 1,900l. for raising levies of troops. That being the only information in the possession of the office, it was thought right to ask for a vote of 2,000l. He had received no information which would enable him to lay any other estimate before the House.

Sir J. D. HAY, referring to a promise given by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the month of May, that transports should be sent to fetch our troops from the Gold Coast, asked the noble lord the Secretary of the Admiralty whether transports had been despatched for that purpose; how many men they would carry, and when they sailed.

Lord C. PAGET announced the arrangements made, and said that the number of troops to be removed was about 600 men.

Sir J. HAY said he had likewise given notice of a question on the same subject to the noble marquis the Under-Secretary for War. He wished to ask how it was that only transport for 500 men had been demanded when the return in the hands of members that morning showed that 1,402 men were at Cape Coast in addition to the garrison of 300 men? (Hear, hear.) And he further wished to know whether it was true, as there was good reason to suppose, that 1,000 men had died?

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said that within the last year thirteen officers had died on the Gold Coast, and about fifteen had been invalided. The returns have been laid on the table this evening, and will be in the hands of members to-morrow.

Sir J. PAKINGTON: I wish to ask when the order was given for the Gladiator to proceed to the Gold Coast of Africa, and whether she will afford proper accommodation for 500 men?

Lord C. PAGET: To-day the Gladiator was ordered to proceed to the Gold Coast. (Murmurs on the Opposition benches.) We have no reason to believe that her accommodation will prove insufficient for the troops she is to take away.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE said the name of the transport, or the class to which she belonged, had not been stated.

Lord C. PAGET: I cannot tell my honourable friend the name. She is a sailing ship.

Captain TALBOT asked when the transport was taken up for this service.

Lord C. PAGET: She was taken up immediately upon the requisition of the War-office; I think on the 26th of May, or about the end of that month. We have had her fitted out at once; the men have been working day and night to get her ready.

JUNE 17.

Sir J. D. HAY, who was listened to for nearly an hour with very great attention and evident sympathy, made a forcible recapitulation of former statements relative to the sickness and mortality at the Gold Coast, which he attributed to the want of proper precautions on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and concluded by moving the following resolution: "That the Government, in landing forces on the Gold Coast for the purpose of waging war against the King of Ashantee, without making sufficient provision for preserving the health of the troops to be employed there, had incurred a grave responsibility, and that the House lamented the want of foresight which had caused so large a loss of life."

An animated debate ensued, which lasted from 6 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. on the 18th. The Marquis of HARTINGTON followed Sir John Hay with explanations which were not very well received.

Mr. H. STANHOPE, after referring to the disadvantage of having the heads of the two departments of the war and navy in the other House, urged upon the Government that it would be far better for them to make a clean breast of it, and to tell the country what disasters had really taken place. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the expedition itself, it was one which was planned by the Cabinet in London. (Hear, hear.) It did not depend on Governor Pine, or anybody else. He sent home the project of the expedition; and it was then affirmed by the Colonial Minister, who sent it to the War-office, and who also ought to have consulted the Cabinet on the subject. But the Cabinet, in sending an expedition against the Ashantees, ought to have been aware that an expedition of the kind was no light undertaking. He would not dispute that up to December the reinforcements that arrived were tolerably provided for; but the same could not be said of the second detachment. It was lamentable to see the slovenly manner in which the whole arrangements had been conducted. (Hear, hear.) It was not the fault of any particular Minister; but it was done in that want of

organization between the different departments which had led to so much misfortune in the Crimean war, and which would be attended with the same result if we had, as we might have, to send an expedition to the Baltic—"No, no," from Mr. Bright)—or elsewhere. He did not look upon this as a party question. As a Liberal member, he was bound to see that every improvement was carried out in all its departments; and though he should admit that the motion, as first placed on the paper, involved a censure on the Government, he did not conceive that that was the case with the modified one which had been proposed, and he should therefore support it.

Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE made some observations in support of the resolution.

