

The African Times.

JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

VOL. IV., No. 37.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1864.

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THE WEST AFRICAN MAIL.

The African Royal mail steamer Macgregor Laird arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, the 10th inst. She left Benin on the 24th May, Fernando Po 29th, Cameroons 31st, Old Calabar June 2, Brass River 4th, Bonny 7th, Lagos 10th, Accra 12th, Cape Coast 14th, Cape Palmas 16th, Sierra Leone 21st, Bathurst 25th, Teneriffe 30th, and Madeira July 2nd.

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Old Calabar was healthy and trade steady.

Sickness prevailed at Brass River, and trade was dull.

News received from Cape Coast Castle gives very unfavourable accounts of the health of the troops both at Cape Coast and Prahsoo. (We beg to refer to our special communications on this subject, page 2.)

Accra and Lagos were sickly; Cape Palmas healthy.

RIVER GAMBIA.

From month to month, during several months past, we have been receiving complaints from the Gambia, and especially from Bathurst, of abuses and mismanagement affecting the welfare and safety of the greater portion of the community there. We have refrained from publishing them until they should be confirmed, which they have now been; and still we shall confine ourselves to a mere general allusion to the principal subjects of complaint. A very serious one as regards the general population seems to be, the inefficiency of the police force, and the monopoly of the little service they are capable of rendering by a certain limited district of the town, to the entire abandonment of the other portions. The police being paid out of the colonial revenue, even were higher considerations set aside, it is a matter of mere pecuniary justice that the services they render should be general, not partial. All our correspondents agree that the force is not only inadequate and badly selected, but that what policemen there are, are scarcely ever to be found beyond the precincts of Wellington-street, where the principal European merchants are established. That the property of the merchants demands full protection, there can be no doubt; but it is most unjust that those portions of the town inhabited by the coloured population should therefore be left a prey to the lawless and violent, who are to be found in all com-

munities. It is not only unjust, but it is a most short-sighted policy—if such practices can be dignified by the name of policy—because if violence and plunder be carried on with impunity throughout the greater portion of the town, the result will infallibly be the establishing of a criminal population that will in a short time be too strong for the police in the favoured street. From plundering the houses of the poorer classes, which it seems they now do with absolute impunity, they will in time descend in force upon the stores and dwellings of the wealthy. And if as a nation we have any one thing more than another to inculcate among the coloured inhabitants of our colonies, it is the advantages that are secured to a people by law and order among them—by that security for person and goods which ought to be found, as a rule, in towns and districts under civilised authority.

The evil complained of seems to have been greatly increased by the presence in Bathurst of a number of the refugee Badiboo, who have fled from the districts now under the rule of the Mohammedan chief, "Mahaba," to whose proceedings notice has been several times directed in this journal. One of our correspondents, from whom we have before received important information on this subject, writes by the last mail: "If things are allowed to go on as they have of late, Bathurst will soon become a ruin. The idle and vicious, who before existed to a limited extent among us, have been reinforced by some of those refugees to whom the Governor kindly gave protection last year; and for whom he to some extent provided. These refugees are now showing their gratitude by kidnapping and robbery. They have been kidnapping between Bathurst and the Cape. One constable has lately been wounded by these villains, who go about fully armed, enter into any house they choose, and carry off any plunder they can lay their hands on. Three days ago a young man received a wound from some of them who were attempting to carry away a box of tools from his premises; and three young women, shameful to relate, have been driven* this morning by the said refugees, who were in ambush between the town of Bathurst and the Oyster Creek. Surely such practices ought not to be permitted under British dominion."

Our correspondent persists that "Mahaba," on whom so much official abuse was some time since bestowed, has really done important service for the future peace and security of some portions of the river, by subduing Badiboo and Salem. He says that the pagans of those districts were incorrigible. Work they would not; but, as they must still live somehow, they lived by robbery, plunder, and murder. The French, he says, never allow such practices to be carried on within the limits of their colonies. Some of the Babiboos, and others of similar character, who fled to Goree for protection, have already been driven across the mainland by the French Governor; and others, who had sought refuge in the French fort of Cowlack, have been surrendered (their lives being guaranteed) to "Mahaba," who is now compelling them to labour and live, or neglect labour and starve." We quite agree with our correspondent that those who are behaving so ungratefully at Bathurst ought to be subject to a similar treatment.

We are glad to find that our *exposé* of the maladministration of the Post-office has lead to a change of postmasters. Confidence, we are assured, is now felt in paying money at the Post-office, for

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transmission to England or the Coast. But at the same time, we have information of the continuance of some of the objectionable practices which we before exposed, and of an offensive partiality as regards colour which is worthy of heavy condemnation. We hope this brief allusion to it will bring about a change—if not, we shall know what steps to take for enforcing it.

SIERRA LEONE.

The Lord Bishop has held an ordination. A great number of persons attended the services, much interest being excited by the ordination of natives to the ministry.

On the 24th of May his Excellency Major Blackall and Mrs. Blackall held a full dress reception in honour of Her Most Gracious Majesty's birthday, which was very numerously attended, and seems to have given great satisfaction.

There seems to be great complaint as to the scarcity of money and generally depressed state of trade.

The foundation stone of the "Wilberforce Testimonial" was laid at four P.M. on the 18th June.

On the 14th June a suspected slaver, flying the Spanish colours, was brought into Sierra Leone by Her Majesty's steamship Ariel. She had been previously detained by the frigate Narcissus while on the Leeward Coast, and report says had about 30,000*l.* in specie on board.

There is much talk of a colonial loan for carrying on public improvements. It is said that the loan would all be subscribed in the colony.

It is reported that Mr. Jules Gerard left the Sherboro at the close of the month of April, with the expressed intention of penetrating thence to Timbuctoo, but that being plundered by the natives, and his life being in danger, he has been compelled to return and forego his projected expedition.

SHERBORO.

VISIT OF THE GOVERNOR.—On the 17th ult. we were honoured by a visit from his Excellency Governor Blackall, accompanied by his secretary, Mr. Lynch; Captain Gordon, of Her Majesty's steamship Ranger; H. H. Walsh, Esq., Manager of the Sherboro; Lieut. Riley, commandant; Dr. Thomas, military surgeon. We were highly gratified with the warm interest manifested by the Governor in missionary operations in the Sherboro, and that all the efforts which are being made for the education of the people and their advancement in agriculture and the mechanic arts meet with his cordial sympathy and support. We were also glad to learn that the long-promised improvements in Sherboro, and especially the work on roads and bridges, is to be commenced at once, and will be committed to energetic hands. We learn that Mr. Walsh, who comes out as manager for the Sherboro, is clothed with full magisterial and executive powers, and that he will devote himself exclusively to the duties of his office. His residence will be at Bendoo. We learned that a suspicious steamer has been seen in these waters, supposed to have come here for slaves.—*Early Dawn.*

The American missionaries have been on a tour in the Bargroo country, and were well received everywhere. The country generally is described as beautiful and healthy.

LIBERIA.

The rector of that most interesting and praiseworthy establishment, "St. Mark's Hospital," at Cape Palmas, has issued a report. We extract the following:—

"The institution was founded for the benefit of seamen, colonists, and natives. It was commenced in January, 1858. Patients were received at first in a small room in an adjoining house. The foundation of the present building was laid on April 11, 1859, and it was finished in April, 1862. With the exception of a grant from the Liberian Legislature of 300 *dols.* a-year, it has been built, and is still supported, by voluntary contributions. It has been erected at the cost of about 6,000 *dols.* This sum has been contributed by friends in England, in Liberia, and by seamen visiting the port. We have never been in debt, but have always been able to pay all demands against us. Since

the commencement of our hospital we have had 45 patients; of these 26 have been colonists, 10 natives, 9 seamen; 30 were men, 10 women, and 5 children; 16 have died, 25 have been dismissed, relieved, or cured, and 4 are now occupying the building. Though the number of patients has not been large, yet it is increasing, as the institution becomes known; and through God's help we have accomplished that which we proposed seven years ago—namely, the erection of a house for the sick and suffering, where they may receive help and comfort, both for body and soul. We have a kind Christian lady as the matron, and the colonial physician is the surgeon and physician of the institution. Of all our patients the seamen seem most grateful. Far away from home and friends, to meet with care and kindness, and to find the comforts of a home, with Christian sympathy; these things call out those warm and generous feelings for which seamen are proverbial. We make no extravagant outlay, but we simply desire the means to sustain this Christian home for the sick, on this unhealthy coast. There is a special work for which we now need help. We are erecting a back-building for kitchen, &c. An outlay of 600 or 700 *dols.* is required. The sum is small, and can easily be provided, if those who read these lines will aid us by an offering."

This needs no comment from us. We think every ship trading on the African Coast ought to make donations to this hospital, which is ever open to their sailors. And the institution is one that commends itself to every friend of the civilization of Africa. We shall feel happy in being charged with the duty of forwarding our friends' subscriptions to the Rev. Mr. Hoffman, the worthy founder and rector of the hospital. Such an institution is invaluable on the African Coast. Mrs. Hall, who died at sea on board the *Ethiopia*, on her passage from Cape Coast to England, the day after leaving Cape Coast, was buried in the grounds of St. Mark's Hospital.

A large steam sugar mill was "opened" at Millsburg on the 28th April, on the estate of Mr. Lloyd. The mill cost, we believe, 3,000*l.* The President of the Republic made a suitable speech on the occasion. This is a good sign of progress in Liberia.

ASHANTEE WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, June 1, 1864.

I am not in a state of mental tranquillity to enable me to give you a glowing account of affairs on the Gold Coast. The tolling of the bell from the church spire tells of another added to the almost unparalleled (on this Coast) number of the dead and dying. Amongst our new comers Cape Coast is a huge graveyard. My account by the last mail did not attempt to give you the least adequate idea of the rate of mortality amongst the officers and men of the West India Regiments who have been sent out to find an early grave in this lone and dismal country of the Gold Coast. Of whom, we cannot help asking, will account be demanded of these dead and dying here? The good old chaplain has had enough to do, as for the last four weeks scarcely one day has passed without his being called upon to read the prayers over the cold and lifeless bodies of once active, promising youths. According to his reckoning, from the 1st of January to the 1st of June one man, on an average, has died every day. Yes, one man a-day, British public—one man a-day for five months of a force of 600 men, only lately increased to 1,200; and in this one period not reckoning those who have died in the camp or on their way to the Coast!!! It is a most frequent thing to see two coffins carried away to the graveyard in the morning and two in the evening. Out of the small number of the officers on the Coast, from the 1st of January, the death rate has been two per month, and with the European sergeants it has been fearful. This awful mortality, caused by the protection of a lame runaway Ashantee captain, with eighty of his wretched followers, or the refusing to give proper redress to the King of Ashantee after the murder of forty of his subjects by the King Ajiman, has produced a sensation on the West Coast of Africa unparalleled in the history of the affairs on the Gold Coast. I am writing on the 9th instant. This evening there will be the funeral of Captain

Kingston, of the 4th West India Regiment, who only came out in the Tamar; the other day took place that of Dr. Greig, who came out in charge of the soldiers by the Tamar, and who was expressly ordered to return to Jamaica, but who was detained because of the insufficiency of the number of officers in the hard-worked Medical Department here; his remains were taken to the grave with those of a sergeant of the 2nd West India Regiment. Is this to continue? Are a lot of men to be sent out to their early grave in this way? We call upon the Government to withdraw the troops from the Gold Coast; we call upon the African-Aid Society to represent to them the necessity there is of removing them to a place where they can be properly provisioned, leaving only a small detachment, which could receive a certain but sufficient supply of fresh provision at least three times a-week; at present it is a point of question whether the authorities could afford to supply them even once a-week.

You have in your last number indirectly urged the necessity of withdrawing the troops from the interior before the commencement of the rains, as it will produce a most fatal result amongst them. Are you aware that your prophetic statements, deduced from plain and simple reasonings which every one here ought to have seen, is now the common talk of the Gold Coast? I have been informed that Dr. Horton, the medical officer in charge at Prahsoo, wrote a strong letter on the sanitary condition of that camp, recommending the withdrawal of the troops until after the rains. My informant told me that Colonel Conran was unable to do so, although he saw how desirable and necessary such a step is, because his Excellency Governor Pine, when embarking, left strict orders to Judge Hackett, the Lieut.-Governor, that the Ashantee frontiers were to be guarded, and the troops were not to be withdrawn, and he, the Judge, consequently refused to permit the withdrawal. I am exceedingly sorry that Governor Pine is away, as I am certain that the troops would long ago have been removed. I know him to be resolute and energetic, but I also know him to be magnanimous, even to the generosity of a child.

I have been endeavouring to get a copy of the letter on Prahsoo, referred to above, but I find a great difficulty about it. I have, however, succeeded in obtaining a very rough one, very difficult to decipher. It was written to Captain Bravo, 1st West India Regiment, commanding at Prahsoo. It began in the usual official style by saying: "I have the honour to call your attention to the subject of the sanitary condition of the troops at the station, and more especially to the awful percentage of sickness amongst them during the short time they have been here; in doing which I must also bring before you, for the information of the commandant of the forces, the real position of Prahsoo, and how it is a mere point of hap-hazard to maintain in it during the rainy season troops who have only a short time since arrived from the comparatively genial climate of the West Indies, because that season produces results fatal to their constitutions and lives."

