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THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The West African steam ship Athenian arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, Sept. 10; from Benin, July 26; Fernando Po, July 31; Cameroons, August 1; Old Calabar, August 2; Brass River, August 4; Bonny, August 7; Lagos, August 10; Cape Coast Castle, August 14; Sierra Leone, August 22; Bathurst, August 25; Teneriffe, August 31; and Madeira, September 2. She brought 676 ounces of gold dust.

Very little trade was doing at Benin; the river was healthy. The Commodore of the English fleet on the West Coast was expected daily to blockade the river, to enforce payment of the fine imposed upon the natives some time ago for the outrage upon Dr. Henry's establishment.

Trade very dull at Fernando Po, and the small-pox prevalent amongst the natives; Europeans healthy.

At Cameroons trade was still stopped, but there was a prospect of its being shortly reopened.

The Brass River was healthy and trade pretty brisk.

At Bonny trade was lively, the price of palm-oil moderate, and the river healthy.

In the interior, at Lagos, the war amongst the natives was still raging and likely to continue. The colony was tolerably healthy, but trade very dull.

RIVER GAMBIA.

It appears that a paper has been carried about for signatures at Bathurst, the purport of which is a prayer to the Colonial Secretary of State in England to continue as Governor of the Gambia his Excellency Colonel d'Arcy, whose time is nearly out. We have been favoured with a mass of correspondence on this subject, in favour of and against the said prayer. In reply we beg to assure our Gambia friends that we have nothing to do with making or unmaking governors. That great responsibility does not devolve upon us. All that we ever hope to effect is to assist governors who are going in the right direction—to point out to them where we consider them to be wrong—and to bring under their notice those abuses and evils which may have been either unseen, unknown of, or overlooked by them. As regards this particular case—viz., the prolongation beyond the regular official term of Colonel d'Arcy's governorship of the Gambia—we have only to observe that, in spite of all Colonel d'Arcy's exertions, of which we are fully sensible, the colony of the Gambia has not made that progress of late years that ought to be looked for in all our African possessions. We acknowledge with thanks the correction from time to time of many things of which we have had to complain, and we believe there has been an earnest desire on the part of the Governor for the progress of industry in the colony, and for the general improvement of its affairs. But again we say, the result has not adequately responded to the effort, and we do not see that such results have been obtained by Government action as would induce the home authorities to depart from the salutary rule adopted by the Colonial-office and Her Majesty's Government as to the duration of colonial Government appointments; and further, it may not be amiss that we should advise our correspondents that if we were a colonial governor, we should consider the obtaining signatures to and despatching to the Secretary of State for the Colonies such a document as has been alluded to, as the work of an enemy, and not of a friend. We merely state this as the result of long observation and some knowledge of public affairs.

A report having reached us some time since that the authorities in the Gambia were in favour of a joint English and French expedition against the Mohammedan chief, Mahaba, who has acquired so much influence in the Gambia districts lying between that river and the French possessions south of the Senegal, we thought it our duty to refer to persons trading up the Gambia, and with the territory now under the rule of Mahaba, as to the necessity of such a step. We think we need not say that we are not in favour of little colonial wars, and certainly there was nothing obtained in the last Badiboo expedition up the Gambia to induce us to look with hope and favour upon a new campaign. Without expressing any opinion, however, we referred the matter to the Gambia native traders. The result has been an almost unanimous expression of opinion that the work which Mahaba has been performing (although, like that of all conquerors, it has been attended with much suffering) is a beneficent one, and likely to result in a great increase of material development, and consequently of profitable trade and of public revenue in the Gambia. We are assured that, as regards Mahaba, the only beneficial action that can be performed by the Colonial Governor is to have placed without delay those marks for defining the limits of the British territory of Badiboo the necessity of which we have some time since pointed out, and to obtain, if possible, that the traders should be allowed to reside out of Mahaba's town when carrying on trade really in his territories.

We subjoin some of the opinions expressed, which, as they are the voice of experience, seem to us unanswerable. But although all attack on Mahaba is most strongly deprecated, there is complete unanimity in favour of the employment of a gunboat in the river. This is considered indispensable to a sound, civilising, peace-preserving, trade-protecting British influence, and we unhesitatingly give our voice in its favour, only adding that it is above all things necessary that the commander of such gunboat should be an officer of tried discretion and moderation. We have reason to believe that by such means, and the general adoption of proper measures for the protection and development of industry and trade by the Colonial local Government, the production and trade of the Gambia would soon increase as much

as the French trade has in the Senegal, and without the employment of such expensive means as have been there resorted to.

Extract from Letter No. 11.

"I think the Governor might have done six times more than he has done to promote trade in this river. What he has not done, Mahaba has. The fame of the latter is now spread abroad by all the traders (who I presume know most about him) as the best friend of her Majesty, and one of her most loyal subjects, and a great protector of trade. He has driven away almost all the robbers, rogues, refugees, &c., that would have ruined the traders. Had it not been so, most of them would by this time have been sent to untimely graves. If our British authorities do anything against this great public benefactor, they will be for ever after remembered for their ingratitude and stupidity. Mahaba would make the best possible governor of this colony. His rule, though a rude one, would be a wise one," &c., &c.

Extract from Letter No. 12.

"I cannot see why the British Government wants to take up arms against Mahaba. The Sunikees deserved all the treatment they got from him. He does plenty of good in this river. When the Sunikees robbed the white men's goods, the British Government made war; the Marabouts were mostly slain, but the Sunikees never gave up robbing and flogging the traders. It was Mahaba who put a stop to such outrages. The river is now partly free to British traders. I have been grossly illtreated, and all but killed, by the Sunikees at Tenderbar last April. But at Badiboo and other parts of this river Mahaba has tamed them, and *cultivation is going on very well this year;* and so it will, better and better every year. Mahaba himself and his people are working hard. The goods of British traders will not be plundered, and *begging* will also be done away with—and all this by Mahaba. If anything is done by the British against Mahaba, the whole river will become worse than ever, and trade will be destroyed. If the British will try and make peace between Mahaba and the Sunikees, and will keep these last in order, punishing them whenever they do wrong, trade will become very large in this river," &c., &c.

Extract from No. 1.

"Mahaba is doing no harm—but encouraging trade, and rendering great assistance to all the traders doing business at Badiboo. The people there, once so savage, cruel, and wicked, are now tamed and partly civil. Regarding cultivation, so far as I have gathered from the several traders doing business there, *they are in prospect of a rich harvest this year*, seeing that the whole of the natives have employed themselves in nothing else but clearing out bushes and cultivating to a large extent, and sowing seeds in great quantity. That man Mahaba has made a vast improvement in the river of late.

"There is a chief, Laku, who ought to be put down. He disturbs the river to some extent, and prevents trade and cultivation; but Mahaba encourages trade, and recommends cultivation," &c., &c.

Extract from No. —

"I do not know of any evil committed by Mahaba. Of a truth, there has been a mighty famine throughout the river, but this was not his fault. The same happened in 1853, and was not then caused by any war; the famine was then so great, that this country began to import rice for the first time, and it has been obliged to import rice ever since. I believe that Mahaba's war lightens the famine instead of increasing it, as he has put down and destroyed the robbers. Mahaba never falls upon the traders, or even ask for any *presents* or *customs* throughout all the territory he commands. All the welfare of the river, which the traders have in prospect, will be destroyed, if he be interfered with," &c.

Extract from No. 3.

"I have no occasion to be dissatisfied with Mahaba having destroyed the pagans and powerful robbers in Badiboo and Salem, because formerly no one could trade there without being fallen upon and plundered. It is the reverse now. Every trader prefers Badiboo, and says that for security it is next to Bathurst. I was against Mahaba at the commencement, because I did not understand what he was about; but now I believe he was appointed by God to perform a great duty, which the local British Government had neglected. To send a force to put Mahaba down will be to prevent agriculture and trade; as the robbers will then re-establish themselves, and the river will become a perfect ruin. This year has been a bad one for trade, but not because of plunder or robbery, but because there has been a scarcity of produce, &c. Mahaba is now himself largely engaged in agriculture, which the pagan king hated.

"The river certainly requires a perfect Government protection, but this can be done without any expeditionary force. All that is wanted is a gunboat, with some forty or fifty men, to blow up and knock down every stockade erected on the river. This may cause some disturbance for three months, but the river will then become civilized in some degree. At present the natives are quite ignorant of what British power is, and they never will be civilized until they are taught to respect it. The French never yet had any war in this river, but they are respected everywhere in it by the natives, because these have heard that in the Senegal and Senegambia the small gunboat employed by the French Government blows up any town that causes disturbance. Why could not such a boat, capable of going into the small creeks, be introduced here, instead of an expensive expeditionary force?" &c., &c.

Extract from No. —

"Mahaba has made a vast improvement of late, and caused the once savage kingdom of Badiboo to become somewhat civil and tamed. From what I have experienced at Badiboo, I do protest against any force being sent to put him down, because he is not doing harm, but good, and is preparing the way for rich cultivation, large trading, and future welfare of this portion of the the river. But there are some fellows above Badihoo, both Mohammedans and pagans, that are very troublesome, and ought to have a severe blowing up, &c., but not Mahaba."

Extract from No. —

"I am against every one, whether Mahaba, Laku, or whoever he may be, that makes disturbance. I do think it necessary for the Government to use force to put a final stop to these troublesome wars. I lost forty-six cattle seized by the warriors at Dumansensang, and I have had no redress from the local Government; although I wrote to the Acting Governor about it in November last, not a word on the subject have I ever heard. A small gunboat would do in two months all that is wanted, blowing up all the towns that made disturbance; then they will soon respect the British. A small gunboat to be sent out for a short time, is the only means required to promote the welfare of the rivers," &c.

Extract from No. —

"I see no necessity for any force being sent against Mahaba. He ought rather to be acknowledged and crowned as king by the British Government, and a responsibility be imposed on him regarding the affairs of the river, owing to the great work he has already performed for the safety of our goods, principally at Badiboo. Government protection in the river is wanted, *but no expedition.* War with the natives will never bring things to rights. The late Badiboo expedition did nothing. There was no change till Mahaba arose. That line of demarcation you called for in your journal of May last has never been drawn, although the case is urgent. There is very little to be complained of as regards Mahaba; but there are many disturbances in the river caused by others. The pagans are still very savage. Three traders have of late received a severe beating; one at Tenderbah, and two in the upper river above McCarthy's Island. The latter were Europeans."

Extract from No. —

"I do believe that Mahaba has done a great work, which ought to obtain for him the highest praise. Some years back there was scarcely a trader to be found at Badiboo, although it is one of the richest trading parts of the river. The people were so cruel and so naturally wicked, that only those who would risk their lives would trade amongst them; but since these two years back all the landing ports on that territory are full of traders doing business without the least disturbance, instead of as in former days, when a trader was forced by compulsion to give presents every day to twenty, thirty, or forty men of the King's ambassadors; and *custom* duties to be taken by them at their own valuation. Mahaba is doing nothing but good in the river."