Lord A. CHURCHILL wished to express his heartfelt sympathy with the hon. baronet in the death of his brother, and also with the families of the officers who had fallen in this strife. It appeared that the differences arose from the King of Ashantee demanding the giving up, under an extradition treaty, of an alleged offender, which Governor Pine refused to do unless evidence of his guilt were supplied, upon which the King of Ashantee threatened the invasion of our territory, and in the spring of last year he invaded the Protected Territories, and the Fantees were obliged to turn out in great force to meet the invasion. Major Cochrane was sent with an auxiliary force, but he failed in his support, and in consequence the Ashantees overran the whole territory, massacred 4,000 or 5,000 Fantees, and then retired, and it was to prevent the recurrence of such an event that Governor Pine applied to the Duke of Newcastle. In reply, his grace stated that he had considered the plans submitted to him, but he declined to give his adherence to them, and he enjoined upon the Governor that the principle of all military proceedings on that coast should be that of defence, and not that of aggression, and that on that principle alone were governors entitled to make war; but ultimately Governor Pine was authorised to strike a blow against the Ashantees, if it could be done consistently with the safety of the troops. The Duke of Newcastle had shown the utmost desire that the troops should be cared for in every way—(hear, hear)—and to inveigh against the Government for culpable negligence was to make a charge which could not be sustained. Stores of various kinds calculated to serve for a long time were gathered together, and the disasters which had occurred might be attributed to the two facts that the Tamar, which conveyed the troops, had arrived a month later than was anticipated, and that the wet season set in a month earlier than usual. The delay of the vessel was not remarkable when it was remembered that the troops sent from the West Indies had to be collected from different islands, and that the ship had to make her way in the face of the trade winds. He did not think, therefore, that there was anything very unusual in arriving a month after the time expected. As to the troops being located near Cape Coast Castle, it seemed that was one of the healthiest stations on the Coast. The principal charge seemed to be that thirteen officers had died. But when this was stated, the nature of the climate must be considered, as well as the fact that all persons who went there, including the black troops, had to pass through a period of acclimatization. This return of the deaths of officers, it must be borne in mind, extended over the whole year. He would also remind the House that officers in the line, who were anxious for rapid promotion, often exchanged into West India Regiments, and he had made the attempt himself; but if they did so they acted with the knowledge that they were exposing themselves to a climate most deleterious to health. He rather regretted the precipitate manner in which the Colonial-office had written to remove the depot at the Castle, and this not for any ulterior design of invading the territory of Ashantee, but for the purpose of ensuring the safety of those under our protection. He wished more efforts had been made to construct roads, which would not only have been valuable in a military point of view, but which would also be useful in the furtherance of commerce, and this might have been done at a trifling cost, probably at 35l. per mile. The Ashantees received a large portion of their supplies by the river Volta, one part of which formed a part of our territories, and the other part belonged to the Ashantees. That could be readily blockaded and supplies be thus cut off. Large quantities of arms, ammunition, and other munitions of war were obtained by the Ashantees through the Dutch settlements also. It was quite possible by certain arrangements to put an end to this kind of traffic. With regard to our army surgeons, two of the most competent, who were sent out with our troops, were coloured surgeons, natives of Africa, and who had been educated in the British medical schools. It appeared that they were the only two surgeons who had never been attacked with fever, or the other diseases incidental to the country. He thought that this was an important fact, which proved that if we were to maintain troops in that part of the world it was most essential to employ coloured surgeons to remain with them. It was much to be regretted that Governor Pine had not remained at Cape Coast Castle until our

troops had arrived, because if he had been there at that time he (Lord Churchill) believed that he would have prevented the landing of the troops by the Tamar, and have ordered them to a more healthy position. There was Sierra Leone, which, though unhealthy along the shore, was not so upon the hills, where excellent barracks had been erected, which might have been made available for those troops. Complaints had been made that the Gladiator was unable to take all the troops away that ought to be removed. There need be no uneasiness on that head, inasmuch as the Rattlesnake, under Commodore Wilmot, was hovering about the coast, and could be made available for the accommodation and conveyance of the troops which the Gladiator could not find room for. He trusted that he had succeeded in showing to the House that there had not been any culpable negligence on the part of the Government. It was certainly the intention of the Duke of Newcastle to take every care possible of the health and comfort of our troops.