"Prahsoo camp, as all who have been here are aware, is situated at the foot of a gradual descent toward the river. The roads to it are in many parts covered with swamps and pools of stagnant water, which during the heavy rains present great obstruction to travellers. The camp, in its present condition, on account of the frequent heavy rains which we have had, is nearly under water, with the exception of a few elevated spots. Two days of sunshine after this inundation convert the pools into muddy, pestiferous swamps, breeding that baneful poison which produces the most deleterious effects on the constitution. All the unoccupied ground of the camp is now covered with algae and fungi, emitting the most stinking and deadly vapour, especially when the morning sun falls upon it. The temporary bamboo sheds built by the forces, to be occupied only during the short period they were expected to remain here before they crossed over the Ashantee frontier, on active operations, are, I contend, perfectly insufficient to shelter them from the effects of those pestiferous swamps and of the damp weather of the rainy season. It is therefore no wonder that Prahsoo should now have become a great hospital, instead of a place where officers and men are expected to be in an efficient state to oppose an enemy who will

never cross the river, swollen as it is at this season. Even the huts are surrounded by swamps, which defy all the attempts of Lieutenant Roberts at drainage, and through the roofs of most of them the rain pours down as through a sieve. They are consequently wet and most unhealthy. The result is what might be expected; out of a force of 200 men of the 1st West India Regiment who arrived here about the 1st of the month (Tamar troops), there were no less than nineteen admitted to hospital during the first week; whilst the first week of the force of 300 men of the 4th West India Regiment who arrived here before the rains only gave twelve to hospital; there is therefore a difference of seven. This difference gradually increased, and we find in the second week the admittance of the 1st West was twenty-nine, whilst that of the 4th at the former period in the second week was only eighteen. In the third week the proportion was still greater; the admittance in the 4th West in their third week had been only fourteen, whilst the effect of the continuous rains and the consequent pernicious change of the sanitary condition of the camp has been such as to cause the admission of one out of every four men in the camp into hospital—viz., fifty-three—showing that during the first three weeks, of the 300 men of the 4th West India Regiment before the rains there were only forty-four admittances, whilst during the same period, but in a different season, of the 200 men of the 1st West India Regiment there were 101 admitted into hospital.

"But this by no means shows the amount of sickness in the camp during that period under medical treatment, for the total treated, but who were not admitted into hospital, were not included. On referring to the reports I kept in the hospital, I find that within that short period no less than twenty-four out of 200 men have been reported sick and treated."

"I still hoped for better, and was expecting the fourth week would lead to improvement, but the disappointment was very sad, as the hygienic rule—viz., that as long as the density of poisonous material increases in the air, so long will the amount of sickness increase—has plainly proved correct; the number of men in hospital has reached the unparalleled number of 100—viz., one in every two. In the fourth week, of the 4th West India Regiment, when the weather was comparatively healthy, the number of men admitted was only ten, whilst the actual number in hospital was fourteen—viz., fourteen men in hospital with a force of 300 men, or a little more than four per cent., and now with a force of 200 men, within the same period, there are no less than 100 men in hospital, or fifty per cent. It might be urged that Cape Coast is equally as bad, but this statement can only be regarded as devoid of all foundation, as out of 800 men stationed there, there were on the 19th inst. only eighty-six in the hospital (little more than ten per cent.), but at Prahsoo there are fifty per cent., not reckoning men who are convalescent and unfit for duty. The men in hospital are principally suffering from acute dysentery, diarrhoea, rheumatism, and fever. The worst types of these diseases present themselves, as the men's constitutions are so utterly degenerated by bad nourishment, that a vast amount of medical comfort is demanded to keep them alive; besides, to keep the men here there must be a store full of quinine, for whilst I had it I was compelled to use over 600 grains a-day, and such a supply cannot be kept up."

"The whole of the officers, with the exception of one, within this short period have suffered greatly; five have been prostrated with fever, one has been invalided to the Coast. You have suffered from hepatic derangement, and now are suffering from diarrhoea. With respect to myself, I am feeling the six months of bush-life telling on my constitution, and my remaining up here is just a matter of a short time; I have suffered constantly from fever, and now I am suffering from a slight attack of acute dysentery, a disease for which I have been invalided from the Coast before. I shall endeavour to do my duty heartily as long as I can do it without danger to my life, but no sooner do I feel worse than I shall at once, without the least hesitation, proceed to the Coast for medical treatment."

"May I, therefore, beg of you to bring the circumstances of the case before the officer commanding, and endeavour to impress upon him the advisability of withdrawing the troops, if not on

sanitary grounds, for the sake of humanity, until there is an improvement in the weather; for I am certain that it need only be properly brought before the colonel commanding, as he will not allow the whole of his force to be crippled before actual operations are undertaken in the field in October next.

"If the men are not removed there will be an awful mortality, and I consider myself perfectly free from all responsibility.—I have the honour to be, &c., &c."

It appears that most of the deaths have been caused by dysentery, a disease of well-known fatality, especially when it takes the scorbutic form. The soldiers being ill-fed, and their system consequently much degenerated, are much subject to this most fatal form, and thus scarcely any one who has been attacked has escaped. Another most fatal form is that which presents itself on constitutions much reduced by hard drinking, in both of which forms the system does not possess sufficient stamina to bear up against its wasting effects.

Let us now consider the military position of Prahsoo and its capability of defending itself against a body of the enemy who might attempt to force its way on this side of the river. We do not profess to be great proficient in military tactics, but what we here state is the common-sense view that any one who is well acquainted with the ins and outs of the countries about Prahsoo must arrive at. A little beyond Prahsoo, about three and a-half miles, lying E.N.E. half E., is the town of Atawasoo, and about half-a-mile from that place there is a cataract right across the river, formed by a layer of rocks, through which, during the dry season, an enemy can easily walk. During the late Ashantee invasion the greater part of the division under Essa Ma Quantah crossed over at Atawasoo and at this cataract, as is evident from the number of dilapidated tents to be found under cover of the high trees. This cataract, of course, during the rainy weather is a very dangerous path, and no one would attempt to cross by it. Again, there are fordable paths lower down the river, at some distance from Prahsoo, which no force at that place could protect. If the King of Ashantee intends to attack the camp, it is not to be supposed that he will be so idiotic as to send a small force of one or two thousand men, but he will send from twenty to thirty thousand. If 6,000 cross over at Atawasoo, and before the force at Prahsoo knows what it is about push on to Assempah Naya, on the road to the seacoast, thus entirely cutting off our retreat; another 4,000 cross over the third bend of the river below the camp, thus presenting themselves on the flank of the Prahsoo; and a small body of men appear before the fortified stockaded front of Prahsoo to draw our attention—what on earth could a small force of 200 men at Prahsoo do, 100 of whom are sick in hospital and fifty just out of hospital, and as weak as could be imagined? A sharp commander would at once get his sick into the stockade, with the whole of the people in the camp, excepting those on guard; but one night surprise by the Ashantees would prove a *finale*, as there would be a general shooting in the stockade. Of what use, then, are the handful of men left at the Prah? We firmly believe that the Ashantees will not again cross—certainly not till after harvest—and it seems highly probable that, as they have taken full reparation for the offence complained of by them, they will only wait for offensive movements on our side, should no treaty of peace be arranged with them.

It must be said that Lieut.-Colonel Couran has done all in his power to stay the awful mortality amongst the men, by proposing to remove them to a more healthy climate, but he has not been supported by the civil authority. He proposed sending some of the men to Ascension, but the Lieut.-Governor would not grant him the order.

The other up country camp, that at Swaidroo, is by far healthier than that at Prahsoo. It was proposed at first to form it at the banks of the River Berin, but the medical officer in charge, Dr. Stewart, opposed, and selected a spot on an elevated ground.

Cape Coast, June 14, 1864.

Sir,—I send you herewith an account of the mortality of the officers since the commencement of the Ashantee war. Frightful, is it not? The sickness and mortality of the soldiers at the Prah is also most grievous to relate; out of 200 men, 103 were

in hospital when last accounts came down, besides numerous out-door patients. And here the hospitals are full to suffocation; while not a day passes without one or two funerals. It is a pity that Governor Pine is not here. Mr. Hackett can do nothing; he is not a favourite with *any one*, and a more incapable man could not have been selected. Time will show the result of this false step. There are loud expressions of regret that Governor Pine should have relinquished the reins of government at this extreme crisis; and, I dare say, none feel it so much as poor Colonel Couran, who is nearly worked to death. For such a fearful mortality as at present was, I believe, never known in this place. Almost every boy in the street can whistle the "Dead March," having been accustomed to hear it so regularly.

The war is a disastrous one. The taking of Coomassie is, as you said long ago, *impossible*, without 5,000 regulars and 2,000 transport corps, well organised, in addition to a large native force. Without *this*, we are wilfully squandering money and sacrificing valuable lives for no purpose whatever, that I can see, and most certainly not for any good purpose.—Yours, &c.,
FANTIE.

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

June 14, 1864.

Sir,—The opinions expressed in a letter written by the African-Aid Society (and signed by Lord Alfred Churchill) to the Chief Secretary of State for the Colonies, with regard to the importance of having good roads on the Gold Coast, have been greatly approved of here. There is one matter, however, connected with this subject which I am sure you will excuse my alluding to, as you are not likely ever to have lost sight of it—viz., that at Cape Coast we have no beasts of burden whatever; and the natives who carry stores and merchandise along the roads travel Indian-file fashion, one after another, in tracks forming single pathways. The roads in consequence become during the heavy rainy season to a great extent covered over with bush. Nothing has a greater tendency to brutalise or deteriorate the people here than a large portion of them being employed at work which ought to be performed by beasts of burden. Now mules, camels, and donkeys, it is said, would not only live here, but their introduction would be a matter of the very greatest benefit to the country, and a very great saving to the military authorities. Hitherto, horses have not succeeded, but donkeys, mules, and camels, it is said, would thrive. A Mr. Hutton, who was formerly a merchant here, sent to Teneriffe for two camels. They sent him by mistake two donkeys (the only donkeys of the *genuine species* which, it is said, ever made their appearance here). As the story goes, Mr. Hutton was so much annoyed at receiving donkeys instead of camels, that he let them stray into the bush, and it is to be deplored they were never afterwards heard of.

We have had already more rain this season than has been remembered for years. Of course, the miasma all along the Coast are increased by the wet weather. The health of Cape Coast has been, indeed, wretched. No one has escaped an attack of some sort or other. The crowded state of the town, and the great sickness which has prevailed among the troops, have contributed to render the ordinary stinks and vapours more than usually fatal. Out of thirteen to fourteen hundred men here, we have had at a time as many as a hundred and eight or ten on the sick-list. The mortality has been at the rate of three in two days.

Captain Kingsmill and a doctor, whose name I do not remember at the present moment, had neither of them been up the country.—Yours sincerely,
JULIUS.

Died on June 12, on board the African steamer Macgregor Laird, off Accra, in the 34th year of his age, Arthur Aylett Harrison, Esq., M.B., Trin. Coll., Cambridge, Physician to the Church Missionary Station, Abeokuta, and third son of the Rev. Thomas Harrison, M.A., Incumbent of Womenswold, near Canterbury.

LIST OF OFFICERS DEAD AND INVALIDED SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PRESENT ASHANTEE DIFFICULTIES ON THE GOLD COAST OF WESTERN AFRICA, FROM MAY, 1863, TO JUNE 10, 1864:—

Names of Officers.	What Regiment.	Rank of Officers.	Dead or Invalided.
S. B. Lamb	4th W. I. R.	Lieut.-Colonel	Invalided.
G. J. Frey	ditto	Major	"
C. F. Nolt	G. C. A.	"	Dead.
W. R. Mulliner	3rd W. I. R.	"	"
Thomas Herrick	4th W. I. R.	"	"
Thomas H. V. D. Hay	ditto	"	"
D. B. Gabb	ditto	"	"
P. W. Kingsmill	ditto	"	"
S. McDonough	3rd W. I. R.	"	Invalided.
C. J. Barnard	4th W. I. R.	"	"
A. W. McKay	ditto	"	"
M. W. B. Edwardes	ditto	"	"
W. A. Williams	2nd W. I. R.	"	"
— Danger	G. C. A.	"	Dead.
J. B. Jackson	3rd W. I. R.	"	Invalided.
J. Thomson	G. C. A.	Lieutenant	Dead.
J. W. Kean	2nd W. I. R.	"	"
J. D. E. Cross	G. C. A.	"	"
W. Low	3rd W. I. R.	"	"
C. F. Barry	4th W. I. R.	"	"
F. Blacklin	ditto	"	Invalided.
F. D. Crozier	ditto	"	"
A. H. Duthie	2nd W. I. R.	"	"
— Lees	4th W. I. R.	"	"
— Stewart	"	"	"
G. F. Coward	4th W. I. R.	"	"
A. M. Brock	ditto	"	"
A. F. Wilkinson	3rd W. I. R.	"	"
C. B. Mt. Morales	4th W. I. R.	"	"
C. O. Bulger	ditto	Ensign	"
I. H. Brien	G. C. A.	"	Dead.
H. L. Baldwin	2nd W. I. R.	"	"
— Schroeder	Attached	S. Surgeon	Invalided.
— Crow	"	Asst. Surgeon	Dead.
— Rutherford	"	"	"
— Hooper	"	"	"
— Greig	"	"	"
— Oughton	"	"	Invalided.
— Lewis	"	"	"
— Sanderson	"	"	"
— Goldie	"	Clerk of Works	Dead.