Extract from No. —

"I do not believe Mahaba ever troubled a trader. I can see no reason for warring against him. But there is one Laku that disturbs this river, and ought to be checked. So late as Tuesday, the 2nd August, I witnessed some cruel acts committed by his men at Tambakotto. Except that man is put down, the river, as regards trade, &c., will never prosper. Mahaba, too, it must be remembered, is a foreigner; he has no proper settlement of his own since his wars began. He is often 100 miles in the interior, say from Swana Conda to Macca. How long will it take the Governor to make even a common road to get at him, through 100 miles of bush? and what amount of money would it cost; and then, all for nothing," &c., &c.

Extract from No. 19.

"To move an expedition against Mahaba will only be injuring a man who is really on our side, and helping to promote the welfare of this river, and preparing the way for civilization," &c.

Extract from No. 20.

"I, being one of the traders at Badiboo, say that Mahaba has performed a very important public service, *that ought to have been done by a superior* to him. He is really doing good. During the last eight months, when he retired from the river, he has ordered the whole of his subjects to cultivate the ground, which they have done to a large extent. Nor has he himself been idle; and as regards cultivation, the whole territory wears an aspect of promise. These territories are now so settled and quiet, that even female traders can trade. There are three female traders, British subjects, at Njiane, one at Njowarra, one at Kenty Coonder, one at Swarra Coonder, and two at Carrawan. What, then, can be said of Mahaba but that he is doing good, seeking the interest of traders, increasing agriculture, recommending cultivation, which leads to civilization. Cultivation and trade will not be safe or increase should Mahaba be put down.

"Instead of putting down Mahaba, why does not the local Government do its duty, in obtaining that the traders should be allowed to reside out of the towns, and in marking the line of demarcation which you pointed out as so urgent, but which is still neglected?

"But there is one Laku at Nyanne, the only fellow that troubles this river. His influence requires to be checked."

Copy of a letter written by Mahaba to the French Commandant at the Fort Cowlack, in Salem.

"Macca, Salem, June 1, 1864.

"Sir,—I have the honour most respectfully to state that I would have seen you in person, but could not, through some inconvenience with regard to the affairs, I now, through the providence of God, took in hand these thirty months ago, in trying, if possible, to destroy all those troublesome pagans in these kingdoms. As you are full aware of my object in view—namely, of promoting the affairs of trade, so that every merchant trader can with quietness transact their business without the least interruption, and which was totally unknown in these kingdoms in former years. Plundering, kidnapping, &c., was their constant habits both upon traders and foreigners.

"I have by the assistance of God succeeded at Badiboo, and now all the traders there have seen and can witness the great object I had in view.

"I, therefore, beg that you will be pleased only to grant me a fair trial, and see during the time I will stay here whether I am a true man or not, as I have now ordered the whole of my men to cultivate the ground, and to sow seeds. And I do believe that you will have no occasion of complaint of me in any respect when comparing the former days with the present, and the happy future in view.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, (Signed) "MAHABA.

"To the Honourable Commandant of the
French Fort, Cowlack."

The answer of the Commandant was verbal, and to this effect:—

"I am happy to hear that Mahaba is trying to improve the place; and I am glad that he is now preparing his men to cultivate the ground. Tell him that he must sow large quantity of seeds, both corn and ground nuts, and if he do so and keep his promise, it will be beneficial on our part, and praiseworthy on his. Tell him that he must not allow his men to approach my fort in future, otherwise they will cause disturbance, as they did the other day, when I was obliged to fire off a blank cartridge to frighten them. They must set where they are and work; and should these pagans refuse to work, they will be given over to him to compel them; and whosoever will go beyond the line, can be seized by him, but not within the fort. He must not be in a hurry. I do believe he will soon get hold of the whole of them in short. Tell him that if he intends to write me in future, he must direct his letter to the French Consul at Bathurst, who will translate the same into the French language and forward it to me by the French mail. Tell him that I shall see him in short, when we shall arrange things better.

[The above have been certified to be true copies.—ED. *A.T.*]

SIERRA LEONE.

We rejoice to see that the public press at Sierra Leone continues to advocate the cause of agriculture and productive industries in the colony. The *Free Press* says:—

"It is a mistake to attribute solely the cause of England's greatness to her wide extensive commerce. England is equally indebted to her agriculture as to her commerce for the height of prosperity to which she has attained. It is our earnest hope and trust that the contemplated exhibition will result in expelling from our people that instinct in them which crushes down all progress of agriculture in the colony. The petty hawkers are they against whom we raise our voice in particular. Some of them are men of robust and athletic constitution, whom nature, we presume, has adapted to more noble callings than sitting before red caps and black ribbons. Hence it is that nature sometimes rebukes them for their idleness by causing them to fall into a sound sleep in the day, before the few trifles they offer for sale. However, we do hope and trust that ere long these men would see their folly and turn their attention to the nobler pursuits of agriculture, and thereby benefit themselves and the community at large."

This is right. No one is entitled to complain of the number of enterprising traders who push their commerce up the rivers and into the interior among the natives. The latter can only pay in produce for what they buy, and the presence of traders among them does as much or more good, by stimulating them to produce or procure articles for barter, as could be effected by the same individuals in the capacity of agriculturists. But the sturdy, able-bodied, athletic, petty hawker, asleep before his basket of tapes and ribbons, deserves nothing but contempt. We hope that our contemporary will so excite their feelings respecting them, as to shame them out of such pursuits.

The arrival of Bishop Crowther at Sierra Leone, on his way to the Niger, seems to have produced a great effect. Several addresses were presented to him, and the Bishop's replies were characterised by that sound good sense, as well as fervent spirit, which we have always observed in him. One of his observations is worthy of remark: "It was his firm conviction, from what he had witnessed in travelling to and fro along the Coast, that the difficulties, hardships, and deprivation of missionaries are nothing in comparison with what many a merchant suffers for a paltry gain. A missionary should be a jack of all trades—one ready to put his hands to work, and to do, in a legitimate way, anything that might tend to advance the cause of Christ." We wish all missionaries would entertain the same opinions and fully act up to them.

The case of the ship America, owned in Cadiz, and seized on suspicion of being equipped for the slave-trade, is now pending.

There have been several fever cases of late in the colony.

There is great insecurity up some of the rivers in consequence of the scarcity of food, amounting almost to a famine.

The *Weekly Observer* reports as follows: "Advices from the

Sherboro and the South notify a good oil season, giving about 750 tons already brought to market. Palm-nut kernels are plentiful, and there is every reason to believe there will be a first-rate crop. Ground-nuts increase in quantity, and the coming season will probably treble last year's supply. Country quiet, and the business generally increasing.

The fighting chief of Foulah has been deposed, and the trading chief raised to the kingship. The interior paths are open, and the dry season will most probably see large caravans of gold, ivory, and hide traders arrive here, and at the head waters of our numerous neighbouring rivers.

The appearance of the seed crop is all the planters can desire, and promises an abundant harvest.

Freights are required and sought after, rates fully maintained and shipping wanted.

Foreign provision is still being supplied, and the market is overstocked.

SHERBORO.

Apropos of the African climate, the editor of the *Early Dawn* says: "We are convinced that for the last ten years there has been a gradual improvement in the health of West Africa. Not only are epidemics less common, but the ordinary fevers of this country seem to be milder and more manageable. The Sherboro, once in bad repute, is now regarded as being as favourable to health as other parts of the Coast." There can be no doubt that every acre of bush cleared and every forest opened produces a good sanitary result.

The same authority says: "We are glad to note the continuance of peace and prosperity. We believe the quantity of rice offered for sale at this season of the year has never been so great as now, and the growing crop—some of which is coming to market—is very large. The high price of cotton goods, together with the diminished price of palm-oil and palm-kernels, tends to repress trade, but it is still good. Much also is being done in the timber trade and—for this country—much lumber is being cut. The great want of the Sherboro is good saw-mills."

IS GOVERNOR PINE *REALLY* A BLOODY MAN—A MAN *DISPOSED* TO WAR?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Anamaboe, Cape Coast, August 13.

Sir,—Governor Pine has been bitterly attacked in England, and at this the latter stage of our Government's proceedings in the Ashantee difficulty, the question which heads this article suggests itself to many a reflective mind here. Allow me, therefore, Mr. Editor, place for a few words? Is Governor Pine a man whose principles are opposed to peace? Is he much in fault? Has his administration deserved the insinuations, the sneers, and the blame heaped upon it? Could any official that we have yet known, do better than he has done in this Ashantee trial? We say, No. In our humble opinion, he is not to blame in anything with regard to this state of affairs, any more than it was in the power of any human being to overrule the course of things, or undo the wrong acts and avert the necessary consequences of past irregular Administrations? Do they who thus inconsiderately impugn the present Administration, bear in mind how very short a time this functionary had been on the Gold Coast and assumed the reins of government, before the invasion of our territories by the Ashantees took place? Is it not generally known on this Coast that the late sudden incursion had for its ostensible as well as real object the capture of Agiman, chief of eastern Akim? Now, let us quote General Owoosookokoh's own words, in answer to the Governor's message as regards his cousin's (or father's) real object in ordering him to attack the Protectorate: "My father," says the Ashantee general, "has been insulted by Agiman, and for this reason he sent me down to take him to Coomassie." Here we find no mention was made, not even an allusion to "Gwanin," whose protection by the Governor some regard in a light so unfavourable. Then let us see how this *coup de main* of the lynx-eyed Quako Duah, King of the Ashantees, had been rendered easy by former maladministration (with which Governor Pine could never have anything to do except to be unjustly taxed for the results). A case comparatively trifling in the origin, and which, had it been timely looked into, would have saved much trouble and bloodshed, was shamefully mismanaged; and consequently terminated in a civil war between this Agiman and his nephew King Attah, of the Akims. After this bloody display of animosity, a disunion of course took place between these chiefs of Akim, which event was allowed to pass almost unnoticed in the proper quarters until very lately, when our present Governor, becoming aware of this gross neglect of his predecessor, and of the state of things at Akim, sent commissioners to arrange the dispute, which endangered the peace and safety of the whole Protectorate. We need scarcely add that had this want of unity between Agiman and Attah been prevented in time, the Ashantees would not have dared to make any such pretensions, much less to strike a blow, seeing that they understand very well the strength of the whole Akim in unity. The cowardly circumstances connected with the inroads of the Ashantees in 1853, and the sequel, clears off any doubt on this matter. They detained Captain Brownell in their camp. Essiamowah Quantah, their general, who dared not come nearer than Fosoway (fifty-two miles from the Coast), was afraid to let go so important a security as Captain Brownell's person until he saw his own army safely back at the other side of the Prah. And why was this general afraid to make a bold front when he found he could not coolly secure the object of his expedition, as did General Owoosookokoh with impunity in the late campaign? Simply, because united Akim, on the side of the Protectorate, rendered his position rather too dangerous to attempt anything like that. But we say such a thing has been attempted latterly, and with success, too, by another Ashantee general, in the very heart of the country, within only a few hours' journey from the Coast; and how? Simply, because Akim was dissevered, Agiman of eastern Akim at variance with his head, and thus the culpable negligence of a former Governor afforded Owoosookokoh the chance of striking us and withdrawing in safety. How, then, is Governor Pine to blame in this matter? Why is this war ludicrously styled Pine's war? Governor Pine, unlike many of his predecessors, is faithful to his trust. Like David of old, he is a kind shepherd, that would on no account whatever leave the sheep at the mercy of the bear. Was it not his duty to snatch devoted Agiman and the rest of the protectorate from the paw of the Ashantee lion? As the representative of the protector of this protectorate, would it not have been considered rather a disgrace if he had denied Gwanin the protection he sued for? Is he, then, to be abused and depreciated in the estimation of the public just because he could not do everything—overrule the course of events and exceed the limits assigned to man? For our part, we do not believe in any such *superhumanum*. We only know this much of Governor Pine, that if his counsels, proposals, and plans were encouraged and carried out, this country would be strong against its usual enemies in time of war and improve in time of peace. This expression of our opinion dates so late as the 13th August, 1864. We do not, therefore, think it prematurely expressed: whereas we have yet to learn definitely in what Governor Pine has been to blame—his conduct in the Ashantee affair considered. Until this is demonstrated, our opinion remains unshaken by the sneers of disaffected men. Governor Pine has won most hearts in the community by his own merits. Most of the kings and chiefs of the Gold Coast like and love him. Merchants, respectable men and women of sound principles, love him—very unimportant few do otherwise, the majority of whom are of his skin, who perhaps do so abuse and misrepresent his administration out of the merest grudge. But to this class doth not belong, Sir, your obedient servant,

PRESIDENT OF A. T. S.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 14, 1864.