The debate was continued by Mr. Chichester Fortescue, Mr. Liddell, Sir J. Pakington, Lord Clarence Paget, General Peel, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Corry, Sir J. Elphinstone, Lord Palmerston, and Mr. Disraeli; after which the House divided, when the numbers were returned—ayes, 226; noes, 233; majority for the Government, 7.

JUNE 20.

REMOVAL OF TROOPS FROM CAPE COAST—FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. Sir J. ELPHINSTONE wished to ask a question, and, as he had to preface his question with some explanations, he would, to put himself in order, move the adjournment of the House. He wished to know if the Gladiator was still under orders to proceed to Cape Coast Castle for the removal of the troops there; as he had no hesitation in saying that she was utterly incapable of removing 600 men in safety. The Gladiator was a vessel of 1,200 tons. She had a main deck; but the space occupied by her boilers and her crew reduced her carrying power to 600 tons. She was destined to convey 448 rank and file, nineteen officers, and their attendants, with their camp baggage; but she would never be able to perform that duty against the heavy winds which she would have to encounter in the tropical seas. He should therefore enter his protest against the Gladiator being employed for such a purpose.

Lord C. PAGET said the War-office had made fresh arrangements for removing 700 men from Cape Castle. (Hear, hear.) Of these 600 would go to the West Indies, 200 would be conveyed to Lagos, and 200 men now there would be taken to Sierra Leone. This necessitated an alteration in the arrangements of the Admiralty. (A laugh.) The Gladiator had that day proceeded to Madeira to coal there, and be in preparation to tow the Waubojeez, which would start on Thursday in tow of the Bulldog. The Waubojeez would be towed by the Gladiator from Madeira to Cape Coast. The 600 men destined for the West Indies would embark on board that vessel, and the Gladiator would convey the other 200 to Lagos, and return from thence to Sierra Leone, bringing with her the 200 men stationed there.

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL, CAPE PALMAS, WEST AFRICA. FOR SEAMEN, COLONISTS, AND NATIVES.

This Hospital is now open. Commenced in 1859, this stone edifice, which has cost 1,100*l.*, will now accommodate Twenty-five patients. It is under Christian management, and there is no point on the West African Coast more accessible and more generally known to Seamen.

As thousands of British Seamen navigate the shores of Africa, this benevolent and important object, which has been built and must be supported by voluntary contributions, has great claims on the people of Great Britain.

We have seen with pleasure by the last intelligence from Liberia that collections for the funds of the hospital have been made on board some of the mail steam packets navigating on the African Coast. We think that every ship's crew and passengers ought to aid an establishment which is ready to receive and assist all who fall sick on the Coast.

Among numerous Referees are the following well-known gentlemen: Samuel Gurney, Esq., M.P., 25, Princes-gate, London; A. Saltmarsh, Esq., Bill-hill, Wokingham, Berks; Richard Poole King, Esq., Bristol.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received and forwarded by the Secretary of the African-Aid Society, F. Fitzgerald, Esq., 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, London, W.C.

DR. BRIGHT'S UNADULTERATED CONFECTIONERY always preferred, on account of its Medicinal Properties and Absence of Injurious Colours. None genuine unless bearing the Trade Mark



Of Messrs. LEVY and LEVIN, who are appointed Sole Agents.
M. L. LEVIN, Sole Agent for the Coast of Africa.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR STARVING MISSIONARIES.

Extracts from a Letter addressed to the Rev. C. A. GOLLMER, Missionary of the Church Missionary Society, at Abeokuta, by the Rev. J. A. REID, an American Baptist Missionary, labouring at Oyo, near Abeokuta, West Africa, who, with the Rev. A. D. PHILLIPS, his brother Missionary at Abeokuta, are at present in great distress from want of means, not having for a long time received regular supplies from their Society, on account of the war in the Southern States.

"Abeokuta, April 2, 1864.