Three or four officers will go home by the mail steamer on the 14th inst. invalided.

ACCRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

June 11, 1864.

I wrote you by last mail about the case of an Aungla man who had stolen some rum and a canoe. The advice given by the King of the Aunglas, that the British authorities should seize Aungla people, was of course not acted upon by Captain Edmunds. But I am sorry also to say that the case was treated as one of ordinary theft, according to the regular routine, in which the plaintiff should have paid for a second summons—some twenty shillings and upward—that a constable might be again sent beyond the Volta. This he declined to do, as he considered one summons quite sufficient, and thought that it was the duty of the Chief Civil Commandant either to settle the case upon one summons, or to give him his summons money back again. The fact is, that our authorities have no power whatever beyond the river Volta, since they have withdrawn their soldiers from the fort at Quittah; and therefore I must state my opinion, that it is wrong to accept summons money for cases which they are not able to settle. It is even a question whether Mr. Cuthbert did

right to fine the man for seizing Aungla people, being, as he was, unable to help him to get his property back. It is all very well to assert that panyaring is not right, and will not be allowed, but then you must be able to help your subjects effectually, if you will not allow them to help themselves. Of course, I do not justify the man, either in buying rum or in panyaring people; but if our Government is weak—and it is weak—boasting at Accra is of no use, and does not bring much credit upon the authorities.

As your valuable paper is not only written for the Africans, but also to enlighten the "mother country," and as it seems that you get very little information about that large country which lies between the river Volta and Dahomey, I will endeavour to give you some news. First, I must say that, as in Aungla and over the long track of land to Whydah they are doing very little beyond buying slaves, the people in the interior are manstealers to a great extent. I have some letters before me, written by schoolboys in a mission-school of the Slave Coast, in which they try to give a sort of description of their earlier life. I will translate one or two:—

1. Henry says: "My home is Agu, where I was born about twelve years ago. I was with my parents more than seven years; I loved them, and they loved me too. But one day, when I was playing on the market-place, a stranger came, took me into his arms, and carried me away. I cried, but nobody came to help me; and after marching twelve days, I was brought to Anyako," &c., &c.

2. Theodore writes: "I have forgotten the name of my birth-place, and even the names of father and mother. All I know is this: One day I went with my father and mother to our plantation. (These plantations are always distant from the villages.) I could not walk all the way, and my mother carried me on her back. After some time she said, 'We have forgotten to take water with us.' She therefore put me down under a tree, and said she would go and fetch water. During her absence a stranger came and said to me, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'My mother went to fetch water, and will soon be back.' The man stooped down and took me up. He pressed me on his chest, went a long way, and brought me to his village. There he cut my face, to mark me as a slave. When the wound was healed, he sold me to another place. I was sold several times, till I came to Anyako, where the missionaries liberated me," &c.

It seems to be a common thing that a child found alone is taken up and sold. If a stop were put to that hideous slave-trade, this man-stealing would soon cease also. In Accra, Aquapem, &c., it is unknown. Only in Kroboe it happens sometimes, because the thieves are able to sell their "chattels" to Leeward. But the North German Mission Society, or Bremen Society, have four stations in that country, and hard work they have undertaken. As nearly every day such unfortunate children as already mentioned were offered to them, of course for "sale," they wrote to Europe for funds, and they have with money, which has been contributed for this purpose, liberated more than 100 children. They have two flourishing schools at Anyako, a few miles north-east from Quittah, and another one at Ho, three or four days' journey in the interior. The people respect them now, finding that they have come not to trade in human flesh, but to bring them the best of all gifts, a Saviour. They are very much troubled by the lawless people, who steal all they can, and break even by night into their houses. But a good number of the population already take part with them, and protect them.

And now again to our old song, "The fort of Quittah." It is grievous not to repair that fort, and place a garrison of twenty to thirty men there. By so doing the slave-trade might be checked very much. Let wealthy Great Britain remember that their governors have allowed to fall to ruin what the Danes erected at great expense; and that this was done because a few pounds were grudged by the Colonial-office.

NOTICE.—We have received 10s. from "A Friend," for the Starving Missionaries Fund, advertised in our last.—Ed. A. T.

BADAGRY.

By reports from Badagry we learn that the King of Dahomey returned very much crestfallen from his Abeokuta expedition. His corps of *Amazons* is said to have been almost destroyed. He sent messengers to his towns to announce that "he had fired upon the Abeokutans, and that the Abeokutans had killed many of his people, but that his people also killed very many of them." It was generally understood by this, that he had made a bad expedition. He took some small place, however, before returning home, so that he might bring a few slaves with him, which he did. But he decided not to hold the annual *Kannah Custom* this year, in consequence of his defeat. He has, however, summoned the towns to send deputations to him to the Customs at Abomey, in November.

A very strong desire is expressed that Commodore Wilmot should again visit the King. It is thought that much good might be done with him now. But only by the Commodore, who is a great favourite.

Our correspondent writes hopefully of the future. He thinks that progress in the right direction is being made. We hope he is not mistaken. We cannot overrate the importance of bringing Dahomey under the influence of civilization. It is not alone that the slave-trade would then disappear from the Equator northward, but that according to all reports we have received, Dahomey is, next after the Niger Countries, one of the best and most promising fields in Africa for the production of cotton. We therefore look forward to the day when that part of the Coast, now called the Slave Coast, will obtain the honourable name of the Cotton Coast.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

July 9, 1864.

Sir,—As the mail will leave to-morrow, I will give you what little news we have. I am sorry that sickness and death must stand forth very visibly in it. Badagry, Porto Novo, Abeokuta, all have been unhealthy this year; so that you must not suppose we are so very much worse off than our neighbours. But we seem to be so, because the sick of other places come here when too late for medical aid, and die here. Dr. Curran, R.N., and Signor Pastorelli, and Mr. Harden (Baptist minister), have died here since last mail left, and Mr. and Miss Bischoff (who brought letters from you to some friends on the Coast) have perished at Abeokuta. Mr. William Horsell, with whom they came out, died on board a vessel between Accra and this place. Thus within twelve months all three have fallen victims to Africa.

Our relations with Abeokuta are still in the same unsatisfactory state, and as to trade, we are all very badly off indeed. Some say we have reason to hope now that in a very short time the produce stored up in Abeokuta will be allowed to come down, and that we shall be as busy as we have been idle. But one gets tired of hoping. We have been living on this sort of hopes for the last twelve months, and I can tell you that it is a diet which impoverishes the unfortunate beings compelled to subsist upon it much more than is at all agreeable. To me it seems as if the Abeokutans are rather inclined to behave worse, since they thrashed the Dahomans, instead of better. The only Europeans who in good odour there are the missionaries, who no doubt gave them material assistance against the ill-starred King and his *Amazons*. It seems certain that poor Miss Bischoff and her brother were subject to many indignities on their way from Lagos to the Egba town, and some Englishmen have been refused admittance, or expelled, on the alleged ground that the Bashorun has gone to the war camp, and that it is customary for no strangers to be let in during the absence of the chief authority.

For my part, I do not see how the Abeokutans are to be brought to reason by anything we can do. We are told there is a great deal of oil at the French town of Porto Novo; and there is not much reason to doubt that a large quantity has been sent there from Abeokuta; so that when the markets do open again for us here, there may not be such a very great quantity of produce coming down as some people suppose. That delightful when!

There came a rumour here a few days ago, that a strong force of Dahomans had come down to Porto Novo and swept away all the property of the merchants and traders on the beach. There has not been time yet for any confirmation or denial of this news.

What a treat it will be if the time ever comes for me to write you that we are making money again. And I am sure you will rejoice in it too, for you at least know very well that there will be very little advance in civilization if there be no profitable trade going on.—Yours,
O.

CAPE AND NATAL.

The last mail brought news from the Cape of the 22nd May. The steamer *Cambrian*, which conveyed the mail, brought also, among her seventy-seven passengers, the Rev. L. J. Proctor and Mr. Horace Waller, members of the late Bishop Mackenzie's Mission to East Central Africa.

There is no news of importance from Natal.

The Cape Parliament was opened at Graham's Town on the 26th April, and the Governor, Sir Philip Wodehouse, delivered his speech on the 27th. He pointed out the necessity which existed for additional taxation to meet the deficit, and held out no hopes of any retrenchment in the public service. Anything like direct taxation it was found could not be levied, from the nature of the country and its population. A tax upon wool would have been very unpopular in the Eastern Province, and the only course hinted at in the speech was an increase of the customs duties. This hint was immediately about to be acted upon by those importers who had goods in bond. But Government promptly issued a notice that forbade any imported goods being entered for consumption—in fact, being taken out of bond—until the owners had signed a bond by which they engaged to pay, in addition to the present duty, any further sum upon any article of import which the Parliament might impose during the present session. Considerable excitement was occasioned in the colony by these proceedings. Measures were promptly taken to test their legality before the Supreme Court. The two sitting judges pronounced a strong opinion against the Government on the question, but postponed any decision for three days, in order that the collector of the customs at Cape Town might have an opportunity of communicating with the authorities at Graham's Town. On the morning when the case was to be heard a second time an *Extraordinary Gazette* published Act No. 1, 1864, by which the Governor was indemnified for any proceedings which he might have taken; and it was enacted, moreover, that if any action, suit, or proceeding should have been commenced against the officers of customs, either before or after the taking effect of this act, in respect of any act of theirs in obedience to the instructions of the Government, such action, suit, or proceeding should be dismissed, and the defendant or defendants should be entitled to his or their full costs. The import duties were also increased by 25. per cent. Upon the receipt of this *Gazette* the judges decided that they had no longer any alternative in the matter. The law had been passed and promulgated, and though such legislation was "unjust and tyrannical," they were there only to interpret and to enforce the law, and the application must be dismissed with costs. Since then a public meeting had been held, at which resolutions were adopted condemning the passing of the act, embodying the resolution of the house as illegal and unjust, and a petition to the Queen was prepared, praying Her Majesty to withhold her assent to the same. The validity of the proceedings of Parliament had been called in question by two of the members on account of irregularities in convening it, and the Supreme Court having refused an interdict, an action was to be brought to try the question. Trade was dull, but steady. There was every prospect of a favourable season, the early rains having allowed of extensive farming operations. Money was plentiful, and the rate of interest was on the decline.

It will be seen by our Parliamentary report that notice of motion next session for a committee to inquire into the affairs of the Cold Coast (West Africa) has been given by Mr. Adderley.

EXTRA CAPE MAIL.—APPREHENDED KAFFIR WAR.
(Per the *Hydaspes*.)

Cape of Good Hope, June 1.

Great alarm had been spread at the Cape by a telegram from the frontier, stating that there was danger of a Kaffir war. On the frontier it was even asserted that the paramount chief Krelli had crossed the Bashee in force, and had come in collision with the mounted police. Official telegrams from the Governor to the commander of the forces required the latter to proceed to the frontier immediately with every available man in the garrison. Accordingly, the commander of the forces had started in the Valorous with the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Regiment and a detachment of artillery, with a battery of Armstrong guns, for East London. The Cape Town Volunteers had tendered their services for garrison duty.

Later advices from the frontier reported this alarm to have been in a great measure groundless, nothing like actual collision having taken place. Krelli had been irritated by the reported intention of the Governor to remove the Tambookies from their Queenstown locations into Transkei, and on that account the chief had been assuming a threatening tone. In return the Governor was desirous of making a warlike demonstration. The British authorities considered there was no fear of any actual disturbances, and it was likely that the Governor would reconsider the Tambookie question.

The boundary line between the Orange Free State and the Basutas will, in all probability, be amicably settled.

The agitation against the arbitrary *ex post facto* legislation of the Government and Parliament, in connexion with the Customs' Protection Bill, was continued in the colony.

The Home Government had consented to the annexation of Noman's Land.

The *Narcissus* left May 25th.

WEST AFRICAN NATIVE BISHOPRIC FUND.

The Rev. Samuel Crowther has been designated Bishop of those parts of West Africa which lie beyond the limits of the Diocese of Sierra Leone. He has received the degree of D.D. from the University of Oxford, and has been consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This appointment marks an era which is full of hope for the extension of Christianity in those regions by a native church, under a native episcopacy. Mr. Crowther will still continue in connexion with the Church Missionary Society, receiving his salary from its funds, communicating with its secretaries, and acting in concurrence with the society in all the missionary operations in which the missionaries of the society are engaged.

But, beyond these operations, a native bishop will have large opportunities of stimulating native zeal, if he have the means of making small grants out of a fund at his own disposal, as a commencement and encouragement of local missionary efforts. For example, he may prompt native converts to erect preaching-houses or school-houses by offers of comparatively trifling pecuniary aid. He will be able to meet cases in which native chiefs, not yet converted to Christianity, apply to missionaries to send them teachers or schoolmasters, who will be ready partly to support them, if their first expenses and a portion of their salary be defrayed. He will be able to receive messengers from distant kings and tribes, who occasionally visit a mission station, and whom it is desirable to entertain as guests. He may engage interpreters and copyists in reducing new languages. In such and many similar cases, if the funds of the society are employed, there would be danger of checking that spirit of self-reliance and independent action which it is most desirable to cherish in the native church, while to many such objects the funds of the society are not applicable.