Sir,—The Inspector of Prisons and Coroner has been compelled to resign these appointments, for reasons which ought to have induced him to resign also his appointment as Justice of the Peace.

Doubtless, he will be saved that trouble when certain charges have been fully gone into.

The unfortunate prisoners, it is to be hoped, will now escape being flogged unmercifully for trifles, cast into Calcutta black-holes for being suspected, and chained and starved in the prison-yard for stealing a fowl, until they are forced to abominable alternatives.

The above-named appointments have now been conferred on the young surgeon sent out as colonial surgeon. It is to be hoped he will exercise a little more humanity than his predecessor.

The young Commissary official that was so bitterly complained of during the first Ashantee difficulty, and your notice of whose conduct so roused Mr. Deputy Commissary-General Blanc's ire, is ordered to give up charge to one several years younger in the service, but more gentlemanly and many years older than the one so justly attacked in your columns.

His cash accounts have been in a fearful mess, deficiencies (through carelessness, it is to be hoped) have been discovered, and his other accounts are inexplicable; so much so, that he has been detained a whole month to explain them. Thus far your former correspondent was right in his prognostications. This youth leaves Cape Coast by this mail for the Gambia, as assistant to Mr. Deputy Commissary-General Blanc.

CUDJOE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 13, 1864.

Sir,—It is a pity that Lord Alfred Churchill's correspondent L., in your paper of the 23rd June last, did not wait a little longer and study a little more the subject he wrote about. If the state of filth, squalor, and positive barbarism in which the people of this town are immersed calls forth such loud expressions of disgust from Lord Alfred's correspondent, who, I imagine (from the style of his diction), is a member of the Executive Council of these settlements, how much louder ought it to come from us, who pay more than *half of our income*, in the shape of a 2 per cent. duty on all imports, for the ostensible purpose of rectifying the very grievances complained of by L.

Lord Alfred's correspondent complains about the burial-ground being in the centre of the town, and of its being full. Why, every one knew that since 1858, and I unhesitatingly lay the blame at the door of Her Majesty's authorities here, for they knew of this state of things since then. In support of my assertions, I give you an extract from the *West African Herald*, dated 10th December, 1858: "Some months ago we published a letter from a correspondent, calling attention to the necessity of laying out some new piece of ground as a cemetery. Facts which have very recently come to our knowledge induce us again to direct the attention of the municipal authorities to this very important subject. The graveyard of Cape Coast is filled even to overflowing with dead bodies. There is not an inch of ground in it to spare; still we will persist in burying more corpses there. The consequence is that often when a grave is being dug for the reception of a new tenant some person's bones are disturbed, and perhaps thrown out to make room for the new comer. Horrible stenches arise from the burial-ground, spreading disease among the tenants of the houses in the neighbourhood. A merchant, whose house is situated close to the cemetery, informs us that there is almost always sickness among his family, which he attributes to the abominable odours proceeding from the burial-ground close by, and he states that when the earth is disturbed there the most frightful and pestilential odours are wafted to his dwelling. In the interest of the public, we solemnly warn the municipal authorities of the dangers of permitting such a terrible nuisance to continue to afflict the town, and we earnestly call upon them to take steps, without delay, to get up a proper cemetery in a more convenient spot." Now, this protest was published in the year 1858, and fully two years before that the same burial-ground was more than full. Since 1858 nearly 600 corpses have been deposited there. The burial-ground at the commencement was never intended to be the receptacle of more than 400 bodies.

Now comes the momentous question, Whose fault is it that such a *horrible* state of things should exist? *I am afraid* to give my opinion; I trust, however, that Lord Alfred's correspondent will enlighten us, through another letter to his lordship.

L. seems to be a very observant gentleman. It is to be hoped that each mail will furnish Lord Alfred with more information from his pen. There is lots of matter to write about, and we hope he will be industrious, and endeavour to do some good for the poor black man.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

QUAMINNA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 14, 1864.

Sir,—A curious affair has just now taken place, and although I am not in a position to give you all the particulars by this mail, I will say what I know.

It appears that a few intelligent men of the town of Cape Coast (some of whom happen to be Government servants), backed by the chiefs and others, waited upon Governor Pine yesterday, and laid before his Excellency a great heap of papers to read. When his Excellency had perused them he discovered that the authors styled themselves "The Gold Coast Native Government," or some such title, had been holding large meetings about the town, and had set about collecting money for the purpose of doing away, in fact, with British rule, and substituting their own instead thereof. The Governor has been most incensed at their conduct, and has suspended every one of them. We must wait to see the end of this affair. I believe there is a bad spirit being engendered against the English Government, and it will not take much to kindle into a blaze the just indignation of these neglected and ill-used people.

The people do not blame Governor Pine at all. He is as popular as ever; and, I believe, if he was to leave this place at the present time, nothing short of rebellion would be the result. His great influence, and the high estimation in which he is held, makes him everything to us. It it to be hoped his health may be spared to us for many years to come. Surely something ought to be done to correct the abuse that now exists by the constitution of the Legislative Council! Why should Messrs. Foster and Smith, through their agents, rule the destiny of 400,000 human beings? We protest against the influence that they have at the Legislative Board, and leave it with you to do your best for a poor

AFRICAN

DUTCH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, August, 1864.

Sir,—From some remarks made last year by one of your corsespondents upon the irregularities in the administration of justice at Cape Coast Castle, I was compelled to drop you a line in April last, showing how *justice* is administered at St. George d'Elmina, a distance of only seven miles from Cape Coast Castle. I now beg again for space in your columns to satisfy your correspondent that mismanagement, misgovernment, and abuses are not only practised at Cape Coast Castle, but in a greater degree at St. George d'Elmina.

Acting-Governor Major Van Hien left for Holland by the Macgregor Laird on the 13th ultimo, seriously ill. The head of the Government at St. George d'Elmina devolves upon Hendick Doyer, backed by Coalon. In my former letter to you I stated that Hendick Doyer is not liked even by his own brother officers, much more by the natives. That this statement is correct could now be proved. By the same steamer that took away Major Van Hien, the King, chiefs, merchants, and other residents of that town, wrote to his Grace the Dutch Minister, pointing out the lamentable situation in which the Government is now placed, and owing to the continual disturbances on the Gold Coast on account of the Ashantee War; that Hendick Doyer is not fit at any time, and much more at this critical moment, when the coast is in such condition, to be at the head of the Government; and begging that his Grace would, if possible, send out by return mail a proper person as governor, with a secretary. Let me now

ask one question before I go further on: How long ago is it since the King, chiefs, &c., of that place wrote to his Grace the Dutch Minister, in Holland, respecting any matter connected with the Government? They have been fined, punished, and ill treated, when there is no occasion for it, and they never complain. What does it matter to the King, chiefs, &c., whether Hendick Doyer or any of the other officers is placed at the head of the Government, so long as he follows the footsteps of the former governor—say, Nagtglas and Muizer, for instance? It is a positive fact that the instigators were his own brother officers! It is true the natives don't like Hendick Doyer, but they had no intention of writing against him. The Government chest at St. George d'Elmina has three locks; the Governor, cashier, and commanding officer keep one key each in their possession. Whether the fault lies with Hendick Doyer and Coalon, or the commanding officer, I cannot say, but one thing I know is, that Hendick Doyer and Coalon broke open the chest, without applying for the key in charge of the commanding officer.

Such is the ill-feeling and animosity existing between a set of Europeans sent out to protect and civilise poor Africans, that had a Dutchman the tenth of the courage of an Englishman, I should not be surprised to find, one of these days, that the whole set in the garrison at St. George d'Elmina have butchered each other. The Dutch commandants of Axim, Boatry, and Secundu Forts have left their stations, and are at this moment at Elmina, under pretence of sickness; but the fact is, they do not see why they should not take advantage of the present misgovernment, and enjoy themselves at Elmina with their country wives. You shall hear from me again by the next mail.

V.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, Anamaboe, August 13.

Sir,—Owing to the great sorrow felt by one of our native kings lately, as regards the new regulations of *advocacy* in this part of the Gold Coast, I am reluctantly compelled to write you a hasty line in reference thereto. It is a thing greatly to be deplored, that the Courts here, in forming such a thing as "advocates and attornies" which were not known here before, did not introduce such a change gradually, but all at once strongly enforce it. Thomas Solomon, the King of Dominasie, in his trial before the Court here (Anamaboe) lately was forced by the Court to give his case over to an advocate, which he was unwilling to do, he praying to defend and speak for himself. This frivolous case caused him a loss of 80*l.* nearly. It was alleged against the King that orders were given in his name to bring before him (the King) in prison from a neighbouring village a well-known common subject of his, who twice refused the King's summons and rushed with weapons into the field. The King was condemned for having imprisoned such a murderer, and a fine was imposed upon him.

Is this necessary, Mr. Editor? What power will the native kings have, if they are to be deprived of their old power that makes their ferocious subjects submissive? I don't understand why Courts here (especially Anamaboe) do not allow those who can stand before advocates to plead for themselves?

O Courts, Courts, Courts, if you are indeed dealing justice, suffer those who are able to advocate for themselves, and the weak tongues will themselves know to apply for advocates without your instructions, and being forced by you to do so.—Yours, &c.,

AMOR PATRIÆ.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Aburi, Aquapem, Gold Coast, August 8.

Sir,—As you see, I am for a change of air "on the mountains" again. This reminds me of some words in one of your last numbers, that "the interior is more unhealthy than the coast."* This is to be taken *cum grano salis*. As in Jamaica the hills are more suitable for the Europeans than the coast, just so it is with us here. Why will you have a sanitarium far away from our coast if you can have it much nearer on our mountains? But let me tell you that these mountains are not known to our persons in high offices, especially not to our medical men. Not that I am very anxious to have a sanitarium on one of our stations, because I fear that it would do much harm, as I have seen in times past, when some of our officers came to live for some time here. But I have still the hope that our "society" will be morally improved, if we show *that even for ladies* our Gold Coast is not so dangerous as they imagine.