"My dear Brother,—Many have been the scenes and trials since we last met. Little did I think when I separated from you last, that we were on the brink of such a troublesome time. It is a good thing for us poor mortals that our merciful God does not allow His people to know the future, for it would be a very great enhancement of the trials through which we have to pass. Since this war, my life has been one of sad reality; I have been the subject of many privations and trials; I have learned what it is to be hungry and alone, as it regards this world's things. Many times have I retired to bed without a cowry* to buy food the next day, nor did I know from whence I would get food; but an ever-merciful God provided something for me every day—there was never a day but I ate something, though often it was very scanty. I was twenty-seven months at one time without seeing a white face at all. I was under the necessity of selling almost everything in my house to get food. I cultivated the mission enclosure, which helped me very much. I was ill a part of the time, but not so much as I should have expected, while suffering such privations. Now these things may seem hard, and truly have been so, but have been also a purifying furnace to my soul. Never in my life did I know resignation and understand faith as I do now. I bless God for these trials."

The Rev. J. L. B. Wood and Mr. Ashcroft, of the Church Missionary Society, who visited Oyo last year on their way to carry relief to the Church Missionaries at Ibadan, write:—

"We found Mr. Reid at Oyo, in great destitution; he has been obliged to sell everything that would bring in cowries (money)—his knives, forks, spoons, crockery, and even the sheets off his bed.

"We left the provisions and letters for our friends in Ibadan† with Mr. Reid, who was very ill in bed with fever, and we left him so to our great sorrow. He had to eat country food, and had sold everything the natives would buy; he was without shoes or trousers, excepting a pair made of country cloth. We gave him some shirts and a pair of shoes. I never was so sorry for any one in my life. It was hard to part and leave him there, especially as he never receives any assistance from America now on account of the war."

* It is proposed to raise a little fund to assist Messrs. Reid and Phillips in their present distress.

The Rev. C. T. Ashley, M.A., Vicar of Margate, and the Rev. H. Woods Tindall, M.A., Lecturer of Trinity Church, Margate; Rev. I. Haycroft, B.A., of Baptist Church; and the Rev. C. A. Gollmer, 1, Addington-road, Margate; and Messrs. W. Mallalieu and Co., 97, Hatton-garden, London, will most thankfully receive donations.

Subscriptions already received, and partly forwarded to the Missionaries.

The Dowager Lady Buxton, sen.	£10	0	0
The Dowager Lady Buxton, jun.	5	0	0
Th. Fowell Buxton, Esq.	10	0	0
R. Dawes, Esq.	10	0	0
The Six Congregations at Margate	30	0	0
Mrs. Stubbs, sen.	5	0	0
The Rev. Th. Knight	5	0	0
Sir Morton Peto, Bart, M.P.	5	0	0
The Committee of Baptist Missionary Society } promised	5	0	0
Smaller Sums	15	0	0
May, 1864.			

* Cowries, a small shell used as coin, are about forty for one penny English.
† The King of Oyo would not allow them to go further.—ED. A.T.

IRON BUILDINGS,

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. ESTIMATES and DRAWINGS may be had on application at the Offices, 21, MOORGATE-STREET, LONDON.

IRON ROOFING

Is the cheapest, lightest, and most durable of any description of roofing. Is very portable and inexpensive in carriage. Corrugated Iron Sheets, Painted or Galvanised, supplied in any quantity, and packed for exportation.

IRON GIRDER,

BRIDGES, RAILWAY STATIONS, &c., &c., Manufactured by S. C. HEMMING and CO. Experienced Workmen sent to all parts of the World, at a moderate charge.



RIMMEL'S PERFUMERY

is particularly well suited for the African Trade, owing to its superior quality, which makes it keep good in any climate. The following articles are particularly recommended:—

RIMMEL'S Toilet Vinegar and Lavender Water.

RIMMEL'S Marrow Oil and Philocome for the Hair.

RIMMEL'S Windsor, Honey, Glycerine, and other Toilet Soaps.

RIMMEL'S Perfumes for the Handkerchief, Tooth Powders, &c., &c.

E. RIMMEL, Perfumer by appointment to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales.

Sole Agent for the Coast of Africa,

M. L. LEVIN, 1, BEVIS MARKS, LONDON.

BEADS, HARDWARE, CORALS, &c., on SALE at M. L. Levin's Warehouse, Bevis Marks, London.