If the African native bishopric fulfils, through the blessing of the great Head of the Church, the expectations which may be reasonably entertained, there will be a constant and increasing call upon the fund from year to year, as the native church extends its bounds. It will soon require its own theological school and a Native Church Fund. In this prospect, the contributions now received will be husbanded with all due caution; but it is hoped

that when they are exhausted the appeal may be renewed. For whatever is contributed through this channel will tend to foster the free action and self-support of the native church, instead of an unhealthy dependence upon and subordination to a foreign missionary society. As the objects to which the fund is applicable increase in numbers and importance, the Bishop will take counsel with his native presbyters respecting its distribution.

The Bishop's fund might be further applied with advantage in occasionally redeeming Christian converts who have been carried into captivity, in promoting native industry by the gift of cotton gins or mechanical tools, and for other presents to chiefs; for which purposes the funds of the Church Missionary Society cannot properly be employed.

There will also be at first many extra personal expenses, such as an outfit, and, afterwards, journeys and voyages, for which the fund will be available.

It is the Bishop's wish that all contributions to this fund should be paid into the hands of the treasurers in London, with whom he proposes to communicate from time to time as to the appropriation of the fund, and to whom he will transmit an annual account of the expenditure, and notices of the missionary operations which it has helped to sustain.

Treasurers of the fund, John Gurney Hoare, Esq., T. Fowell Buxton, Esq., and the Rev. Henry Venn. Contributions to be paid to the West African Native Bishopric Fund, Messrs. Barnett, Hoare, and Co., Bankers, Lombard-street, City, E.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Rev. Edmund Gray, Yorkshire	£50	0	0
A Lady	50	0	0
J. Gurney Hoare, Esq.	50	0	0
"The Coral Fund," through Mrs. Furness	50	0	0
Rev. H. Venn	10	0	0
T. S. Harford, Esq., Blaise Castle, Bristol	50	0	0
T. Clegg, Esq., Manchester	50	0	0
A. Hamilton, Esq., 17, St. Helen's-place, London	20	0	0

[P.S. July 21.—The fund now amounts to above 1,000*l.*, but we have no further return of contributors' names.—Ed. A. T.]

Letters from Mr. William Craft (acting for the Company of African Merchants) give a gratifying account of his reception at Whydah, and of his efforts to open up a legitimate commerce in that stronghold of the African slave-trade. The people gave him a welcome reception, calling him "a truthful black Englishman"—he was born in the United States, understands English, and has been educated as a Christian—and expressing pleasure that he had come back so near the appointed time. The King had sent his stick a great many times to inquire after Mr. Craft's health—his stick is really an individual who bears that name, something like our Gold Stick might be sent to any person—and has requested him to proceed to the capital on a visit. The King has also renewed his assurance that both the people and the land shall be employed in the cultivation of cotton, and to this part of his enterprise Mr. Craft is now actively directing his attention. The means having been placed at his command by the Countess of Huntingdon's Missionary Society, he has established a school at Whydah, in which he hopes many children of that town will be educated. Although a portion of Whydah had been destroyed by fire, Mr. Craft's place of business fortunately escaped uninjured. He has every confidence in the success of his mission, and he says that what stimulates his hope is the fact that the people flock around him and give him their confidence.

AFRICAN EXPLORATION.—News has at length been received from Khartum of that enterprising explorer, Mr. Samuel Baker. It will be recollected by all who are interested in Nile discovery that after the departure of Captains Speke and Grant, Mr. Baker started for the south in search of the reported lake, Luta Nzige. His party has now been met with returning to Gondokoro, a few hours' march from that place; and as one of the swiftest vessels on the river, placed at his disposal by the generosity of Mr. Pethe- rick, was waiting his arrival at Gondokoro, we may hope soon to hear of his descending the Nile and communicating the results of his journey.—*Times*.

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 June	£751	0	0
Dowager Lady Buxton.	10	0	0
Edwin Bullock, Esq., Birmingham	5	0	0
Joseph Fielden, Esq., M.P., Blackburn	5	0	0
I. Africanus Horton, M.D., S.A.S., Gold Coast	1	1	0
Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq.	5	0	0
A Friend	2	0	0
Thomas Bazley, Esq., M.P.	1	1	0

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

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N.B. Post-office orders for Subscriptions to the *African Times* to be made payable to Wm. J. Johnson, 121, Fleet-street, at the General Post-office, London.

The African Times.

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1864.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

A slave steamer lately made her appearance off the coast of Dahomey, but in consequence of the cruisers being on the look out, she was driven off. She was too fleet to be captured by our slow concerns, but some five and thirty shots were fired at her. Her intention seemed to have been to embark slaves at Auhwy, not very far distant from our abandoned fort of Quittah!

We some time since alluded with deep regret to the death of Mr. William Horsell, a member of the Society of Friends, who, with Mr. and Miss Bischoff, had a short time before left England on a philanthropic mission to West Africa. We have now the sorrow to announce the death of Mr. and Miss Bischoff, who we are informed, died at Abeokuta; but no particulars have reached us.

Believing that any deficiency in Major de Ruvignes' accounts, as Civil Commandant at Accra, will have been caused by extravagance, and not by any purposed dishonesty, we hope to hear of his making the *amende* to all whom he may have injured there, as we understand that by the death of a relative he has become entitled to property.

The consecration of the Rev. Samuel Crowther, D.D., as Bishop of the Niger territory, took place in Canterbury Cathedral, on the 29th June, the new Bishop of Peterborough and the second Bishop of Tasmania being consecrated at the same time. The service was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishops of Winchester, Lincoln, Gloucester and Bristol, and Victoria.

The Government of the Cape of Good Hope having it in contemplation to increase the import duties, issued a notice forbidding any goods being taken out of bond until the owners had signed an obligation to pay upon them any additional duty that the Parliament might impose during the session then commencing. We have heard of extraordinary "Governors' legislation" before this, but it would be difficult to find a precedent for such an edict as that of Sir Philip Wodehouse.

By an order of the Supreme Court at Cape Coast, dated April 25, 1864, and signed by "Michael R. Barry, Acting Chief Justice," no person will, after June 1, 1864, be permitted to plead in the principal courts at Cape Coast without a certificate

from the chief justice for the time being, granting him permission to do so. Five guineas per annum is to be paid for each certificate, which may at any time be suspended, "for such reason or reasons as may appear sufficient to the said judge." After any such suspension, the person must obtain a fresh certificate before he can be again allowed to appear—paying the said fee of five guineas, as before. This may lead to an orderly, but not to a very independent body of pleaders, we should think.

We publish on another page a paper printed and circulated by the Church Missionary Society, with the object of obtaining contributions to the "West African Native Bishopric Fund." This is an effort which has all our sympathies, and to which we heartily wish success, because we know that in Africa nothing can be done without money. We append the amount already subscribed, with the names of a few of the donors.

The *Company of African Merchants (Limited)* have paid an interim dividend of six per cent. on paid-up capital to June 30. It was stated at their annual general meeting that the accounts could not be conveniently made up until December 31 on the Coast; that they will be made up yearly to that date, and that the annual general meetings would be held as soon as possible after that period. Great satisfaction was expressed by the shareholders that the entire preliminary expenses were about 1,400l. only; and "it was stated in reply to questions put by them that it was not in contemplation at present to make another call."

It is very satisfactory to be able to state that the old burial ground in the centre of the town of Cape Coast has been closed, and a new one opened on the right side of the road leading to the salt pond. Lieutenant-Governor Hackett deserves praise for this; and we are glad to hear that other beneficial sanitary changes are in contemplation.

OUR FOURTH VOLUME.

We feel that we are passing out of our infancy. That infancy, we hope, has not been a weak one. From the moment when we entered upon our work we have desired to be strong, for Africa. For there were indeed evils like coiled serpents to grapple with. We had to contend with everything that was thwarting the efforts of the good and hindering the advance of true civilization. We know how to excuse much of the opposition we encountered. The moral atmosphere of but too many places on the West Coast was so tainted, that Europeans had for the most part thrown off all those restraints which in their own countries they would have acknowledged. Official and unofficial life were pretty much on a par; and it could not be expected that the educated natives should have been able to free themselves from the influence of a baneful example. But for missionary labour, a true picture drawn of our West African settlements would have been revolting and disgraceful indeed. Into this dark arena we descended, fully conscious as regards the combats we should have to sustain. But we had faith in the influence of light. If we could only flood that arena with the light of public opinion, we felt that sooner or later our adversaries, the enemies of Africa, strong or feeble, must change their skins, or slink into holes and corners where they might hide. Consequently, the more we have been opposed, the more light we have endeavoured to throw in. And we enter upon the fourth year of our laborious combat with increased resolve, if that indeed were possible, to leave no Christian effort unemployed for the complete defeat of those auxiliaries of evil which have so long run riot in Africa—to strive to the uttermost for the introduction of all those aids to industrial development and material progress that can be made to work in union with Christianity, by which alone a moral regeneration may also be obtained.

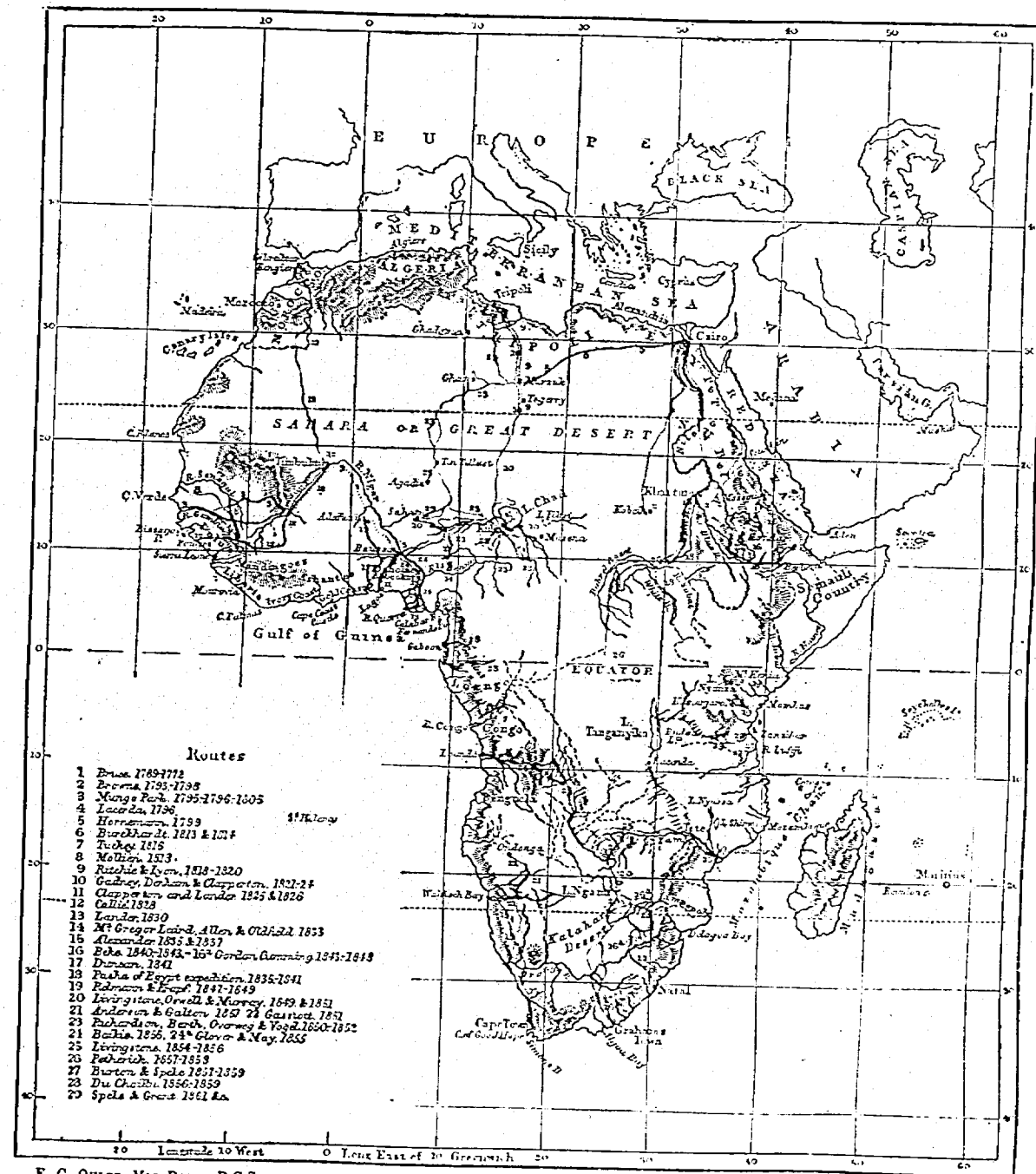
ASHANTEE AND GOLD COAST ROAD.

In our very brief notice last month of an interview between the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies and a deputation of the African-Aid Society, our readers will have noticed that the first on our list of *remedies* was "that the road from Cape Coast to Prahsoo should be made a good permanent military road." We advocate permanent remedies. Temporary expedients are very well in great emergencies, but should always be

MAP OF AFRICA,

WITH ROUTES OF DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN EXPLORERS.