But now my old song, my *ceterum censeo*, about our road. The part which we have made is as if it were not—*i.e.*, overgrown with a variety of plants that would delight a botanist. Since February last the plants have grown four to five feet high, and only a small footpath is left of the nice road. If we get money, we have to spend much of it in cleansing the road. Now this is a distressing point. If such a road is made by contribution, and by men whose calling is not engineering, so that the road does not cost a farthing to the public treasury, should it not be the duty of the Government to keep that road in repair? Will our Government lose all influence in these regions? There is not much left to be lost, it is true; one Governor after another has lost instead of gaining. And let me tell you plainly it would cost very little to keep up and increase that influence; first, by taking care not to boast and threaten, where the "black people" know very well that only words are to be used without *action;* secondly, by the authorities coming to see our people and redress their wrongs. Ten years ago it might have been said that to travel is a hardship; but now it is so no more. Every twelve miles you find now a mission station, where our Governor, or Chief Civil Commandant, would find a hospitable roof, if he were willing to accept it, under which he might stay as long as he liked to set things right: if he would take two or three constables with him, he could manage everything. *Now for keeping roads in repair;* an order by a constable to every village chief would do *if*—and this *if* should be attended to—*if* the authorities will take the trouble to see whether their orders have been attended to. But this *if* is generally wanting. I have made inquiries about it. People assure me the chiefs feel it to be their duty to clear the way; they do so with their own ways, but as long as missionaries take the trouble and pay the people, they think it is not necessary for them to do anything. Now you will say, But why do you not apply to the Government? Have we not done it? What answer do we receive? The same which you received from the Colonial-office—"We have no money for that!" But can it be supposed that we missionaries have?

I am sorry to find that you feared some of your correspondents might occasionally mislead you. I can feel with you the difficulty you have in selecting the articles for your paper. But here again you see the fruits of an education without Christian principles. It is not, as in Christian England, where an unconverted people may be honest and speak the truth, because England is a Christian country. Here, as in India, an education without conversion turns out to be a monstrous anomalous thing. There is no healthy public opinion to keep heathenish passions in check.

I can communicate very little news to you. The news is to be had on the coast. So much I can say, that our work is, if slowly, still surely, progressing. The influence of our boarding-schools and day-schools is already to be seen. The young people are favourable to Christianity and to improvements; the old are clinging to their old customs; yet still they feel that fetishism and heathenism *will* be overthrown. A great influence is obtained by introducing books and the art of writing their own tongue. They begin to feel the advantage of writing and receiving letters.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

C. L.

Owing to the state of the Money Market, cotton has fallen threepence per pound at Liverpool since this day month.

THE Scout, 21, 400 horse power, attached to the Chatham steam reserve, is being fitted at Sheerness as a flag ship, most probably for the commodore on the West Coast of Africa.

* We alluded to the bush, not to the high lands.—ED. *A.T.*

DAHOMEY.

Our correspondent at Whydah informs us that, early in August, Commodore Wilmot was off Godomey, in the Rattlesnake. A messenger of the King of Dahomey went to him from Whydah, with special directions to see the Commodore *with his own eyes*. The following is the substance of the message he was charged to deliver: "The King sends his best regards to the Commodore, and wishes him to come to Abomey. He does not like Captain Burton, and would not make a treaty with him, after having refused his friend the Commodore. The King will tell the Commodore all he wants, if he will come up to Abomey, and will send a message to the Queen of England."

As on a previous occasion, the messenger was extremely well received by Commodore Wilmot, who, however, according to our informant, returned a rather severe, though wise and conciliatory, reply. It is understood to have been to this effect:—

"Tell the King that I am glad to hear he is well, and give him my compliments. Tell him further that it is not likely the English Government will send another messenger to Abomey, because the King's conduct is not such as to prove that he is sincere. Presents have been made to him, and offers of friendship have been held out to him, with a real desire on the part of England to benefit Dahomey and Africa. We cannot go on in this ridiculous way. The King must give up the slave-trade, or he must prepare to see his ports blockaded, which must very soon have the desired effect, because all those things which are absolutely necessary to him now will be prevented from reaching the shore. He cannot live or feed his people without those things. He will not be able to sell his slaves, because they cannot be shipped. His wars with Abeokuta and others are consuming the strength of his kingdom, because many are killed, many made prisoners, many die—and who can replace them. If I stop his supplies, how can he exist? There is no cultivation and no produce of the soil. He and his people will starve, and his kingdom will be broken up. Tell him that all the kings and tribes round Dahomey are his enemies, and that if once the English blockade his coast they will be glad of the opportunity to rise against him and destroy him. Perhaps Abeokuta will do this. Who can say? Be sure you tell the King truly all that I have said, and that the advice of his best friend is that he should at once send his principal chiefs to Whydah, and make the treaty with me that the Queen of England requires."

Our correspondent says that the messenger acknowledged that all the Commodore had said was true—and there can be no doubt that he will faithfully report every word of it to the King. The message from the King was accompanied by one of the King's sticks or sceptres.

The coast was being closely watched by the English war steamers, to prevent the shipment of slaves. It is, no doubt, a very trying service for both officers and men on such a coast—but the object in view is a great one, Dahomey having been of late years the only large shipper of slaves.

LAGOS.

Mr. Governor Freeman, before leaving Lagos for England, issued the following

PROCLAMATION.

By his Excellency Henry Stanhope Freeman, Governor, Commander-in-Chief in and over the Settlement of Lagos and its Dependencies, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

"Whereas his Excellency is about to leave Lagos for a few months, and is desirous that the inhabitants should not have any cause or excuse for discontent during his absence; and whereas he has seen that in many parts of the town houses and premises are fallen down through want of proper protection from the rain, and knowing that Calabar mats cannot be obtained in sufficient numbers to repair all damages daily occuring:

"His Excellency has therefore been pleased to postpone, for six months, carrying into execution the provisions of the Ordinance No. 8, of the 9th April, 1863.

"In making this concession, his Excellency cannot but refer to the seditious spirit which was shown by the inhabitants of Lagos about six weeks ago, when compliance with the ordinance was urged upon them.

"This rebelious spirit entirely prevented the accomplishment of the wishes of the people; for it is not by seditious meetings and threats of insurrection that this Government can be guided.

"The inhabitants of Lagos having yielded and shown their respect for law and order, his Excellency has much pleasure in granting them their desire."

This is a sample of the grandiloquent in African colonial government, and is characteristic of the course hitherto pursued in the colony where it was promulgated. Manifestly there ought never to have been occasion for such a proclamation as this. An order to cover all the houses with Calabar mats or other substitutes for the old thatch within six months, should never have been issued, unless it was certain that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the material for giving obedience to the law. We never saw a proclamation that so completely justified what the Governor calls "a seditious" and a "rebellious" spirit, as does this of Governor Freeman. No wonder Government falls into contempt sometimes in our smaller colonies.

We are sorry to see, by new reports of deaths, that Lagos is still in an unhealthy state. An "ordinance to compel owners of swamp lands to fill up the same" having been confirmed in England, has now been promulgated, and it will no doubt lead to beneficial results. Another ordinance has been sanctioned in England, and issued in the colony. It is "to raise 600 additional Houssa armed police for the service of Lagos." These, with the preexisting ones, will form a *regiment*. We hope the revenue of Lagos will suffice for this and other services; but it is a large establishment for the finances of a place where a comparatively small trade is now being carried on. We hope it does not mean *military action in the interior*, as we do not think that the Abeokutan difficulties could be thus solved. No change has yet taken place as regards them, and we do not see anything to indicate that the long-hoped-for reopening of the roads and trade is about to take place. This is greatly to be deplored—but it seems difficult to find a remedy, as the struggle between the Egbas and Ibadans, far from languishing, seems to acquire fresh vigour (if the word vigour can be at all applied to such a war) day by day. M. Tickle, however, one of the Badagry merchants, has been wisely and pacifically sent up by Acting Governor Glover to the camp of the Egbas, in order if possible to arrange a meeting between his Excellency and the Egba authorities.

The Protectorate of Ikoradu has been abandoned.

NATAL.

The news by last mail is unimportant.

The following are auction sales of produce during the month: Sugar, 22s. to 24s. per cwt.; arrowroot, 3½d. per lb.; butter, 6d. to 9½d. per lb.; bacon, 11½d. per lb.; mealies, 13s. to 15s. per muid; mealie meal, 18s. per muid; trek oxen, 7*l.* to 9*l.*; cows, 3*l.* 10s. to 6*l.* 10s.; onions, 1¾d. to 2d per lb.; Cape seed oats, 12s. 6d. to 14s. per 100 lbs.; coolie rice, 21s. to 23s. per bag.

The Fairlie arrived from Madras, on the 11th, with 341 coolies on board. All were landed in good health.

His Excellency Colonel Maclean is expected to arive by the next or the following mail. Suitable arrangements are being made to give him a proper and enthusiastic reception.

The revenue for 1865 is estimated at 137,140*l.*, being an increase of 32,000*l.* over the estimated income of 1864. The expenditure for 1865 is estimated at 141,664*l.*, which it is expected the revenue will fully cover, as it has always of late much exceeded the estimates.

PORTSMOUTH, Sept. 6.—The Governor Maclean, brig, from the coast of Africa to London, with palm oil, iron, and cotton, got on the Owers yesterday, but got off with the assistance of Selsey pilots and boatmen. She was waterlogged and with both masts cut away. She is now being towed into harbour by Government and private tugs, completely waterlogged, and will be placed on the mud.

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.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions in the colony to 21st July . .	798	2	6
Ditto already announced in London . . .	60	1	0
Joseph Hoare, Esq.	3	3	0

CAPE COAST CASTLE NATIVE FEMALE SCHOOL, GOLD COAST, WEST AFRICA.

We beg especially to refer our readers to the observations on this important subject in our last month's paper; and again earnestly solicit donations for enabling Mrs. Moseley to establish a school the influence of which cannot fail to be very great in the desired regeneration of Africa.

	£	s.	d.
Contributions announced in our last number . .	50	5	0
Mrs. Joseph Moseley thankfully acknowledges the following additional subscriptions since our last number was published :—			
Right Hon. Lord Calthorpe	5	0	0
Sir Fowell Buxton, Spitalfield's Brewery . . .	5	0	0
Vice-Admiral Vernon Harcourt	1	0	0
Lord Bishop of Ripon	1	0	0
Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (in Books)	5	0	0
Moravian Brethren	5	0	0

Further information will be gladly given by *Mrs. Joseph Moseley*, 2, Montagu-street, Portman-square, London. Messrs. Rivington, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, and Mr. George Parker, Librarian, High-street, Fulham, S.W., have kindly consented to receive subscriptions and donations.

NOTICE.

Dr. Livingston's lecture on the subject of his recent experience in Africa, delivered at Bath on the 19th, reached us too late for publication this month, all our arrangements having been previously made. We propose giving this most interesting paper in our next number.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 5s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance. AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY, 8, Adelphi-terrace, Straud, W.C., London.

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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1864.

OUR GAMBIA LETTERS.