List of Goods now ready: Large Yellow Agra Beads, ditto Black, ditto Green, Seed Beads all Colours, Fancy Agra Beads, Pipe and Bead Corals, Imitation Corals, Musket Flints, Cowries, Geneva in Green Cases, Brandy ditto, Gin ditto, Champagne ditto, Cordials ditto, Sardines, Candles, Perfumery (Rimmel's), Drugs (Lamplough's), Muskets, Matchets, Swords, Bowie Knives, Table ditto, Looking-glasses, Wine ditto, Tumblers, Clothing.

M. L. LEVIN, BEVIS MARKS, LONDON, E.C.

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.

NOTE.—Goods for SIERRA LEONE will be delivered at consignees' risk into the Company's floating depot, from whence delivery is to be taken within seven days after arrival, otherwise they will be landed and put into Customs warehouse at consignees' risk and expense, under stop for charges. Goods for FERNANDO PO and the Rivers are transhipped at BONNY, and forwarded by branch Steamer at shippers' risk.

The fast and powerful screw steamship ATHENIAN, 1,040 tons and 200-horse power, G. F. SNART, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on Friday, June 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 noon of the 22nd. No goods or parcels can be shipped without pre-payment of freight.

For further information apply, in Liverpool, to the agents, Messrs. FLETCHER and PARR, 23, Castle-street; or at the Company's Offices, 14, Leadenhall-street, London.

COTTON, WOOL, and other Material, PRESSED and PACKED by WALKER'S PATENT ROTATING PRESS, in HALF the USUAL TIME. Sugar Mills for Splitting the Cane, Palm Nut Assorters, Nut Crackers, and every kind of Machine for Africa or India.

17, COWPER STREET, CITY ROAD, LONDON.

LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE.

Effervescing and tasteless, its constant use is especially calculated to maintain health and prevent Small-pox, Fevers, and Measles.

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

CONCENTRATED ESSENCE OF PERUVIAN BARK.

Superior and more agreeable than Quinine, it truly contains all the elements of the Cinchona Bark, dissolved out by a peculiar process, that eliminates entirely the active principle, adding materially to its efficacy as a remedial agent; being fluid, it does not pass off or through the system, as Quinine occasionally does, it sits easier on the stomach, and will not produce either headache or constipation, mixes well with water, wine, or spirits, being exclusive, very important, rare and valuable properties fully appreciated by all who use it.—Sole Maker, H. LAMPLOUGH, Chemist, 113, HOLBORN-HILL, LONDON, W.C.

THE WEST AFRICA COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Acts of 1856 and 1857, whereby the Liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their Subscription.

CAPITAL £250,000, in 25,000 SHARES of £10 each. FIRST ISSUE 12,500 SHARES.

£1 to be paid on application, and £8 10s. on allotment. The holders of such first Shares to have the preference, pro rata, in all further issues. No call to exceed £2 10s. per Share, nor to be made except at an interval of at least three months from any previous call. If no allotment be made, the deposit will be returned in full.

DIRECTORS.

HUGH BIRLEY, Esq., Didsbury, near Manchester, Chairman.
THOMAS BAZLEY, Esq., M.P., Manchester.
THOMAS CLEGG, Esq., Cheetham-hill, near Manchester.
THOMAS BRIGGS, Esq., Manufacturer, Manchester.
GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq., Merchant, Manchester.
FREDERICK ATKINSON, Esq., Cotton Dealer, Manchester.

SAMUEL BOOTH, Esq., Gilda Brook, Eccles, near Manchester.
JOSEPH LYES, Esq., Cotton Spinner, Lees, near Manchester.
ROBERT MARLAND, Esq., Cotton Spinner, Manchester.
JOHN S. MAYSON, Esq., Cotton Spinner, Manchester.
J. H. WHITEHEAD, Esq., Royal George Mills, near Manchester.
E. H. SHELLARD, Esq., Wen Hall, Mottram in Longendale.

BANKERS: Consolidated Bank Limited, Manchester and London.