PRESENTED TO THE "AFRICAN TIMES" BY DR. NORTON SHAW, SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.



accompanied by measures that may by their enduring and cumulative results render such temporary expedients unnecessary in the future. And such a measure is that above suggested—a good military road from the Coast to the Ashantee frontier. We must beg of our friends that they will not tire of our returning again and again to this theme of roads—roads—roads in Africa. It forces itself upon us at every step of our progress. And we are compelled to be persistent. It is not some novel means for promoting civilization that we thus contend for; not some panacea of our creating or discovery for the evils of barbarism. Long ago—when this journal commenced advocating the great interests of Africa, and of Great Britain as connected with Africa—we instanced the road formed by the invading Romans in their barbarian Britain. That road was at the same time a prime element of military power and agent of civilization, as was also that made through the Highlands of Scotland last century. And such as that was in Britain would the Cape Coast and Prahsoo Road be for the Gold Coast. We write of only that one road at present. We are content to succeed piecemeal. We do not expect an army of road makers to be set to work at once in every direction throughout the Protected Territories. There are several necessary preliminaries before this would be practicable, however desirable it may be; and we hope never to be found advocating impracticable measures. If we were so found, we should deserve to lose, and should soon justly lose, that influence for good which we are now able to make available for Africa. The good military road from Cape Coast to Prahsoo is practicable. By this we do not merely mean to say that there are no insuperable difficulties opposed by the nature of the country which the embryo road now traverses, or by the absence of the necessary media for construction. We mean also that the great, the prime difficulty with which we were heretofore met, can no longer exist. That difficulty was—no means, no funds. It was the great money difficulty, which, where it intervenes, impedes all further progress until it can be removed. And we now say that this no longer exists. Our statements of the large economy that would result from a road expenditure between the sea coast and the Ashantee frontier can no longer be termed visionary even by the widest redtapist. It must be known and felt by all who are concerned in the government of the Gold Coast dependencies, that if such a road had existed, a hundred thousand pounds in money would have been saved, and a frightful expenditure of human life would have been avoided. There were no ordinary funds for supplying that one hundred thousand pounds. It can only have come out of extraordinary ones; and those same extraordinary ones can and must furnish the extra amount required for the construction of that road. That road is a necessary sequence in the extraordinary military expenditure which the Ashantee difficulty has occasioned. That road will render the want of any further hundreds of thousands of pounds to meet similar difficulties in future altogether improbable, not to say impossible. That road will virtually place Cape Coast Castle, with all its means of defence and prestige of power, on the Ashantee frontier; and under such circumstances an Ashantee invasion becomes too mad a freak for those wise and calculating savages to commit. The money to construct that road has become a portion of the necessary military expenditure of the Ashantee war, and its application to such a purpose cannot be neglected without great prejudice—without crippling our powers for negotiation, as well as for repression and defence. We know, alas! but too well, that we might have insisted and insisted year after year on the necessity of such a road as an aid to material progress, to the development of the rich resources, and consequently of the wealth, trade, and revenue of the country, without avail. There were “no funds for such a purpose.” And it was partially true. A degree of ministerial persistence and determination was necessary for obtaining the funds from the Imperial Exchequer, far greater than any Secretary of State for the Colonies was inclined to exhibit and exert. A phantom of parliamentary opposition guarded the approaches to the national purse. “It is of no use going to Parliament for money for Africa.” We call this a phantom; and although it had all the effect of a reality, we are convinced it was but a phantom. We never believed so ill of the House of Commons as

to credit the assertion that there was any difficulty in that direction, beyond the difficulty of getting a Secretary of State to take the trouble to demonstrate to Parliament that the sum which might have been required was such as it concerned the reputation of this country as the great Apostle of Industry and Progress to expend, and that it was likely to produce industrial and economical results. And although it seems to be now of comparatively light importance, because the reasons for the construction of the road are now primarily to be derived from military and diplomatic urgency, we still believe there was no other difficulty in the way of obtaining the money than that of persuading a Secretary of State to apply for it. But that state of things as regards Africa has, we hope, passed away for ever. The neglect of making one or two roads through a country that would in a very few years have repaid the money tenfold by the benefits of increased trade and consumption of British manufactures—this neglect was near hurling a Ministry from power. The onslaught was so furious and determined, that the Government were compelled to make the question one of vital import as regarded their tenure of office; and a narrow majority of seven only prevented our having to write upon the page of history that a British Ministry was driven from office by events that could never have occurred, had they been enlightened enough to expend a very few thousand pounds in that most productive of all national outlay, road making. A limited amount of road making in Africa has thus become mixed up with the question of ministerial existence. This touches nearly. This shows a “Nemesis” on the side of Africa, should Africa be longer neglected. And this, we hope and believe, will obtain for questions of African progress and industrial development a far greater degree of attention and interest among persons in authority than they have hitherto been able to provoke.

NAVIGATION OF THE RIVER NIGER.

AGAIN our hopes are disappointed. Once again the important districts through which the Niger River flows are condemned to unproductiveness. Once again the work of civilization in the interior of Africa is impeded. Once again we are to appear to the deluded kings and chiefs of the Niger as promise-breakers. And why is this? Because of any unwillingness of those departments of Her Majesty's Government to whom it appertains to decide what is necessary for the successful accomplishment of a great work in which this country has been many years engaged? No. It has been placed beyond doubt that the Premier and the Foreign-office are in favour of granting such a moderate subsidy for establishing steam navigation on the Niger, as is indispensable, because no parties can or will undertake the work without such national participation in the certain preliminary loss. We insert among the Parliamentary proceedings of the month an explanation of the “why” this great work in Central Africa has not been proceeded with. The reply of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to some questions put by Lord Elcho explains the matter, on which additional light has since been thrown by the publication of the “Niger Papers” laid before Parliament. Private traders connected with the African Coast trade, from the River Gambia down to the River Cameroons—private traders, none of whose interest, with two or three trifling exceptions, could in any way be interfered with by such a subsidy having been granted—private traders, none of whom would ever consent to take any part in such work without receiving a Government subsidy—private traders, many of whom have said over and over again that such a work deserves and requires a much larger subsidy than that for which the “Company of African Merchants” offered to undertake the risk and trouble of carrying out the Government views and forwarding the great national work—have been able to influence the Treasury against the grant of the money, without which all the desire of the Premier, the Foreign-office, and all other departments, is unavailing. The private traders have presented memorials and closed the purse-strings of the nation, so that the Company of African Merchants and the West African Company (whom, we believe, they had agreed to associate with themselves in this specific work) are brought to a standstill. To the company it is a

matter of no consequence whatever. We attended its first annual general meeting of shareholders, and the policy of the directors, not to have anything to do with the Niger, unless the Government would, by a subsidy, participate in the inevitable preliminary loss, was fully endorsed. It is of no consequence to the company, but it is of very great consequence and importance to the cause of progressive civilization in Africa; it may prove to be of very great importance to England in a national point of view. We cannot, however, enter further upon the subject now. Dr. Baikie is recalled, and will not, we believe, return to the river. In fact, it would be absurd for Her Majesty's Government to continue to spend 2,000*l.* a-year in the river for nothing—and it must be for nothing with such a policy of abstention as seems to have been adopted. Dr. Baikie's residence on the Niger was with the object of keeping alive the desire of the kings and chiefs for a steam navigation and a permanently established trade in the river—with the object of assuring them that the promises of this made to them by the agents of the British Government, and the stipulations for this, in treaties made with them by British Government agents, would be fulfilled.

We regret that the new Bishop of the Niger districts does not go out to his diocese under more favourable circumstances. We are firmly convinced that there is no Christian civilization possible in Africa unless legitimate trade and an industrial stimulus which may lead to the development of material resources, accompany the preaching of the Gospel. We wish him God-speed, but we should have had greater confidence in rapid results of his episcopal supervision if there had been growing industrial communities to act upon.

We shall publish from time to time the "Niger Papers" that have been laid before Parliament, and to which we have above alluded. We should have given them in exact order as they stand in the Government publication, but that we have waited many months for Mr. McCoskry's report of what took place in the last ascent of the "Niger" by the Investigator during the autumn of 1863. The Government had until now withheld it. We deeply regret this, because we think it would have shown the necessity of immediate action in the Niger so strongly as to have caused independent members of Parliament to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the immediate fulfilment of the promises so long made to the chiefs and kings in the river. This document is so interesting and important, that we therefore give it precedence. It will be found in our 12th page. Next month, if our space will permit, we shall commence the publication of the papers serialim.

THE TORTURE SYSTEM IN CAPE COAST PRISON.

If there could have been a doubt remaining in any mind as to the necessity of such a journal as the *African Times*, we think it must have been removed by the letters which appear in this first number of our Fourth Volume, relative to the so-called "Administration of Justice at Cape Coast." As in the case of the gross abuses and oppression which had long been practised in the Eastern Provinces, where the Governor took action against the local authorities in consequence of our *exposé*, so in this of the prison of Cape Coast, our existence was necessary for making known iniquity, and procuring a remedy. The letter No. 1, on the Administration of Justice at Cape Coast, was in our possession and in type two months ago. But our great object is not notoriety for ourselves even in the good work we are performing, but the speedy and effective correction of evil. The charges contained in that letter against certain individuals, whose names we have not considered it necessary at present to insert, were too serious to admit of our public action without our obtaining what we might be justified in considering a full confirmation of them from others than the persons to whom we were originally indebted for the revelation. That confirmation we soon obtained. By this we do not mean a full confirmation of all there set forth, but of the alleged fact that prisoners are chained and otherwise ill-treated before trial, and have been also cruelly dealt with. But we felt convinced, also, that Her Majesty's Government were the first who ought to be made acquainted with the information we

* These letters are shut out by press of matter.—Printer.

had received. We placed it before the Colonial-office as a charge of a very serious nature, necessarily calling for inquiry. And we do no more than render justice to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, when we make known the promptitude with which he immediately ordered such inquiries to be instituted.

If these charges be true—and, unhappily, we have but little room left for any doubt on that head—it must, we think, be felt that the responsibility cannot be limited to the mere subordinates who may be implicated in the practices denounced. We say this with deep and sincere regret. We had these charges in view last month, as well as the lamentable military "catastrophe," which had occupied the attention of the House of Commons, when we said that "Tekel" had been legibly written by the unseen hand on our Gold Coast system. It must be borne in mind that the administrative area at Cape Coast Castle is extremely limited—that, in familiar phrase, it may be said to lie in a nutshell. In the case of the abuses in the Eastern Provinces, we admitted the excuse of the chief authority not being there resident, although we did not consider it to be by any means a sufficient one. But in this of the prisons of Cape Coast there can be no shifting of responsibility from the shoulders of those in authority there. If these charges be true, what has the Chief Justice, now Acting Governor, been about? and what has the Governor himself, who, it is said, visited the gaol every Sunday, been about? No one can have defended Governor Pine, upheld his authority, and endeavoured to strengthen his hands more than we have. But, we say again, if these charges be true, he, as well as the Chief Justice, and every guilty subordinate, is responsible. Yes; if these charges be true, nothing short of a clean sweep at the Gold Coast will, we think, suffice. The letter No. 2,* if even only one-half of the statement it contains be correct, so aggravates the case of the impeached official body, that we seem to be left without even one of its members to whom we can look as free from complicity in the evil. And we cannot help feeling that this is a great misfortune, not only in a moral and administrative point of view, but also because the indirectly-impeached authorities have been called upon to report as to the truth of allegations which they can only report to be true by condemning themselves. For in the limited area of Cape Coast Castle and Town, everything that is done in or out of prison is known of all. There is no such thing as concealment possible. It was not only the business of the principal authorities to know what was being done by officials acting under their authority and control, but they could not have failed to know what was being done. And thus to have known, and to have permitted (if the charges be true), constitutes a veritable participation in what might and ought to have been prevented.

We have no doubt there have been and are some honourable men connected with the Cape Coast administration who have deplored what was going on, but who, not being legally responsible, overlooked their moral responsibility, because they could not admit it without interfering with heads of departments or denouncing those with whom they were compelled to live and associate. It is thus, where there is no organ of public opinion, that evils and abuses grow and abound, until they attain to an offensive turpitude that renders it impossible for them to be longer concealed. And then they come upon the world like the pestilential vapour of some rotten marsh, where the poison has loaded a dead atmosphere, which becomes at last overcharged. Such a marsh and such an atmosphere may well be said to describe Cape Coast, if all that we hear be true, and a strong wind of public indignation and Government power alone can purify them.

We sympathise strongly with the authorities at home when charges of this nature are brought against their officials in such a colony as that of Cape Coast. It is so difficult for them to ascertain the truth or falsehood of the accusations thus made. They cannot be expected on every such occasion to send out a commission of inquiry; they must feel great reluctance, and even repugnance, to discredit in any way their *employés*, whom it is necessary, in the interests of the public service to support as much as possible. They seem, therefore, to have no other course

open to them than to send to the accused authorities, or to others living in the most intimate relations with them; and it is too much to expect, if the authorities have been negligent or culpable, that either they or their friends will be ready to admit what, if admitted, must weigh heavily against those inculpated. But though thus sympathising, we must insist on this occasion on something more than a mere denial on the part of the Cape Coast authorities. We shall expect to see that denial accompanied by evidence, into the validity of which we may be able ourselves to inquire. If not—if a mere denial is to suffice—we may expect to hear soon of the thumb screws being imported from the new manufactory of these implements in the United States.

And more than this; we should feel as honourable men, were we in the position of the authorities at Cape Coast, a great disinclination to the task of whitewashing ourselves. We write in the possibility of all the charges brought against them being malicious and unfounded. We should certainly in such a case feel it a duty we owed to ourselves to invite Her Majesty's Government to entrust some unimpeachable authority—the commodore on the coast, for instance—to institute an inquiry on oath at Cape Coast Castle. Such an inquiry need not detain the flag ship more than a day or two from other important duties—a loss to the public service that would be compensated for a hundredfold by the vindication of public servants, or the restoration of the character of Great Britain that may have been momentarily tarnished by acts repugnant to humanity and civilization.