SOME two months ago we heard from Paris that the French Government had proposed to that of England a joint attack from Senegal and Bathurst by the French and English forces upon the Mohammedan chief MAHABA, who has been frequently mentioned in our columns. We were at the same time informed that the expedition had the decided approval of the two Governors of the Senegal and the Gambia, and that the proposal had been so favourably received in London, that the French Government believed that of England would authorise and enable the Governor of the Gambia to concert and carry out, conjointly with the Governor of the Senegal, a vigorous attack upon Mahaba. All the non-official reports from the River Gambia that we had for some time received had represented Mahaba's career, since he had obtained possession of Badibco, as being favourable to agriculture, trade, and general progress. The Gambia districts had been suffering from something like a famine, and owing to this, and other causes, the merchants trading with that river had been complaining, we believe justly, of diminished commerce and profits. It seemed to us that, if we had not greatly misunderstood the purport of the communications we had been receiving, such a movement as that proposed by the French, and said to be greatly desired by the local British authorities in the Gambia, must be attended with very serious consequences as regards production and a healthy legitimate trade in the river. The society therefore took measures to prevent any such combined hostile movement against Mahaba being further proceeded with, until reference could be made to the Gambia for more precise information respecting Mahaba, and the real state and prospect of affairs in the Gambia. We at the same time referred to our correspondents up the river, for their opinions on so important a subject. The result is now before our readers in the extracts which we publish at the commencement of the present number. The letters from which they are taken are most creditable to the writers, and show how largely a certain portion of the Africans who have passed through our missionary schools have profited by the education given to them. We *know* that these letters represent the real condition of things in the Gambia; we believe that the prospects of increased cultivation, and more prosperous trade, under impulse and protection from this Mahaba, are so far from groundless, that if he be not unnecessarily interfered with, they will be realised. We therefore denounce the projected expedition as one fraught with the most evil consequences—one calculated to restore the reign of anarchy and violence in the river, after great expense and loss of life has been incurred, instead of effecting any good. This country cannot afford to make G.C.B's. at such a price; and Africa cannot afford to be victimised for such a purpose. It is well enough known that we are not of those who condemn all coercive measures in Africa. We believe that the uncivilised natives are only kept in proper restraint—in such restraint as is necessary for their own prosperity and improvement—where respect for law and order is enforced. But Mahaba is evidently doing this in a district until lately the most lawless, violent, and untractable of the Gambia countries, although endowed by nature with all the requisites for a large industrial production. And it will not escape notice that the commandant of the French fort, brought into immediate contact with Mahaba and his people, seems now also to have a hope, if not conviction, that Mahaba is really performing a great work for the progress of agriculture, and consequently of civilization. We trust, therefore, that not only will the British Government give up all idea of a military expedition against Mahaba; but that the French Government also will have been so advised anew by the Governor of the Senegal, as to induce it to abandon for the present all idea of interference. It must be clear to all who know anything about those countries, that it is above all advisable that the host of lawless petty chiefs and kings should become subject to some one who can enforce order among them, and to whom the French and British Governments can apply in the event of any misconduct or disorder. It is only with some such subjection that the incessant petty wars carried on for plunder can be put an end to; and these must be put an end to before agriculture, the fount of profitable trade, can flourish. In the interest of merchants and traders—in the interests of progress and civilization—we trust, therefore, that we shall hear no more of an expensive military promenade against Mahaba, and hope we have done some service in obtaining evidence against it.

AFRICAN PRODUCTS.

THIRTY tons of clean cotton! Four hundred and twenty-five bags of coffee! We noticed briefly last month the receipt of the above from West Africa—the former in various shipments from the Gold Coast, the latter by one ship, from one purely native port. Small as these quantities are—insignificant indeed as they are when compared with the wants and demands of civilized Europe—they are nevertheless calculated to afford encouragement to those who, with ourselves, look to the spread of civilization in Africa by means of an increased production of those articles

which we receive from other tropical countries. We might have added to the above from two to three hundred bags of copper ore, containing, as we have been informed, above 45 per cent. of pure copper. The latent wealth of Africa, on which we have so much insisted, is not a myth. It is a fact, in which lies concealed the germ of future African industrial regeneration, which it is indispensable should go hand in hand with the inculcation of the ennobling precepts of Christianity. The thirty tons of cotton have been produced by the natives for exportation chiefly in consequence of the representations and exertions of two or three educated Africans, who are untiring in their efforts to impress upon the chiefs and people the great and permanent, as well as immediate advantages to be obtained by an extension of the cotton-growing industry among them. It must not be forgotten that this cotton is produced in districts remote from the Coast, and in countries without roads, or any other means of conveyance, save on the heads of men and women. These disadvantages under which the native African labours should be always kept in view, when the ridicule that might otherwise attach in some minds to such seemingly unimportant shipments will, we think, be in a great degree removed. The same remarks as regards transport apply also to the coffee and the copper ore; these, also, have not only to be collected, but to be carried, also, for some scores of miles on human heads to the Coast for barter and shipment. The coffee is not the produce of any modern plantations—of any recent effort to introduce the culture of that valuable berry. The coffee-tree has become abundant over many large districts in Western Africa. In the Rio Nunez, where the berry is said to be quite equal, if not superior, to the Arabian Mocha, and elsewhere, the coffee-tree was originally introduced by the Jesuits, at a period when Portugal was considered almost sole European possessor of Western Africa. Although neglected, the coffee-tree has flourished, and is now found intermingled, and in some places very abundantly, with other trees in the dense and difficult forests which continue, and will, we suppose, continue for yet some time to come, to occupy a soil which might, if a proper stimulus were given by European enterprise, furnish abundant supplies of tropical produce to the civilized world. Unproductiveness is not only now a curse to Africa, but an injury to Europe—an injury the extent of which will never be fully comprehended until that unproductiveness shall cease. And never until then will the European mind become convinced of the magnitude of the error that was committed when the foreign slave-trade ran riot in Africa—when desolation and depopulation were spread over vast and fertile districts, in order that slaves might be procured for producing in the Transatlantic and other European tropical possessions those articles which the African, if left at home, and humanely stimulated, could have produced in tenfold abundance, and at a very much smaller cost. We hope these considerations will weigh with those of our friends—the few, alas! who do really feel a proper interest in the moral and industrial advancement of the African people in Africa. There is, as we have always strenuously insisted, an intimate and necessary union between the moral and industrial efforts in Africa. In our last number we inserted an appeal on behalf of Mrs. Moseley's noble effort for the enlightenment and social elevation of the female population of Cape Coast. That effort strikes at the root of one of the most prolific sources of evil in Africa. No teaching—no instruction—no mere exhibition of the truths of Christianity—can produce any great and permanent results, any more than cotton planting or coffee gathering can produce them, unless the female population be elevated to its proper Christian equality in the social scale; and we hope the noble English ladies who are strenuously labouring for the good of the human race will take this truth to heart. While pressing on our merchants and capitalists the necessity and advantage of stimulating African industry, by increased commercial facilities and judicious pecuniary help, we press also on the hearts of our Christian women the absolute and indispensable necessity of efforts on their part to unrivet the diabolical chains which have hitherto bound the African female population in a cruel and filthy social despotism and degradation, which no pen could adequately describe.

ACCUMULATION OF OFFICES IN AFRICA.

WE hope it will not have seemed invidious that we should in our last number have instanced Mr. Barry as illustrating the evils of the *system* of Government in our West African colonies and settlements. It is true that at the Sherboro the colonial surgeon has three other appointments also; that another official has two, both with handsome salaries attached, &c., &c. But it is at the Gold Coast that these evils have become most prominent, and have been most compromising, as regards the British official character and the purity of administration; and the loading with incompatible offices a gentleman who, however talented and estimable he may be, was quite new to official life, necessarily challenged remark from us, as the only public organ that represents Africa with the British public, and Great Britain with the Africans.

That the offices thus accumulated could not be properly held by one and the same individual at any one time, will very clearly appear when we state that the holder of one of them cannot, while charged with its duties, sit in the Council, while the holder of another of them becomes, in virtue of the office, a prominent and influential member of that Council. While charged, therefore, with the offices we have enumerated, Mr. Barry is at the same time expressly enjoined to attend the Council, and expressly prohibited from doing so. And this is not all. There is something which in our eyes is far more serious. In the administration of justice it is of the very highest importance that there should be not only an absence of all bias on the part of the judge, but also an absence of everything that could afford even the slightest ground for an imputation of partiality or predecision. The judge should not only be pure, but beyond suspicion. What, then, can be urged in favour or excuse of an arrangement by which an individual is, in his capacity of Queen's advocate, the public and official prosecutor, and sits also as judge, in his capacity as *acting* chief justice, for the trial of the very causes he has, as Queen's advocate, promoted and undertaken to substantiate? Surely this is a most flagrant impropriety; and we cannot be surprised that observers should challenge the purity and impartiality of justice thus administered or maladministered. But as if this was insufficient, that very time was chosen for promulgating new orders and regulations as regards pleading in the courts at Cape Coast were at the same time promulgated and enforced. Previously, any person might appear as advocate or counsel for a prisoner—any one might conduct or defend a suit in the court. But all this was changed. No one could thus appear without having a licence, for which a sum of five guineas per annum was directed to be first paid; no one but persons approved of by the Chief Justice or Acting Chief Justice could obtain such licence—and such licence could be at any time revoked at the pleasure of the said Chief Justice.

Now, we would not have it supposed for a moment that we object to a licensing system for advocates or pleaders in the courts. On the contrary, we think such persons, who often charge very highly for their services, might well pay something for permission to exercise such lucrative functions. But we do most decidedly object that the sole power to admit or exclude should be vested in the presiding judge. A court thus composed may, as we observed when alluding, in a former number, to the recently-promulgated ordinance, "be very orderly, but cannot be very independent."

We have thought it the more necessary to make these remarks because of the case so promiuently alluded to in Letter No. 1, on the "Administration of Justice," published by us last month. Ricketts has been pronounced guilty in a court thus constituted, and has been sentenced to the chain gang. We do not affirm, or even insinuate, that he is innocent. But we do affirm that a conviction thus obtained cannot be supported. In our opinion, at least, it has been so irregularly obtained, that we should not be surprised at its being set aside by superior authority. It is a serious thing to condemn a man to the chain gang for a number of years; and certainly no man ought to be so condemned without having enjoyed the advantage of all those safeguards against error which the most scrupulous observance of the proper regulations of a court of justice can alone bestow. We cannot avoid

repeating that the whole system of government, &c., at Cape Coast seems to have broken down; and we do not doubt that such practices as we have above censured will occupy the serious attention of that committee of the House of Commons which will assemble early in the next session of Parliament, to inquire into all matters connected with the British Forts, Settlements, and Colonies on the West Coast of Africa.

AFRICA AND HER EVANGELIZATION.

(From a Missionary Correspondent.)

A friend of Africa would naturally be guided by the practical result of the religious and other means adopted for her elevation in the social scale, and her enjoyment of those advantages which Christianity alone possesses. If those results are not satisfactory, the means would be attentively examined and remedies suggested, wherever those means are found insufficient or defective.

His theory of the means and expectation of results would comprehend circumstance, time, and place. A general view would embrace every particular view, and the friend of Africa in general, would be found the friend of Africa in particular.