BROKERS: Messrs. HUGGINS and ROWSELL, 1, Threadneedle-street, London, and Messrs. P. ECKERSLEY and SON, Bull's-head Chambers, Manchester.

SOLICITOR: JAMES STREET, Esq., Carlton-buildings, Manchester.

SECRETARY: J. R. CLARE.

OFFICES OF THE COMPANY: 17, DICKINSON STREET, MANCHESTER.

PROSPECTUS.

THE OBJECT OF THE COMPANY IS—To establish Trading Stations, Factories, and Depôts on the Coast of Western Africa, and by means of organised Agencies, to bring down and collect for shipment at such stations, the valuable products of the interior; to import Goods, and introduce Machinery for cleaning and pressing Cotton, and for other purposes; and generally to enter into Commercial relations with the Native Traders, by means of barter traffic or otherwise, and thereby to open up, in exchange for British manufactures, an extensive and profitable market for Cotton and other products, and to secure their transmission to the Ports of the United Kingdom.

The capabilities of Africa to meet the commercial requirements of Europe are evidenced in the variety of its productions, and the increasing extent of its trading operations; and it has long been a matter of surprise, that the encouragement of Native industry should have been left to associations of a philanthropic character, or to a few Merchants intent upon the large profits which extensive dealings with the Natives incontestably afford.

COTTON.

The cultivation of the Cotton Plant, and the employment of African labour on its native soil, have already been sufficiently tested. There is abundance of labour seeking employment, a fertile soil well adapted for its growth, and a population actively alive to what will benefit themselves. *No expensive or uncertain experiments are required to test the ability or the will of the Natives to supply this country with cheap and good Cotton.* The testimony of the officers of the Niger Expedition concurs with, and confirms, the evidence of Dr. Livingstone, and other African travellers, that indigenous Cotton is growing in abundance throughout vast districts, covering many thousands of miles of territory, and only waits to be gathered. Some tribes of the Natives are largely engaged in manufacturing Cotton into clothing for their own use. It is calculated that more than 200,000 pieces of these cloths are annually exported from Africa into the Brazils. In fact, only buyers on the spot are wanted to take from the Natives what they have to offer, giving in exchange manufactured goods suitable to their requirements.

In a letter from Dr. Balfour Bakie, in command of the Niger Expedition, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which Lord Russell caused to be inserted in the *London Gazette* of August 29th, 1862, he emphatically urges his Lordship "to call attention, in England, to the peculiar eligibility of this portion of Central Africa (Bida Nussa), as a Cotton field." Again, speaking of Sudan, and the Yoruba country, he proceeds to say: "Here Cotton is already in abundance, and cultivated by a people able and willing to work, and accustomed to its habits and rearing; nothing is required but increased demand, means of purchase, cleaning and shipment. The rest would speedily follow."

Another practical authority, Mr. Clegg, of Manchester, who has an establishment at Abeokuta, states: "For very many years my instructions have been to cease buying Cotton, when more than a halfpenny per pound in the seed, and my young Africans have again and again written to say, that at that price far more was brought to them than they could buy."

Mr. I. Lyons McLeod, Hon. Secretary to the African-Aid Society, in a Letter to the *Times*, March 28th, 1861, writes: "It is a well-attested fact, that from Western Africa (shipping port Lagos) Cotton in abundance may be purchased at 2d. per lb., and allowing for exorbitant overcharge for cleaning, freight, &c., it may be sold from the same locality in Liverpool at 4½d. per lb. This Cotton is equal in quality to New Orleans at 6½d. per lb., proving beyond doubt, that from Western Africa, which is nearer to our shores than the Cotton districts of America, we may obtain the same amount of Cotton for £20,000,000 for which we are paying the Slaveholders of the United States £30,000,000. In Western Africa—the Yoruba country, and along the valley of the Niger (the localities above referred to by Dr. Balfour Bakie)—the Natives are ready to supply any amount of Cotton for Manchester and Glasgow Manufacturers."

These testimonies appear to demand the most serious attention and consideration at the present crisis.