SLAVE TRADE—CUBA.

IMPORTANT STATE PAPER, U.S.

Our readers may have perceived some allusions in the daily press to an event which had excited some remark in New York—viz., the extradition by the United States Government, at the request of the Cuban authorities, of Don José Augustin Argüelles, or Captain Argüelles. In order that this affair may be quite understood, we may state that the celebrated slave clipper steamer Ciceron landed a cargo of slaves in Cuba, from Dahomey, of from 1,200 to 1,300 individuals. They were landed in the district over which Mr. Argüelles exercised authority as lieutenant-governor. Argüelles captured the whole cargo, and with them Senor Zulueta and other powerful individuals who are engaged as capitalists in the nefarious traffic. These persons, although caught "in flagrante," although taken in the very act, have proved themselves to be sufficiently powerful to free themselves from all condemnation and to obtain the ruin of the man who had interfered with their unholy gains. There was a difference between the number of slaves seized and the number surrendered to the supreme authorities of the island. Zulueta and his worthy companions denounced Argüelles to the captain-general as having sold that number of slaves which constituted the difference alluded to. Argüelles maintains that the negroes thus deficient in the surrender were given by him to the parties to whom he is represented as having sold them—given by him for the aid and assistance rendered by those persons in effecting the capture, and as a price indeed agreed to be paid to them for that assistance. And considering the slave-trade morality of the island, this cannot be considered impossible. But as Zulueta and his brother slave-trade capitalists denounced Argüelles, so the persons who had thus received the slaves from Argüelles swore that they did not receive them as a gift, but that they paid from 700* to 750 dollars each for them, while Argüelles maintains that the only crime of which he has been guilty was in so far exceeding his instructions and the intentions of the chief authority, as to have captured such powerful people, such mighty slavetraders, as Zulueta and his friends. And we must say that the impunity which these people enjoy, although they were thus taken in the very act of having superintended the landing of the cargo, &c., of which they were proprietors, leads very strongly to the supposition, by those who know something of the purity of Spanish administration and of Spanish local law courts in such matters, that Argüelles may

* Argüelles is said to have sold about 180 at this price.

after all not be the guilty person he has been stated to be, and has been condemned as being. He is now a convict in the slave gang, while Zulueta and his friends are at liberty to arrange for retrieving the loss Argüelles inflicted on them in capturing an otherwise safely-landed cargo of 1,200 slaves, worth to them one million of dollars, or 200,000*l.*—to arrange for retrieving this by importing other cargoes in the Ciceron from Dahomey.

In the following important State paper there are phrases which give the impression that Mr. Savage was not entirely satisfied of the guilt of Argüelles; not entirely satisfied that all the testimony brought against him was true. If Argüelles be indeed guilty of the great crime imputed to him by the exasperated slave importers, and supposed to have been proved by the oaths and evidence of the self-declared slave-buyers, he deserves his punishment. But we know so much of the iniquity of the slave-traders, such as Zulueta and his friends, as to feel some doubt of the truthfulness of evidence adduced by them in support of their allegations against a man who had inflicted on them so heavy a pecuniary loss.

No one, however, can doubt the sincerity of the United States Government in their expressed desire to put an end to the iniquitous slave importations into Cuba. And the difficulties to be overcome in Cuba, in putting down slave importations, comes out very forcibly also in the following:—

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, Communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of May 28, further information relative to the delivery of a person charged with crime against Spain to the officers of that Government.

JUNE 20, 1864.—Read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate of the United States.

In further answer to the Senate's resolution of the 28th ult., requesting to be informed whether the President "has, and when, authorised a person alleged to have committed a crime against Spain, or any of its dependencies, to be delivered up to officers of that Government; and whether such delivery was had, and if so, under what authority of law or of treaty it was done," I transmit a copy of a despatch of the 10th instant to the Secretary of State from the acting consul of the United States at Havannah.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Washington, June 18, 1864.

Mr. Savage to Mr. Seward.

United States Consulate General,

Havannah, June 10, 1864.

Sir,—I had the honour to receive on the 7th instant your despatch of the 14th ultimo, No. 87, enclosing slips cut from the New York Tribune and New York World, of the 13th May, wherein it is stated that the arrest of the Spanish officer, Don José Augustin Argüelles, was sought on the ground of his opposition to the slave-trade. After careful inquiry from well-informed persons, I cannot discover any foundation in truth for the statements of those journals upon that point.

Argüelles and his friends may have given out that the slave-traders here have brought their influence to bear on him for the purpose of crushing him, for having seized the expedition landed at Colon. The party said to be interested in that expedition is very wealthy, his influence correspondingly great, and it is probable that he has been in some measure the means of bringing to the knowledge of the captain-general and the commissioner of the superior court the proceedings of Mr. Argüelles and his accomplices.

Beyond a doubt it was the duty of Mr. Argüelles, as lieutenant-governor of the district, to capture the expedition, and to surrender to the governor-general of the island all the negroes composing the same. He discharged the first part of that duty, and not only failed to perform fully the second part, but also committed the crime of selling into slavery a portion of the negroes. This fact seems to be clearly established. Mr. Argüelles' opinion may have been in opposition to the slave-trade, but his conduct proves the contrary. Mr. P. Forcade purchased

NIGER PAPERS.

(Sub-Enclosure in No. 8, page 19).

MR. M'COSKRY TO LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR GLOVER.

Lagos, October 24, 1863.

Sir,—In accordance with your wishes, I herewith subjoin a report of the last Niger expedition in Her Majesty's ship Investigator.

Having on the 3rd ultimo taken in charge the despatches and supplies for Dr. Baikie, and received your instructions, I went on board Her Majesty's ship Investigator, and soon after she crossed the bar and anchored close to the Rattlesnake, Commodore Wilmot, who, having supplied her with officers, men, and fuel, despatched her the same day for the Nun.

The Rattlesnake (in which I was offered a passage, and which I gladly accepted) followed next morning, and early on the 5th came up with the Investigator, at anchor some eight miles from the Nun. The Rattlesnake towed her the remaining distance, and this day and the next were employed in putting on board the Investigator fuel and other supplies for the expedition.

On the morning of the 7th all was ready, and the Commodore, having given the commander instructions with reference to the treaties he made, supplied him with drafts of the same, and furnished him with presents for the chief with whom he treated.

I conceived that any interference of mine in this department would be unbecoming, and therefore whatever credit is due for the negotiation of treaties belongs to the Commodore and his officers.

We crossed the bar and anchored off the mission station at 2 p.m.; and the commander having gone ashore, the Rev. Mr. Crowther called a meeting of some men styling themselves chiefs of Aearsa, who the same day signed a treaty, and promised to protect the English flag, which was hoisted; they claim both banks of the river. These chiefs, and the people I saw here, struck me as being the lowest type of African I have yet seen; the acquisition and consumption of rum and tobacco seem to be the chief end of their existence.

Having taken on board the Rev. S. Crowther and some other passengers, at 10 a.m. next morning we proceeded up the river; and while within the influence of the tide, saw nothing but a gloomy luxuriance of mangrove vegetation. At 3 p.m. we passed sundry islands, in the neighbourhood of which some small clearings, growing bananas and sugar-cane, were seen. As we ascended these become larger and more numerous; and as the oil, palm, and silk-cotton tree supersede the mangrove, villages became frequent, the population turning out to gaze in wonder at the steamer; canoes, said to be from Brass, are seen going up and coming down the river, the one going for and the other returning with palm oil; they are all armed with one or more small cannonades.

At 7 a.m. on the 13th anchored at Onitsha, the land being well above the highest level of the river, and from the bank slopes upwards gently till it attains, a few miles, the height of 400 or 500 feet; the town is rather over a mile from the landing. The Church Missionary Society have here a station, which has a clean and healthy appearance. The soil is good and easily cleared. Palm oil is already produced in considerable quantities, and cotton only requires a steady demand to increase its production to an almost unlimited extent.

The king and chiefs of this place are desirous of receiving emigrants from British settlements; they would readily grant them land to cultivate, and afford them all the assistance and protection in their power.

Promising to make a long stay on our return, we were again under weigh by 3 p.m., and soon after passed the pretty village Asabi.

On the 15th, at 9.40 a.m., we passed the sandstone cliffs of Idde, waterworn and bare to the height of 80 feet, then sloping and covered with vegetation to the top. On the morning of the 16th arrived at Gbebe; here Mr. Crowther and the rest of the passengers left us, the station here being the highest point of missionary enterprise on the Niger. The King of Gbebe died about nine months ago, and the Govern-

thirty-eight of the negroes—his administrator, or steward, twelve. Both have declared, as I am reliably informed, that they received the negroes from Argüelles, and paid him the money for them. Others, in whose possession several of the negroes were found, have testified to the same effect. The fact is also established, that the negroes sold were represented by him as having died of the small-pox, and that their bodies had been burnt; and to give weight to his representation in the manner prescribed by law, he made the curate of the parish and others, by bribery, testify accordingly. The parties implicated with him are in prison, and will be sentenced to the chain-gang.

Blustering, effrontery, and alleged charges against General Dulce and Judge Navarro, the commissioner of the superior court (who, I understand, is a faithful, upright judge), and high-flowing sentences to make it appear that he has been very ill-used, and made a victim to General Dulce, have been freely uttered by Mr. Argüelles and by some of his would-be sympathisers, from some motive or other, both here and in the north. But all their efforts cannot prove him innocent. It is indeed time that an example was made to deter others from the commission of the same crime.

The slave-trade never could have been carried on in this island without the connivance of the authorities at the places where the landings were made; and generally speaking, as all persons living in the neighbourhood shared in the bribery, it was very difficult for the captain-general and the superior court, however disposed they might be to stop the traffic, to discover the negroes and bring the parties to punishment. I believe General Dulce, the captain-general, is determined to put an end, if possible, to this nefarious trade, and his exertions so far have met with signal success. He assured me a few weeks since that only five expeditions of African negroes had been landed in Cuba since he took command of the island; that four and one-half had been captured, and he was endeavouring to discover the missing half. Since that conversation, two other landings have been effected, and the negroes found and seized; one of them was that of the brig Huntress, which I reported to you in my despatch No. 143.

There are other mistakes in the articles of the *World* and *Tribune*; among them, that Argüelles' wife was in the room at the time of his arrest in New York. There was a woman keeping his company in that city, but she was not his wife.

I presume the department is aware that all African negroes captured by the Government are declared *emancipados*, and distributed among the planters and others, as labourers, for a monthly compensation, a part of which accrues to the Government. It is asserted, and generally believed, that a large *bonus* is paid for the preference, there being always a great number of applicants for such labourers; and what is worse, that many of the *emancipados* have never been accounted for otherwise than by death. A planter having both slaves and *emancipados* on his estate, if unscrupulous, will, whenever one of his slaves dies, report one of the *emancipados* as having died. A little gold judiciously distributed among the curas, captains of the district, &c., will establish the fact, and the *emancipado*, so reported as dead, remains a slave for life.

Such cases, doubtless, have occurred, but it is to be hoped not to so great an extent as it is reported and believed. I know it is extremely difficult to prevent such outrages where it is almost impossible to prove them, for the reason that witnesses are not easily procured.—I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SAYAGE, Vice Consul-General.

Hon. F. W. Seward,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE CAPE.—Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Percy Douglas, who has been appointed Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, is the eldest son of the late Sir Howard Douglas, who was Governor of New Brunswick from 1823 to 1829, and Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands from 1835 till 1840. The new Governor was born in 1805, and succeeded to the baronetcy in 1861. He has been Inspector of Militia and Assistant Adjutant-General to the forces.

ment is now administered by three of the principal chiefs, two of whom we met at the mission-house; the other chief was ill. I learnt that here, and in all the towns about, the smallpox had been, and was now carrying off numbers of the people. This town owes allegiance to the Alfo of Idde, but it is virtually independent. By 11 a.m. we were moving towards Lukoja, where we arrived at noon. Dr. Baikie soon after came on board, and looked in better health than I expected. I delivered to him his mail-bag and packages; he informed me afterwards that he received letters now which should have come last year, and others, he feared, were missing altogether.

We remained at Lukoja till the afternoon of the 19th, when, Dr. Baikie having come on board, we started for Egga at noon. Next day we stopped at Bidda, called upon the chief, and desired him to send messengers to Bidda to announce our coming to the King, and also get him to send men with us to procure canoes at Egga.

On the 21st, at 8.25 a.m., anchored in the creek close to the town of Egga, and the men sent on shore about the canoes; during the day the natives brought off over half a ton of ivory, most of which they sold. Before dark the vessel went into the stream, to avoid as much as possible the swarms of various insects which infest the river. Next morning, the canoes having come off, prepared to start; we then gave them our interpreter, servants, and luggage to convey; and the commander, the second master, Dr. Baikie, and myself preferring the ship's gig, we pushed off at ten a.m., and about three miles higher up crossed to the left bank, and pulled up a small river which passed the village of Wonagi, six miles of Bidda. The current was strong, and though the distance passed in the bush could not be more than fifty-five miles, we did not reach Wonagi till 9 p.m. on the 24th, and being there detained till the King sent horses, we only got to Bidda at 6 p.m. on the 25th. The country between Wonagi and Bidda is all under cultivation; the shea-butter trees standing in the farms with just sufficient intervals between to avoid interference with the growth of the corn crop below. Some distance outside the gate we were met by a mounted chief and a party of horsemen, who saluted us, and led the way through the town to the King's residence, where we waited only a few minutes, and were then, without ceremony, ushered into the presence of the King. He was reclining on a mat, and had some spread for us, the custom here being to talk in this position; he said he merely wanted to see and welcome us, and, as we must be tired, he would not detain us, but would send to show us our quarters—a very sensible proceeding, of which we took immediate advantage and retired. I may here state that this day, and every day while we remained, the King sent food, both cooked and uncooked, sufficient for three times the number of our whole party, and he also sent cowries sufficient to defray all incidental daily expenses.