I have been much struck with the similarity of feature presented by Africa in general. Without the intervention of the white man, ignorance, superstition, and idolatry, have prevailed, together with a nomadic mode of life one step only removed from that of the brute beasts around. With ignorance there have been found selfishness and cruelty, and regard for human life has been scarcely perceptible anywhere. With the white man's knowledge came also the white man's sins; and as with individuals men will be found to imitate the bad example rather than the good, so has it been with Africa in general, since only in the parts as yet unvisited by the white man is the black man found in his native simplicity and ignorance; whilst in all other parts he has acquired cunning, deceit, and mistrust.

The means originally adopted for the improvement (if improvement it could be called) of newly-discovered Africa had presently and ultimately in view *gain*. The possessions of the black man were coveted and craftily obtained; the black man's body even was made the subject of barter and exchange, with the object of his working for the white man's use, as cattle bought in market overt. No wonder, then, that the influence of the white man over the black was evil instead of good; and the improvement of Africa had subsequently to be effected through the removal of that mistrust and deceit which the white man's conduct had produced. Trade can be legitimate as well as beneficial. Had this been practically shown in Africa, who can calculate the enormous benefit which the white man's influence in Africa would, ere this, have brought. Some men's sins go before to judgment, and some they follow after. Transgressors go not without the punishment due to their offence, but those who follow them have the effect of their transgressions to overcome, ere they can be placed in the position they occupied before such offence was committed. Other means were doubtlessly adopted, and ultimately Christianity was brought to bear only where all these means had failed. No wonder, then, that religion was, to the black man, invested with the garment of a trade, and this investment proved against the white man, in return, the greatest hindrance to progress and improvement.

From this general view of Africa let me now descend somewhat to the particular, and I know no more interesting parts to take for illustration than those which first benefited in the emancipation of the slave, and in the experience of a system of fair dealing and protection sanctioned by the Government of Great Britain.

Singular has been the happiness of our country in the effect which its judicial interference has had in Negroland. No system, however, is so perfect but that improvement can be suggested; no principle is so fully and entirely sustained but that breaches of it may be perceived. It is a lamentable fact that amongst our own people are found traders whose merchandise is in men, whose principle of trading is that of overreaching and deceit, and whose bearing is arbitrary and tyrannous. The system of Government adopted is particular, and not general, so that nowhere is the character of the British nation uniformly and adequately shown. The happiness of our country still is singular, and I am one of those who look with confidence to the restoration of the negro to the society of his brethren, and that under the influence of British rule and the persuasion of Christianity. What, then, are the means in operation to bring all this about—are they sufficient? If so, are they effective? Do they reach the wants, do they overcome the difficulties, do they apply sufficiently to the circumstance, time, and place.

The first means I would allude to are those the object of which is education, moral and religious. Education must have reference to the position of the educated; and where morality and religon are combined in the system, the latter has particular relation to the soul; the former to the body. The soul must be educated and instructed by those foundation principles of salvation that remain for ever unshaken. Our societies are diligent and earnest in the prominency they give to this all-important subject. The soul of man is everywhere the same, in the same otherwise hopeless state, in the same necessity of the same salvation. The same instruction herein applies equally everywhere. But in the instruction afforded to the soul, is the body to be neglected; nay, is the same education equally advantageous for the body everywhere? Just as the food of man is made to vary with the climate and position, so I contend that education for the body should have especial reference to the time and the occasion. Herein I would submit, with all respect to the societies in operation, that their system of education is not so sound as it might be, and that the results obtainable are in the same ratio defective.

It is difficult to eradicate the old habits acquired by age. Their very religion proves not to be at all times an entire conversion, for a lurking regard for their old grugrus and fetishes too frequently shows an uncertainty in the religion they have newly adopted. If in religion this difficulty is found, so in their moral and social culture it must equally, nay, more, prevail. But the young, the young can surely be trained in a way to become useful to their fellow-creatures, *and cultivators instead of incumbrances of the social soil.*

It has struck me more than once that an anomaly exists, taken advantage of to his own detriment by the black man, and proving a fruitful source of hindrance to the white. *Trade, trade, trade,* in a limited and exceptional view, is the absorbing idea of the black man's mind. If the old man himself can't trade, he will try to do it by and through his children; and hence the cause of continual complaint that children are early removed from school when they were but beginning to learn, and too young to be confirmed in the principles of their moral training.

These difficulties have been often started, but has any remedy been hitherto suggested? If it has, where is it now in operation, and what is its result? Is the complaint removed? If so, why is it that one hears of these difficulties still existing, and proving an almost insurmountable barrier to further progress.

But I respectfully submit that the remedy is as simple, and as clear as simple. The body, or the moral culture of the mind that guides it, must be adapted to its future life. The early training of the child for the cultivation of the soil, where the soil has to be cultivated and subjected to the use of man, must consist not only in the teaching, but in the showing to the child what, when, and how such may be done. Schools might have portions of ground given to them for purposes of illustration; and a profit, by the working of the children, might accrue to the school, and *be shared in by the children also.* Arts and manufactures might gradually be introduced; an interest, by practical illustration, might be thrown into the subject of study or employment; and as the child might largely share the gain, the parents would be benefited, and the child to the man instructed. Thenceforth the man, anxious to show his skill, to settle comfortably in life, and make provision for the future, would be seen to convert a waste land to a farm, a hut into a comfortable house, a wilderness to a paradise and a home.

What see we now? Land, as producible land, uncultivated, neglected. The spring of an untold harvest ever encumbered with its wintry garb. The treasury of the nation locked up, and

that nation in poverty, nakedness, and rags. The people hoarding and hiding their silver in stockings or in holes, hungering after the petty gain of a petty trade, and preferring to dabble in the foul water of the pool rather than to drink of the living water of the spring. Their daughters work like horses, not where they should, at home, but all the day abroad; whilst their sons (too frequently unworthy of the name of man) spend their time in idleness, like asses. Sons and daughters, too, besiege one with the request, "*Massa, give me copper,*" and display far more energy to get one given than to earn one for themselves. How can the prospect of Africa's improvement be ever clearly viewed whilst the root of her disease is allowed to germinate with her life?

There are other means to which I had intended to have alluded, such as the introduction of European habits and customs into Africa, which tend to enervate the African and to cloud his moral perception. The provision, or the want of provision, for the future of the native pastorate recently established; the (by this time) recent consecration of the Bishop of the Niger; the principle of missionary efforts; the forthcoming exhibition in Sierra Leone; the removal of erroneous impressions as to facts that prevail; the interest or the apathy of the African for his own improvement—these are all points upon which much might be said, and of which I will write you by next mail. But the subject that has engaged me now I feel to be the first in importance, and I think that for one paper I have said enough.

MELANCHOLY DEATH OF THE DISCOVERER OF THE SOURCE OF THE RIVER NILE.

We are indeed sorry to have to record the following:—

"CORSHAM, WILTS, Friday.—Captain Speke, the celebrated African explorer, while shooting yesterday in this neighbourhood with his relative, G. Fuller, Esq., of Neston-park, near this place, on getting over a stone wall accidentally shot himself. His relative, seeing the captain fall, ran up to him, and found that the charge had passed through his chest close to the heart. He was only sensible for a few minutes, and feebly said to Mr. Fuller, 'Don't move me.' He died in about ten minutes. A surgeon was quickly on the spot, but life was extinct. The captain was thirty-eight years of age, and unmarried."

THE WHITE NILE.

The latest intelligence from the "Soudan" gives account of the results of measures lately taken by the Egyptian Government for the prevention of those slave-trading expeditions on the "White Nile" to which we called attention a few months ago. All the boats returning from the White River expeditions have been intercepted, their cargoes and equipments seized, and proceedings taken against the owners, whatever nation they may belong to. It is said that slaves have been found in almost every boat, thus rendering the ivory and every other species of merchandise on board liable to confiscation. At least four-fifths of the capital employed in Khartoum is stated to be invested in these White River expeditions. The effects of this sudden and unexpected severity on the part of the Government may, therefore, well be imagined. It has caused quite a panic among the traders.

We learn also by a communication from Mr. J. A. Tinne, of Liverpool, to the *Times*, that *the Dutch Ladies' Expedition on the White Nile* had been compelled to return to Khartoum, in consequence of the shameful conduct of the traders in the district. We stated some time since that these were all slavetraders, and had complete rule over the country, in which they were committing great atrocities. The "Dutch Ladies" wished to go to *Niam-Niama*. Two of the most influential traders—viz., *Biselli* and *Ali Amouri*, seem to have been the great culprits. After stating the straits to which they were reduced, owing to the perfidious conduct of these slavetraders, Mr. Tinne says that one of the ladies in their letter goes on to state how negroes were beaten, and in some cases shot, for attempting to relieve them; that Ali Abu Amouri, when applied to for help, refused to give it except upon terms equally outrageous with those of Biselli, and also forbade his negroes to sell to or assist them in any way. Selim also, Ali's steward, robbed them in every way possible, and encouraged his men to do so too. Their people attempted to build huts to spend the rainy season in, but Biselli refused the help of his negroes, without which help they could not get materials. M. von Henglin, a well-known scientific traveller who accompanied the expedition, confirms this, and gives particulars of other very atrocious acts. He states that a soldier of his party had bought four elephants' tusks from a native sheik; on learning which fact the people of the merchant Ali Abu Amouri attacked the negroes, took the sheik and several others prisoners, and killed the sheik's wife. The captured negroes would be sold as slaves. M. Kleiniznik, another traveller, had sent them about fifteen porters from a neighbouring station, Roulanda, with corn bought from the merchant Biselli, but having arrived near Biselli's zeriba, they were arrested by one of his dragomen, who forced the negroes with threats to return with their loads. They next attempted to buy corn from the tribes of the Niam-Niams; and a sheik was bringing them a good supply, when they were met by men of Ali Abu Amouri, who put both the negroes and Henglin's soldiers in irons, and took them to the zeriba of Ali, where the soldiers were at last released, but the negroes detained as slaves, and three of their number, who had escaped, were retaken and shot. Proper complaints were made to *Moussa Pasha*, at Cairo, in whose government the Soudan is; but, instead of redress being obtained, further injury was inflicted.

Mr. Tinne echoes our remark, "It is to be regretted that at such a time Great Britain should have abolished its Consulate of the Soudan." The subsequent interferences of the Egyptian Government will, however, we hope, lead to a better state of things. The White Nile districts have immense resources, and if properly administered, and the slave-trade rigidly repressed there, they may become of great commercial and financial importance to Egypt. The events above noticed afford fresh proof of the difficulties in the way of civilization in Africa. Evil has so long prevailed in every quarter, that the fabled work of Hercules in cleansing the foul stable, was as nothing when compared with that of removing the accumulated enormities of African degradation, constantly stimulated and exploited by the human demons of avarice and lust, who flock to Africa from all lands. But again and again we say, the work *will* eventually be accomplished.

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA.