It is not the intention of the "West Africa Company" to become *Cultivators of Cotton*; the Company will simply be *Purchasers of Cotton*, which will be

Applications for Shares may be made to the Brokers, Messrs. Huggins and Rowsell, 1, Threadneedle-street, London, or to the Secretary, at the Offices of the Company, No. 17, Dickinson-street, Manchester.

brought down to their Stations by the Native Traders, and thence shipped to the ports of the United Kingdom.

Many well-known Firms, having used African Cotton in their Manufactories, are able to report favourably of its quality as a good and useful Cotton, suitable for such purposes as average American qualities.

GENERAL TRADE.

The Company will not, however, depend on Cotton alone for realising a good dividend on the capital employed. The interchange of commodities will be widened to the largest possible extent, so as to include every other product of Africa, which will pay an enhanced value in this country. These products, which consist chiefly of Palm Oil, Shea Butter, Gold Dust, Ivory, Hides, Indigo, Copper, Ground Nuts, Pepper, Arrowroot, Gums, Dye Woods, Ostrich Feathers, Timber for Shipbuilding, and other articles of commerce, equally suitable to the requirements of our markets, will also be made the media of trade, so as to suit the industry and keen trading instincts of the various classes of Native producers. The fact that the production of Palm Oil, Shea Butter, and other valuable articles, is in excess of the local demand, can be shown by the latest and most indubitable authorities. The Rev. Samuel Crowther, writing to the Church Missionary Society lately, states, "at the Delta of the Niger alone, millions' worth, in red Oil and black Oil from the kernels of the Palm nut, rot away annually for want of inducement to collect them."* From an official document received through the Board of Trade, it appears that in 1856 upwards of 220,000 tons of these kernels, from which Oil of the value 3,789,000l. might have been extracted, were actually thrown away on the coast. The amount thus lost represents in actual value a sum of upwards of a Million Sterling more than all the tallow exported from Russia in that year; and when it is considered that the tallow was paid for in cash, and that the bulk of the trade with Africa may be carried on by barter of the manufactures of Manchester, Glasgow, Birmingham, the Potteries, and Sheffield, it is impossible to overrate the benefits which will accrue to this country by developing the resources of Western Africa.

As there is no currency in the country, trade is conducted by means of barter, so that a market for English productions will be opened at every point from which the Company draws its supplies of raw material; a profit both ways will thus be obtained by the Company—viz.: Upon the goods sold in Africa, and *vice versa*, upon the Cotton, Palm Oil, &c., imported and sold in the English markets.

The WEST AFRICA COMPANY will carry on operations under peculiarly favourable circumstances, owing to the fact that their Agencies on the West Coast of Africa are already organised; and competent acclimatised persons, native merchants and others, at Abeokuta, Aro, Lagos, Porto Novo, Okedada, and in the Niger river, are ready to act in behalf of the Company.

The development of the Niger district will be one of the great objects of the Company. The confluence of the rivers Niger and Chad and the vicinity of Rabba are the very centres of the vast Cotton districts of Western Africa; these districts have now been fully explored by Mr. Gregor Laird and others, and the whole country is said to be populous, and to abound in all the rich vegetable and other products of Western Africa.

From the foregoing statements, taken together with the fact that this Company will possess unusual facilities for successful mercantile operations, owing to its large Capital and connexions, it is confidently expected that its transactions will produce handsome dividends. The Directors feel assured that the Company will eventually assume such dimensions as to invest it with a most important character; and that the development of the resources of Africa will do more than anything else to hasten the extinction of the foreign slave-trade, an event not more desirable to philanthropy than to commerce.

* See African-Aid Society's Report for 1862, page 10, and generally in confirmation of the statements herein, the Annual Reports of the Cotton Supply Association; "The Cotton Plant and Countries adapted to its Culture," pages 5-18, &c.; D. J. May, Esq., R.N. (Niger Expedition), and the Reports of Mr. Consul Burton; Mr. Davies, Surgeon to the Niger Expedition; ratified as they are by Mr. Consul Campbell; the Rev. Mr. Townsend, of Abeokuta; D. R. Ross, Esq.; and by Captain J. F. Napier Hewitt, in his recent work, "European Settlements on the West Coast of Africa."

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