Next day we made an official visit, and his Majesty, without loss of time, went straight to the subject most interesting to him, and indeed to us. He said his father had seen white men at Rabba, his brother also had seen them, and he himself had been visited several times; to both his predecessors and himself hopes had been held out of permanent trading establishments being formed in the country, but up to this time he had not seen any, and he did not know what to think. He said it was not his custom to deceive any one; the productions which he had before said his country afforded were still to be found, and his people were anxious to partake of the benefit they knew the Yoruba country derived from its trade with the white men. Dr. Baikie, acting as interpreter and spokesman, explained to him the reason why as yet no trading establishments had been made so high up as his country, and how the factories lower down the river, of which he had heard, had finally been withdrawn in consequence of the death of Mr. Macgregor Laird. He assured the King that the attention of the people in England was more than ever directed to the countries on the Niger, and that there was little doubt that next year at least one expedition, fitted out expressly for trade, would ascend the river. He seemed so far satisfied with the explanation, and, alluding to the war in the Yoruba country, he said he was in favour of the Ibadians having

direct road to Lagos, and he said when opportunity offered he would assist them. He added, however, that he thought, if he kept a road open from his country to Ibadan, we should keep it open thence to Lagos. Nevertheless, he maintained that the river is the safest and easiest route, and he urged us not to neglect it. He promised full protection now as far as the confluence, and in a short time he hoped to be able to protect us efficiently as far as Idde; lower down we must manage ourselves. I learned that he can turn out 2,000 armed horsemen, and I saw reason to believe it. The walls of Bidda enclose a rectangular area of 3,000 by 2,500 yards or thereabouts; they are seven to eight feet high, with a ditch ten feet wide, and as many deep; the walls are in good repair. The population may be 70,000; the town does not occupy more than two-thirds of the enclosed space.

On the 28th we gave the King the presents; he examined each article, and at the end seemed much gratified. To-day it was settled that only loads made up in native fashion could safely be sent to the Rev. Mr. Hinderer, at Ibadan, and these the King could not despatch for some days to come; he promised, however, they should be sent the first safe opportunity. The two men who were to be left to take charge of them I instructed to make the best of their way from Ibadan, through Ketu and Okedano, to Lagos.

This afternoon Commander Gambier, who had fever the day before, becoming worse, Dr. Baikie advised his immediate return to the vessel; and as the King would not hear of the whole party leaving, it was arranged that I should accompany him to the vessel next day; Dr. Baikie and Mr. Adlam remaining to receive the return presents and letter for Her Majesty and you, which the King said he would write.

On the 29th, at 7.30, we left Bidda, embarked in the boat at 10 a.m., and pulling all day with the current, arrived on board the Investigator at 7.45 p.m. Dr. Baikie and Mr. Adlam arrived on the afternoon of the 4th instant; the horses from the King arrived and were received on board safely on the afternoon of the 5th, and at 1 p.m. on the 6th anchored at Lukoja; observing that, although at Egga the river had fallen at least two feet, it had here risen about six inches. As the Investigator would go to-morrow to Gbebe to procure wood, I decided upon remaining with Dr. Baikie till the 9th, by which time he would be ready with his despatches and letters. I had thus a few days to look around me at Lukoja; and the result of my observation is, that I consider it better adapted for the residence of Europeans than any other part in the Niger. The situation is dry, and the water good; the soil is rich—corn, yams, sugarcane, and other tropical productions growing luxuriantly with very little labour. Cotton of three varieties is indigenous, and is not grown in large quantities, simply because there is no demand for it. This place possesses peculiar advantages for the establishment of trading factories, inasmuch as it is isolated, and free from the dangers and annoyances incident to living in a populous native town, ruled by a native chief. Here Dr. Baikie has already established the nucleus of a British settlement: the people under his protection are all free, many of them having been redeemed by him. They have brought a considerable tract of land under cultivation, and the place seems perfectly self-supporting. In all disputes the people refer to him, and abide by his decision. Massaba is willing to define a boundary within which British law should be administered; and if this was done, and the place managed with good sense and judgment, it would speedily become a most important centre of commerce and civilization. There, as elsewhere, the utmost caution would be necessary in dealing with runaway slaves seeking protection wherever possible; full value should be paid as redemption, but cases might arise in which the slave should be sent back to the master; for if the natives once see indiscriminate protection given to runaways, our position there would speedily become untenable.

On the 11th, at 5.30, we left Gbebe on our way down. The chiefs of the place would not sign the treaty, referring the commander to the Allah of Idde, at which place we were anchored at 11.15 a.m.; and the commander, with the Rev. S. Crowther and others, having landed and ridden up the town, it was found the

King could not be seen for five days; so, next morning, we proceeded down the river, and arriving at Onitsha, a visit was made to the King, and he and his chiefs having signed the treaty, with the exception of the clause abolishing human sacrifices, which they said could not be done at once, the party returned on board. I observed that in this place, though both oil and cotton are abundant, the natives were ignorant of the use of lamps, using, instead, torches and lighted brands of resinous wood. At noon on the 13th we were off Abo, and landing, found the town mostly under water, pulled through the town in the gig, and the old chief Tehukuma having sent a boy (who spoke English) to welcome us, we called upon him, but finding no part of his house dry, he came into the boat, and talked a few minutes. He and Mr. Crowther were old friends, and from the latter I learned that Tehukuma has always been a steady friend to white men, and, as far as he could, protected the factory of Mr. Laird from the rapacity of the late King Aje. Having procured a guide, we proceeded to the house of the King, which was in a very similar state to the rest. The King received us on the only dry spot there was; he was grotesquely dressed in a soldier's coat of the beginning of the century, a high red conical cap, and green velvet breeches. He, however, talked sensibly; he was glad to see a ship off his town, as he feared the conduct of his predecessor, Aje, had given it a bad name. He said Aje was alone to blame for the plunder of Mr. Laird's factory, and he hoped, as he was dead, traders would again come to Abo. He assured us that during his rule both traders and missionaries would be protected. He readily signed the treaty, and having given him his presents, which he received with great satisfaction, we took leave of him, and went on board. I sent a small present to Tehukuma, and the same day we got under weigh, and, without communicating with any other place, we arrived at the mouth of the river late in the day of the 14th. On the 15th, coal and wood was taken on board, and next morning crossed the bar, and arrived at Lagos on the 17th, without losing a man. The cases of fever we did have on board were, in my opinion, caused by exposure on shore, and the want of rest at night. I suffered only from a cold. The lower part of the Delta should always, if possible, be passed without stopping; higher up the river is as healthy as any other part of tropical Africa.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) Wm. McCoskry.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 21.
NAVIGATION OF THE RIVER NIGER.

Lord ELCHO asked the Secretary to the Treasury whether it was the intention of the Government to grant a subsidy of 5,000*l.* per annum, or any other sum, to the Company of African Traders (limited); if so, upon what conditions the subsidy would be granted, and whether it would previously be submitted to Parliament for approval.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that the noble lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, upon a similar application being made to him last year, declined to recommend that it be complied with. Subsequently he felt himself justified in doing so, but papers reached the Treasury showing that the company which it was proposed to subsidise would be engaged in general trade, and competing with those at present carrying on commerce with Africa. (Hear, hear.) He would not say that the demand ought absolutely to be refused; but most certainly it ought not to be granted without ample time and a great deal of consideration on the part of the House. The Government would decidedly not make any such proposal during the present session, and, on account of the important interests involved, it would be advantageous that the papers received by the Treasury should be published. (Hear.) For his own part, he had no hesitation in saying that he regarded the objections to the proposal as objections of very great weight.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24.

THE GLADIATOR.—STEAM TRANSPORT, &c., FOR REMOVING TROOPS FROM CAPE CASTLE.

Lord C. PAGET thought that what he was about to state would be satisfactory to the House. The War-office had

now made an arrangement by which, instead of the removal of 500 men from Cape Coast Castle, 700 men would be removed. (Hear, hear.) Of these 500 would go to the West Indies and 200 to Lagos. From Lagos 200 would be removed to Sierra Leone station. This had necessitated an alteration in the arrangements of the Admiralty. It was now proposed that the Gladiator should go straight to Madeira, and she had started that day. She would coal at Madeira, in order to be prepared to take in tow the Waubojeez transport, which would carry the troops. The transport would start from this country on Thursday, accompanied by the Bulldog, which would tow her out of the Channel, and go with her to Madeira, if necessary. At Madeira she would find the Gladiator waiting for her. The Gladiator would tow her to Sierra Leone, and thence to Cape Coast Castle. The Waubojeez would there embark the troops for Barbadoes; and the Gladiator, after towing her into the offing, if necessary, would embark the 200 men for Lagos, and from Lagos would return to Sierra Leone with about the same number of men to be stationed there. (Hear.) The Gladiator would thence return to England. (Hear.)

TUESDAY, JULY 12.

THE SQUADRON ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE asked the Secretary to the Admiralty to lay upon the table of the House a list of the steam vessels now employed on the West Coast of Africa, with their speed as ascertained at the measured mile.

Lord C. PAGET said he did not think it would be desirable to enter into any details upon that subject. That was just the sort of information which the owners of the slave-trading vessels would wish to obtain.

MONDAY, JULY 18.

OUR ESTABLISHMENTS IN WESTERN AFRICA.

On the vote for 14,355*l.*, towards defraying the cost of our service on the West Coast of Africa,

Sir F. BARING called attention to the vote, with a view of eliciting from the Government satisfactory assurances as regarded the future. In his belief, the extension of our forts and possessions on the West Coast of Africa was a great mistake. By our policy there we were doing nothing for the suppression of the slave-trade, nor for the advancement of our commerce. What he ventured to suggest to the committee was, that more control and effectual checks should be placed on the governors of colonies, who, he thought, should not be permitted to go to war, or to seize territory, without first communicating with the home Government, except in cases of special emergency.

Mr. WILLIAMS wished for explanations of the sums of 2,000*l.* for the Governor of Sierra Leone, 2,000*l.* a-year for the maintenance of a steamer employed by the Government on the Gambia; and of the 4,600*l.* required for Lagos, of which 1,225*l.* was required for works and buildings.

Sir J. HAY called attention to the sum of 500*l.* for the relief of famine on the Gold Coast, and the sum of 2,000*l.* for the Ashantee war. It was scarcely to be supposed that the expenses of the war in Ashantee could be defrayed by 2,000*l.*, or that the famine could be relieved by 500*l.* Since this question was before the House more papers had been presented by the Colonial-office, from which it appeared that 1,800 men had been sent there to add to the distress, at a time when the price of Indian corn had risen from 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel to 13*s.* 6*d.* per bushel. He had also heard of an engagement at Lagos, of which that House knew nothing; and from a private letter from the only surgeon able to perform his duties, he found that sickness was very prevalent, that four out of five officers who had recently landed had died, and that the mortality amongst the troops was very great. The statements respecting what had been going on at the Gold Coast, had been by no means exaggerated. Of the seventeen ships on the West Coast, the majority could not attain a greater speed than seven knots an hour. It was obvious that such a squadron was not capable of suppressing the slave-trade. (Hear, hear.) In fact, the country was expending a very large sum annually for nothing, and he would therefore move to reduce the vote by the amount of 2,500*l.*

Mr. CARDWELL regretted the sufferings which had been undergone by our troops on the Gold Coast, but maintained that everything had been done by the Colonial-office with the view of alleviating them. The possibility that the King of Ashantee might make a fresh invasion, had not been overlooked by Her Majesty's Government. As to the charge of 2,000*l.* for the Governor of Sierra Leone, he might observe that it had uniformly appeared in the estimates. He had been asked a question about the item of 3,155*l.* for buildings at Lagos. Now the estimate at Lagos was 22,000*l.*, and the buildings in question were custom-houses and public buildings of that kind. The only object which this country had in increasing her expenditure on the West Coast of Africa was connected with the repression of the slave-trade, and was in nowise for the purpose of territorial aggrandisement. That which they desired had been approved and recommended by great men in former times—by such men as Lord Derby, Lord Russell, Lord Grey, and others, who formed the committee in 1842. That committee reported that an extension of territory on the Gold Coast was most desirable. The Government, however, had sent orders to put a stop to any further additions at the Gold Coast, and he had himself, before any of those recent discussions arose, written to the Governor of Lagos, to impress upon him the necessity of a pacific and abstaining policy. (Hear, hear.) There was unfortunately a war going on between some neighbouring tribes, which was very injurious to the commerce of Lagos; but still he thought the Government had done well in abstaining from taking any part in that war. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ADDERLEY approved the steps which had been taken by the right honourable gentleman, but unfortunately those steps were taken too late, as such steps must ever be taken too late, unless they entirely changed their colonial policy. The House was at length becoming alive to the wasteful and foolish expenditure that was taking place in colonies; and on the first day of next session he would move for a select committee to inquire into this particular case of the Gold Coast. Of all the vagaries of colonial policy, that appeared to be the most mischievous of attacking barbarous tribes. It was bad enough to be scattering their troops all over the world, and not to send them to the pestilential climate of the Gold Coast. The men who were appointed governors of those stations on the Coast of Africa had grand notions of their position, and hence it was that they were constantly importuning the Colonial-office to send them troops to protect the British flag. But those men should be told that it was not the policy of this country to have the British flag trailed through the mire for the purpose of protecting barbarous tribes.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR was glad the right honourable gentleman had given notice of a motion on this subject for next session, unless in the meantime the Colonial-office should introduce some better system of policy with regard to the Gold Coast. He disagreed with the right honourable gentleman as to the policy of keeping their troops restricted to this little island; for he thought the expenditure incurred on account of their colonies returned a hundredfold to them in the shape of imports. Unless they broke through the Coast, which he might describe as the crust of Africa, they would not be able to penetrate into the interior of the country. He would ask them to compare the West Coast with the East Coast of Africa, where they had no settlements. Let them compare the civilization, the education, the commerce of the West with what they saw in the East. It might be true that the suppression of the slave-trade had not been brought about by the establishment of these settlements; but the reason why the slave-trade flourished on the Coast was that there was not a vessel in our squadron which could go more than nine miles an hour, so that the evil flourished through a deficiency of administrative ability on the part of a department of the State. As for the climate of the Gold Coast, he believed it was not so bad as the climate of either Sierra Leone or the Gambia; and therefore its climate afforded no reason for its abandonment. The settlement at Lagos had not succeeded because the Governor, Mr. Freeman, had not been well selected. The honourable member concluded by complaining that no account of the military

expenditure on the Ashantee war had as yet been laid upon the table.