At the meeting of the British Association at Bath, on the 15th inst., Sir Roderick Murchison, President of the Royal Geographical Society, made the following remarks: "Look at the most recent maps of Africa, and see what enormous lacunæ have to be filled in, what vast portions of it the foot of the white man has never trodden. True it is that large tracts north of the equator have been described by Germans and French, as well as by English expeditions, particularly that in which Barth was so distinguished. With the exception, however, of Abyssinia and the snowy mountain Kilimandjaro, explored by Von der Decken and the late Richard Thornton, few of these tracts have been laid down on detailed maps. In the central equatorial region, but for the example set by the three gallent officers of our Indian armies, Burton, Speke, and Grant, and encouraged and supported, I rejoice to say, by the Royal Geographical Society, those countries would have remained as unknown as they have been throughout all history, from the days of Ptolemy to our own. But if thus the chief water-basin of the White Nile has been boldly outlined, how much does there remain to be done in order to test the value of the anticipations of Dr. Beke—still more to complete a general sketch even of the geography of equatorial Africa! Is it not essential that the Victoria Nyanza of Speke, a body of water as large as Scotland, which has only been touched at a few points on its southern, western, and northern shores, should have all its shores and affluents examined? And do not the Mountains of the Moon of the same explorer invite a survey? Have we not yet to find out the source of the great Zaire or Congo, and trace that river to its mouth? And who has yet reached the sources of the mighty Niger? Again, when we cast an eye down the map southwards, are we not still in ignorance of the drainage and form of a prodigious ex-

tent of country between the Tanganyika Lake of Burton and Speke, and the Zambesi and Shiré of Livingstone? Are we not at this moment most anxious to determine by positive observation whether there exists a great series of lakes and rivers proceeding, as Cooley has suggested, from Tanganyika on the north, to Lake Nyassa on the south? and has not Livingstone's very last effort been directed to this point? If central Africa is ever to advance in civilization, and its inhabitants are to be brought into commercial relations with Europe, one of the best chances of our accomplishing it will, in my opinion, consist in rendering the great White Nile a highway of intercourse and traffic. And if the present ruler of Egypt shall bring about this most desirable end, by putting a stop to the lawless slave-trade, carried on beyond his frontiers under the guise of dealing in ivory, and by establishing marts of commerce on the banks of the great river, Africa will owe more to him than to any ruler since the days of the Roman emperors, who, though they tried, never succeeded in opening out the regions around the head waters of the Nile. In touching upon this subject, I have to congratulate you on the news which has arrived, that that chivalrous explorer, Mr. Samuel Baker, is successfully examining the central equatorial regions, from which, I trust, he will bring us the solution of some of the problems already adverted to, and will determine the real source of the waters which supply the Luta N'zige of Speke and Grant. I have also to announce that Baron Von der Decken has proceeded on his bold adventure to explore the interior of Africa from the east coast, by ascending the Juba, or one of the adjacent rivers, with two river steamers constructed at his own cost. In making these allusions to African discovery, most heartily do I congratulate geographers on the safe return of my excellent and disinterested friend Livingstone. Already, after his first two great traverses from east to west and from west to east across South Africa, this undaunted missionary has won for himself imperishable renown. But now, after a second expatriation which has lasted upwards of six years (his previous journeys occupying sixteen years), during which he has been labouring conjointly to improve the condition of the natives and to extend geographical knowledge, he comes home with a firm resolution to adhere to his noble calling for the benefit of the natives, and to return to that country in which every black man must bless his name. The return also of Captain Burton ensures for us some fresh and pregnant communications respecting Western Africa; and when we know that Francis Galton, though much occupied with the duties of a general secretary, will always take part in our discussions, and that Barth is likely to be present, it is probable that we shall have a concourse of travellers, capable of illustrating the geography and ethnology of Africa, such as was never assembled at any former meeting."

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—BATH, SEPT. 20.

Captain Burton read to-day a paper on the River Congo. He remarked that Africa boasted four first-rate rivers, all arising within the zone of nearly constant rain; and proceeded to give a description of his journey to the rapids of the Congo, observing that above them the grand river forked. There was a north-eastern branch, which had been represented as flowing from a lake. The information he obtained at the rapids left him no doubt of the fact. In the previous year, when he visited the source of the River Gaboon, he was informed by the Fans that, after sixteen days' travel towards the east, they came upon a water flowing to the right, or southward. This he considered must be the north-eastern fork of the Congo, and he hoped the survey of his distinguished friend, Paul du Chaillu, would set the matter at rest. The south-eastern branch of the Congo was probably the Cwango, which Dr. Livingstone crossed near its head.

The Chairman briefly pointed out the importance of the paper, and said the committee had decided to specially recommend Government to grant Captain Burton six months' additional leave of absence, to enable him to complete the discovery of the source of the Niger.

Dr. Livingstone, who was received with much cheering, said he could not add anything to the interest of the admirable paper which had just been read. He would, however, mention that he agreed with Captain Burton as to the main branch of the Congo lying away to the north-east. He thought it would be of great advantage to geographical science, if any one would undertake to ascend the Congo, and examine its two branches. With respect to his friend's (Captain Burton's) projected journey to the source of the Niger, he heartily wished him most complete success.

The President announced that he had heard from M. Chaillu, who on landing at Cape Lopez, with the intention of verifying his discoveries, had unfortunately lost the valuable instruments which he had taken with him for that purpose. But a fresh supply had been sent out, and M. Chaillu might perhaps discover the source of the river Congo.

HUSSEY'S CHARITY (SLAVE FUND).

We stated in our last that a scheme was being settled by the Attorney-General for the application of the Hussey Slave Fund, amounting to above 20,000*l.* The following are extracts from the scheme so settled:—

After providing for any costs or expenses which may be directed by any court or authority of competent jurisdiction to be paid out of the funds of the charity, and paying the current expenses of the management and administration of the trust in pursuance of this scheme, the trustees shall apply a moiety of the income of the fund in Lagos, and the remaining moiety in St. Helena, in manner hereinafter mentioned.

Local trustees shall be appointed for the purpose of administering the charity.

The local trustees for St. Helena shall consist of the Bishop, the Colonial Secretary of St. Helena, for the time being respectively, and of not more than four other gentlemen, engaged in mercantile pursuits in the island, or principal landholders resident there, to be appointed, from time to time, by the Governor of St. Helena, with the consent of the trustees.

The local trustees for the colony of Lagos shall consist of the Colonial Secretary of Lagos, for the time being, and of not more than four other gentlemen, engaged in mercantile pursuits, or resident landowners, to be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the trustees.

The said respective Governors, with the consent of the trustees, shall, from time to time, supply vacancies in such bodies of local trustees.

The local trustees shall respectively, from time to time, and at intervals of not longer than six months, report to the trustees concerning the progress of the work entrusted to them, and at the same periods render the accounts of the expenditure of the funds which shall have been transmitted to them.

The meetings to be held by such local trustees respectively, and their proceedings thereat, shall be regulated as nearly as may be in like manner as the meetings of the trustees and their proceedings are hereby regulated, except that the salary of the clerk to each body of local trustees shall not exceed 20*l.* per annum, and that two trustees of each body shall be a quorum. The local trustees shall also keep minute and account books, wherein shall be entered such particulars as the trustees are hereby directed to enter in the minute and account books to be provided by them.

The funds shall be divided into equal parts, one being entitled the St. Helena Fund, and the other the Lagos Fund.

The trustees shall from time to time remit to the local trustees at St. Helena such sums out of the St. Helena Fund as are to be applied for building purposes, as hereinafter mentioned, and the income of the whole, or the residue of the fund, as the case may be, after deducting therefrom a moiety of the expenses of the trustees; and shall from time to time remit to the local trustees at Lagos the income of the Lagos Fund, after deducting therefrom the remaining moiety of the expenses of the trustees.

The local trustees at St. Helena shall apply the proportion of the net income so to be remitted to them, after payment of any necessary and proper expenses, and having regard to any general rules and regulations to be prescribed by the trustees, in the establishment and maintenance, at one or more places in St. Helena, of schools for the education of Africans, or by giving aid to such schools as are already existing in the island, or partly by each mode, as the local trustees shall think fit.

The trustees shall out of the St. Helena Fund remit the sum of 1,500*l.* in cash to the local trustees at St. Helena, to be applied by them in erecting buildings for any such schools, and the same local trustees may invest that portion of the said sum of 1,500*l.* which is not wanted for such erection, on such security as they may deem best in St. Helena, and the money invested, and the interest thereof, shall be applied in repairing the said buildings, or in erecting and repairing other buildings for any such schools. And the interest not wanted for such purposes shall be invested in like manner and accumulated.

The local trustees at Lagos shall apply the proportion of the net income so to be remitted to them, after payment of any necessary and proper expenses, and having regard to any general rules and regulations to be prescribed by the trustees, in the redemption from slavery of such slaves as shall escape from the tribes surrounding Lagos to the latter place, and as the local trustees shall, after inquiry into the circumstances of each case, consider to be deserving objects of charity.

If in the judgment of the trustees it shall seem that the application of the interest of the Lagos Fund, or any part thereof, at Lagos had ceased to be of advantage, they shall submit proposals to the court for applying such interest, or a part thereof, at St. Helena, for the purposes aforesaid, or elsewhere, and shall serve Her Majesty's Attorney-General with notice of their having done so.

FRENCH EXPLORATION OF THE RIVER NIGER.

Letters from Senegal, dated 5th July, give an account of an expedition at present engaged in exploring the course of the Niger, under the auspices of the French Government. The plan of the expedition was drawn up by General Faidherbe, Governor of Senegal, and its execution confided by him to Lieutenant Mage, of the Imperial Navy, and M. Quentin, a naval surgeon. The object of the explorers is to trace the lower course of the river from the kingdom of Timbuctoo to the Atlantic, of which scarcely anything is known. There is, however, good reason to believe that it passes through regions rich in natural products, which would offer great resources to trade and industry. General Faidherbe is anxious to open communications between these countries and the French possessions in that part of Africa, and this is the principal object of the enterprise undertaken by Lieutenant Mage, who is well known for his previous explorations in 1859 and 1860. The last letters received from the travellers, dated 2nd May, state that the expedition had descended the Niger from Nyamina to Segou, and were then staying at the latter place with an influential chief named Samba Niadye-Sarrakolet, who had passed a considerable time in Senegal, and there acquired from the French some knowledge of the military art. He is at present an officer of engineers in the service of El-Hadj-Omar, one of the most powerful sovereigns of Central Africa, and has built fortresses for that prince at Segou-Sikoro, Koundain, and Niora. The explorers were in hopes of soon being able to continue their journey, after first going to Haindallahi to pay a visit to El-Hadj-Omar, who appears disposed to enter into friendly relations with France. They have forwarded to Governor Faidherbe much interesting information respecting the countries through which they have passed. The populations are everywhere in a state of continual hostility, but their chiefs seem inclined to form alliances with France. Should these alliances be realised, a political situation similar to that which exists in Upper Senegal would soon follow, and posts and establishments would be founded by which the Niger would be placed in communication with Senegal. The letters from which the above particulars are extracted represent the situation of Senegal as most satisfactory. Tranquillity had been perfectly restored in the Cayor; the works at the establishment at N'guiguis were terminated, and Madiodo, the chief appointed by the French, was conducting the Government undisturbed, by his late adversary, Lat Diov, who had been abandoned by all his partisans.—*Galignani.*

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

(No. 1.)

The Chairman of the Company of African Merchants to Viscount Palmerston.

Company of African Merchants (Limited),
11, St. Helen's-place, London, January 28, 1864.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have been in correspondence with Earl Russell on the subject of establishing trade with Central Africa by means of the River Niger.