Mr. A. MILLS deprecated the habit of blaming particular Governments for our policy on the West Coast of Africa; it was the Parliament of England that was mainly open to censure for having allowed a policy to be persisted in which at any moment it might have put an end to. At the same time, he entirely condemned the policy of attempting to enforce a protectorate over tribes on the West Coast, as unwise in itself, and as unlikely to conduce to the suppression of the slave-trade. He thought it would be a valuable thing if the whole question of the protection of these native territories was discussed by a committee of the House.

Lord C. PAGET, in reply to several questions as to the squadron on the Coast of Africa, said he had not heard that any slaver had escaped from our cruisers. It had been stated that four of our steamers were in pursuit of a slaver, and that she got away. He could quite understand that fast American steamers would be employed, or were now being employed, in this trade, and it was quite true that we were in want of fast steamers all over the world. If the Americans sent fast steamers, all we could do would be to send faster steamers.

Mr. MONSELL defended the Government, on the ground that they had followed the policy laid down by Lord Derby's Government in 1842. With regard to the lamentable loss of life, the committee would remember that we deliberately decided to protect those territories, and the reason this force was marched was because the King of Ashantee menaced those protected territories. They would have failed in their duty if they had not adopted that course; and as to the reverse they had sustained, he attributed that to the inefficiency of Major Cochrane. He did not think that was a failure for which the Government were responsible, and should therefore vote in favour of the estimates.

Sir J. HAY hoped the Government would give some explanation to the House as to the 2,000*l.* he had called attention to.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said that it was merely a sum on account, and that when the army expenses for 1863 were laid on the table, the House would see what the expenses were that were incurred.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR wished to know what was the cause of the magnificent tanks being so soon out of repair; and also if it was the intention of the Government to remove from Lagos, Mr. Freeman, who had discharged his duties so unsatisfactorily.

In reply to Mr. ADDERLEY,

Mr. CARDWELL said the charges on the colonial revenue were due partly to the invasion of the King of Ashantee, and partly to the inclemency of the season. With regard to the questions of his honourable friend (Mr. Seymour), he had received no information as to the tanks. They ought to be kept in repair by the revenue of the colony itself. It was not the intention of the Government to recall Mr. Freeman.

In reply to an honourable member,

Mr. CARDWELL said the revenue of Lagos last year was 7,135*l.* The estimate for the present year was considerably larger.

Lord H. VANE thought some approximate statement of accounts should be made.

Mr. C. FORBES said Lagos was yet in its infancy, but he hoped it would shortly be able to support itself.

Sir J. HAY withdrew his motion.

The vote was then agreed to.

TUESDAY, JULY 19.

THE GOLD COAST.

Mr. C. BERKELEY asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if any account could be given of the sum of 4,000*l.*, which had been annually voted for fifty years for the repairs and maintenance of forts and establishments on the Gold Coast, which forts were now reported by Commodore Wilmot to be in a "dilapidated condition, and to require great repairs, very little attention seeming to have been paid to them for years past."

Mr. CARDWELL said the 4,000*l.*, which had long been contributed for the purpose stated, had been carried to the receipt side of the financial accounts of the Gold Coast, and formed part of the general revenues of the settlement.

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ARCHIBALD HAMILTON, Esq. (Messrs. SINCLAIR, HAMILTON, and Co.), London.
A. CASTELLAIN, Esq. (Messrs. FRED. HUTH and Co.), Liverpool.

J. ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq. (Messrs. THOS. TOBIN and Son), Chairman of the Liverpool and London Insurance Company, Liverpool.
L. GRUNING, Esq. (Messrs. FRED. HUTH and Co.), Liverpool.
L. LANGWORTHY, Esq., Manchester.
R. RUMNEY, Esq., Manchester.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.

J. ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq., Walmer-buildings, Water-street, Liverpool.

BANKERS.

THE ALLIANCE BANK OF LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND MANCHESTER.

LIST OF VESSELS AT PRESENT COMPOSING THE COMPANY'S FLEET.

	Tons Register.		Tons Register.
"FEROZEPORE"	955	"FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE"	220
"FAITH"	619	"ALBRO"	206
"ELIZABETH"	436	"COMMODORE"	169
"ELLERSLIE"	413	"WILLIAM DENT"	160
"EMPRESS"	394	"MARGARET"	97
"MOSQUITO"	353		
"GARTSHERRIE"	319		
			4,381

The first Annual Meeting of the Shareholders was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, London, on the 6th July, 1864; WILLIAM DENT, Esq., in the Chair.

ABRIDGED REPORT.

The whole of the Capital of the Company having been subscribed, the Directors took immediate steps for carrying out the objects indicated in the Prospectus.

The Trading Establishments of the Company are now in full operation, and are being carried on to the entire satisfaction of the Directors.

The Company have now nine Trading Establishments on the Coast. They have despatched eleven Vessels with cargoes (seven since January last), one is on the point of sailing, and two others will almost immediately follow.

Two cargoes of Palm Oil have been received; two other cargoes (of Palm Oil, Ivory, Gum, Beeswax, Copper Ore, &c.) are daily expected; and two, if not three, other Ships laden with Palm Oil are on their passage home. Henceforth Vessels may be expected in regular succession.

The Directors, after very full and careful consideration, sent out an Agent to Whydah, the principal Seaport of the King of Dahomey. This Agent had previously visited the King, who had expressed a strong desire that he should establish himself at Whydah to engage in legitimate Commerce. The King promised, free of charge, the use of spacious and substantial Factories (formerly used as Slave Factories); and also engaged that the Dahoman Traders should carry on traffic with him.

By the Agent's Letters, it appears that these promises have been faithfully kept. The King received him in the most friendly manner, delivered over the promised Factories, and paid considerable sums for Goods which he had ordered through the Company. It is the earnest desire of the Directors to encourage this Commerce with Dahomey, in the hope that the King will find, as has been experienced in the Oil Rivers, that his interests and those of his people will be better promoted by legitimate Commerce than they could be by the Slave-Trade.

The Directors despatched a confidential Agent to the Coast in August last; and, acting upon representations made to him by influential parties at SIERRA LEONE, determined not only to establish an Agency there for Trading purposes, but to combine therewith Banking operations and Commission business—receiving Money on the Coast from Native and other Merchants; giving Bills of Exchange for the same on England; making Advances on Produce consigned to the Company in England for Sale and Returns, &c., &c.

Desirous of stimulating the energies of the Native Traders on the Coast, who have risen in importance since the establishment of a regular Monthly Steam Communication with England, the Directors have made known their willingness to receive Produce on Consignment, to execute Orders in this Country, and to make Advances on Produce consigned to the Company, upon moderate terms. The Directors are happy to report that they have already many Native Correspondents, several of whom have begun to make Consignments to the Company; a small beginning which it is hoped will be the prelude to a considerable Trade. The large Capital and resources of the Company give a security and offer advantages to the Native Traders which they appear fully to appreciate.

The Directors have given considerable attention to the Fibrous Plants with which the Coast of Africa abounds, to improvements in the system of extracting Palm Oil from the nut and kernel, and generally to the opening and development of new fields of African industry. They have reason to hope that many products hitherto but little noticed will be made available for increasing the Trade of this Country with Africa.

Many influential Shareholders, long and deeply interested in the cause of African civilization, were most desirous that the Company should follow up the efforts of the late Mr. Macgregor Laird, for developing the resources of the River Niger, in which there are not at present any Trading Establishments whatever. It is well known that Mr. Laird expended a large capital with this object, and that he received a subsidy from the British Government, who very properly considered the enterprise to be one of national importance. The Directors, therefore, proposed to take up the Contract of Mr. Macgregor Laird on modified terms. They consider such an enterprise to be fraught with great advantages, not only to the Natives of Africa but to this country. The past has shown that isolated attempts are not likely to be successful; while, on the other hand, the large resources of this Company—their Staff of Men experienced in the African Trade; their Establishments on the Sea-Coast, by means of which the effects of any casualty in the Niger would be manifestly diminished; added to the fact that one of the Directors (Mr. Hamilton) was Executor to Mr. Laird, closed up his affairs in the Niger, and is in possession of his Papers—give hope of greater success than could be expected under any other circumstances.

The Directors, therefore, determined to make a vigorous effort for carrying out this great enterprise. But as steam agency must necessarily be employed, an inevitable loss would for some time attend the navigation and exploration of the Rivers Niger and Chadda by steam; and as the resources of the Rivers, when developed, would be free to all other parties who might choose to establish themselves there—thus reaping the advantages secured through the sacrifices made by this Company—the Directors could not feel justified in expending the money of the Shareholders in the Niger unless Her Majesty's Government were willing to co-operate in some such manner as they had done with the late Mr. Macgregor Laird.

Negotiations were therefore opened with Her Majesty's Government for such a Subsidy as the Directors deem to be indispensable for the due protection of the Company's interests in this important enterprise; and it is only thus that the sums hitherto expended, and being now expended by the Government in the Niger, can be made to produce any useful results. Full particulars will be laid before the Shareholders in due time.

The active operations of the Company have extended over only a few months, and the adventures necessarily take a longer time for completion. But, looking carefully at the Trade which has been carried on at the various Establishments of the Company on the Coast, and to the position and prospects of the Company, the Directors recommend that the sum of Two Shillings per Share be now paid to the Shareholders as Interest on the paid-up Capital—being at the rate of Six per Cent. per Annum to June 30, 1864.

The Report was unanimously approved of.

It was the strongly-expressed wish of the Shareholders that the six per cent. should be paid free of Income Tax, which was agreed to by the Directors.

The CHAIRMAN explained fully the various points alluded to in the Report, giving an account of the operations of the Company, which was considered very satisfactory. He mentioned the friendly manner in which the King of Dahomey had received the Company's Agent, that he had fulfilled his promises in giving him large and substantial Factories (which had formerly been used as Slave Factories) at Whydah, the seaport of his dominions, and had undertaken that the native chiefs in his country should trade with this Company; and that their Agent wrote that he expected to despatch a vessel, loaded with oil, by the end of May. The Chairman also said that the Directors, desirous of stimulating the energies of the native traders on such parts of the coast where they had not trading establishments themselves, had encouraged them to make consignments of produce to the Company, and that the native traders appear most anxious to avail themselves of the advantages thus offered to them, and that the Company had already received several consignments of Cotton, &c., and the amount of such shipments was increasing monthly; and it was expected that a considerable and profitable trade would be thus carried on by the Company without any risk. The Cotton so sent had realised 28½d. per pound in the Liverpool markets, and, when cleaned with the improved machinery which had been sent out on native account, would, no doubt, realise a higher price.

The CHAIRMAN also stated that a confidential agent had been sent to Sierra Leone, who would carry on trading operations on the Company's account, and combine therewith banking and commission business.

A Shareholder asked for the particulars of the names and cost of the vessels belonging to the Company, a list of which, with their cost, was read by the Secretary. The Chairman stated that those vessels which had been taken at a valuation had been valued by Mr. Cunard, on behalf of the Company. The Shareholder remarked there was no one more competent than Mr. Cunard for such a duty.

Another Shareholder asked whether the property on the coast was insured against fire, and whether there was much risk from attacks by natives.

The CHAIRMAN stated that long experience had shown that there was no danger to be apprehended from the natives, and that insurance was effected wherever considered by the Directors necessary.

Mr. HAMILTON (one of the Directors, executor of the late Mr. Macgregor Laird) detailed the views of the Directors relative to the proposed navigation of the Rivers Niger and Chadda, giving an account of past efforts to develop the resources of Central Africa by means of those rivers, where no European establishments at present exist.

The Resolutions proposed by the Directors were unanimously adopted, and the Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Directors, and to Mr. Hamilton, for his interesting description of operations in the Interior of Africa.

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