This company has offered, on certain conditions, to maintain powerful steamers on the river, so constructed as to be able to ply frequently throughout the year, or whenever the river is practicable for a vessel drawing four feet water; likewise, to establish depôts at numerous points, keeping the same well supplied with goods, so as to develop properly the anticipated trade. These operations will require a large outlay of capital, say, when in full operation, not less than 70,000*l.* or 80,000*l.*

Besides giving facilities to missionary establishments and native traders, the company would engage to carry goods and passengers, on fair terms, for other parties who may hereafter establish themselves in the interior.

But, inasmuch as we can expect no adequate return for several years on the large capital we are willing to embark, we consider it would not be prudent, without support, to incur all the risk of developing this trade; as we could not, of course, hope for, nor do we desire, a monopoly.

We have therefore applied for such a subsidy as was granted to the late Mr. M'Gregor Laird in his contract of 1st January, 1857, viz.:—

£.		
8,000	. . . .	for first year.
7,500	. . . .	for second year.
7,000	. . . .	for third year.
6,500	. . . .	for fourth year.
6,000	. . . .	for fifth year.

and we consider that in the course of five years the trade ought to be self-supporting.

All efforts to establish commerce with Central Africa have hitherto been fruitless, owing to their desultory character; and I submit that our offer affords an opportunity of carrying out, on an effective scale, the object which has been so long desired, and on which so much public money has already been expended. Your lordship is, doubtless, well aware of the importance of this object in a national and commercial, no less than a philanthropic, point of view, and it is therefore unnecessary to dwell upon the reasons which render the ordinary objections to a subsidy inapplicable in this case; these considerations have, in fact, been practically admitted by the various contracts entered into with the late Mr. Laird.

Knowing the interest which your lordship has always taken in the subject, I have the honour to request the favour of an appointment, when your lordship can receive a deputation of some few of those who are favourable to the establishment of steam communication on the River Niger, as the best means of promoting the commerce and civilization of Central Africa.—I have, &c., (Signed) A. HAMILTON.

To the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, K.G., &c., &c.

(No. 2.)

The Secretary of the Treasury to the Chairman of the Company of African Merchants.

Treasury Chambers, March 4, 1864.

Sir,—I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you that your letter of 28th January last, addressed to Lord Palmerston, applying for aid from Her Majesty's Government to establish a line of steamers on the Niger, with a view to a permanent British mercantile occupation of the country, has been under the consideration of this board.

I am to state, that my lords, having regard to the amount of public money expended under the contracts of the late Mr. M'Gregor Laird for this object, and to the disappointment and failure in which that scheme resulted, and adverting to the fact

that the present proposal is not based on any new state of things justifying hopes of greater success hereafter, are not prepared to recommend to Parliament to grant further sums for the purpose of renewing subsidies, like those received by the late Mr. Laird, for the navigation of the River Niger.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. PEEL.

The Chairman of the Company of African Merchants (Limited), 11, St. Helen's-place, London.

(No. 3.)

The Chairman of the Company of African Merchants to Viscount Palmerston.

Company of African Merchants (Limited),
11, St. Helen's-place, London, March 11, 1864.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Frederick Peel's letter of 4th instant, intimating that, because of the failure of the late Mr. M'Gregor Laird's enterprise, the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are not prepared to recommend Parliament to grant further subsidies for establishing steam navigation on the River Niger, especially because he considers the present proposal is not based on any new state of things justifying hopes of greater success than attended Mr. Laird's efforts.

In reply, I beg most respectfully to submit that there is, in fact, not only "a new state of things," but that there are now, for the first time, means at command sufficiently ample either to carry out this most important enterprise to a successful issue, or to prove that it is hopeless to attempt opening up Central Africa to commerce and civilization by means of the River Niger. This company would, moreover, possess the great advantage in prosecuting the enterprise, that it would form a branch of its extensive operations on the West Coast of Africa, instead of being merely an isolated undertaking.

Ever since the first expedition, in 1832, all attempts have failed by reason of their desultory and inefficient nature; even Mr. Laird's efforts were valuable chiefly as experiments, and were abruptly terminated by his death, before he could carry into effect the plans he had matured upon experience. He found it would be necessary not merely to send a steamer up the river during a particular season, but also to establish trading depôts at various points on the river and keep the same supplied with goods throughout the year, so as to carry on a continuous barter for produce; further, that it would be necessary to communicate frequently with the depôts by means of steamers of a very light draught, built expressly for the river during the dry season, as well as by more powerful steamers, for the conveyance of heavy goods during the season when the river is navigable for vessels drawing more than six feet; whereas, up to this time, little more has been done than a mere flying visit of a steamer for a few days, affording no criterion of the results of more permanent operations.

Your lordship will perceive that all this would require the outlay of a very large capital, with no chance of a profitable return for several years. It was, in fact, an undertaking beyond the means of the late Mr. M'Gregor Laird to carry out, single-handed, with any chance of success. So well was he aware of this, that he endeavoured to form a company, with a capital of 100,000*l.*, to work his contract; but in this he failed, the time not being favourable for forming joint-stock companies. Nevertheless, he established three depôts, but untoward circumstances and his premature death prevented even a partial development of that system.

As Mr. Laird's executor, and with a full knowledge of his operations, I venture to demur to the idea that his efforts resulted in "disappointment and failure."

Making due allowance for the novelty of the undertaking and the difficulties he had to encounter, he was, so far as his means permitted, opening up a promising trade at the depôts above mentioned, though he was unable to keep them properly supplied, and his communications were interrupted for an entire year from causes beyond his control. Above all, Mr. Laird's operations were of the utmost value, not only for future guidance, but as proving that Europeans can live in the interior in good health and peaceful relations with the natives, which has since been amply confirmed by the experience of Dr. Baikie.

In the event of Her Majesty's Government acceding to the proposals of this company, we are prepared to build and send out steamers expressly adapted for the river service, and one or more of them shall be of such a light draught of water as we hope may at all times be able to ply between the depôts, or, if not, with the exception of about two months of the year only.

We propose to provide shelter for the crews, in case of any casual attack, and to give the steamers sufficient power to push rapidly past any point temporarily hostile, so as to dispense with the escort of a gunboat; and I confidently expect that the natives will soon cease all desire to molest the steamers when accustomed to their constant presence on the river, being moreover conciliated by the facilities of trading thereby afforded.

We should at once form permanent trading stations at various points of the river, most likely at Aqgiania, Abo, Onitsha, the Confluence, and Egga; keeping the same fully supplied with goods to be bartered for the products of the country.

These steamers and stations will require an outlay of at least 80,000*l.*, while, if encouraged by the results, we should be prepared to extend our operations and push still further into the interior, both by the Niger and the Chadda.

When trade has, to a certain extent, been developed by our operations, others will no doubt desire to participate in the same, and in consideration of the subsidy for which we have applied, we should engage to convey general goods and passengers in our steamers on fair terms; besides which, the steamers would be at once available for missionary, scientific, and other purposes, including the return of liberated Africans to their country, and the conveyance of native traders to and fro, which is of great importance.

Your lordship will thus perceive that it is only by a large capital that the great objects in view can be secured; these objects are:—

First. To open up a new field for British enterprise on the one hand, and on the other, to afford the advantages of legitimate commerce to the natives, thereby striking a blow at the slave-trade at its source in those regions.

Secondly. To afford facilities for missionary enterprise in Central Africa, such as have never before existed.

Thirdly. To open up a new and boundless field for the supply of cotton.

It is not to be expected that the large capital thus embarked can yield a profitable return for some time, and there is also no doubt some risk of ultimate failure. No individual or company would act prudently to incur those risks, unaided, merely if successful to open the way for all comers; and considering that the objects sought are national and philanthropic as well as commercial, it cannot be deemed unreasonable that we should ask Her Majesty's Government to share those risks with us, in the shape of the very moderate subsidy for which we have applied.

Should the enterprise prove unsuccessful, the company would still be heavy losers; while, if successful, we have offered to refund the subsidy as soon as the company is in receipt of six per cent. on the capital embarked.

In conclusion, I would beg respectfully to observe that, unless the past efforts in the Niger be followed up in some such manner as now proposed, the public money already expended, instead of bearing fruit, will, indeed, have been wasted. Of what use the costly expedition of 1841; the four years' valuable labours of Dr. Baikie; the annual trip up the river of Her Majesty's steamer Investigator; the treaties entered into with natives, and especially with Massaba, the powerful and enterprising King of Nupé; nay, further, for what purpose the continued explorations of Africa, if noble rivers like the Niger and Chadda are to be abandoned by this country, affording, as they do, the means of carrying commerce and civilization into the very heart of the continent?

The treaties will be more than useless; and if the hopes, so repeatedly held out to the natives, be not shortly realised by the permanent British mercantile occupation of the country, the Niger districts will either fall into the hands of some other nation, or a deeper gloom than ever will close over Central Africa.

For these reasons, I trust your Lordship will reconsider the subject, as it is difficult to believe that so advantageous an offer as we have made can be finally rejected.

I have the honour to remain, on behalf of the Company of African Merchants, yours, &c., A. HAMILTON.

To the Right Hon. Lord Palmerston, K.G., &c., &c.

African Association, Liverpool.

3, Brown's-buildings, Liverpool, April 22, 1864.

At a special general meeting of the African trade, held on Tuesday last, the 19th instant, to consider the application to Government of the "Company of African Merchants (Limited)" for the subsidy previously granted to the late M'Gregor Laird, for prosecuting discoveries in, and extending the trade of, the river Niger,

The following gentlemen were present—viz., Thomas Harrison, Esq., in the chair; Messrs. Tobin, Horsfall, Hatton, Cookson, Ashmall, P. Stuart, P. Douglas, S. J. Arnold, Tyson, Murdock, Castellain, and Grüning.

It was proposed by Mr. Stuart, and seconded by Mr. Tyson, after a long discussion—

"That the merchants present oppose, by every legitimate means, the granting of a subsidy to the 'Company of African Merchants (Limited).'"

Mr. Tobin proposed, and Mr. Grüning seconded, the following amendment:—

"That this association, viewing with the deepest interest every effort to develop the resources of Central Africa by means of the navigation of the rivers Niver and Chadda, and considering that constant steam communication is most desirable on those rivers, as a means of not only establishing legitimate trade, but also of extending civilization, and as a means of checking the slave-trade, regards with favour any enterprise calculated to achieve these objects."

The amendment, being put to the vote, was lost, only three voting for it—viz., Messrs. Tobin, Castellain, and Grüning, all directors of the Company of African Merchants.

The original motion was then put, and carried, with three dissentients—viz., the three directors previously named.

Mr. G. H. Horsfall then proposed the appointment of a sub-committee, to adopt the best means of promoting the views of the majority, which was agreed to; and, on the termination of the general meeting, the sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Harrison, Stuart, Tyson, Ashmall, and G. H. Horsfall, agreed that the following constitute the ground of opposition to the grant:—

First. That it is opposed to the principles of fair and free trade to subsidise a company which is in active competition with private merchants in the same trade.

Secondly. That all past experiments have been attended with loss of life, waste of public money, and complete failure in attaining the objects sought for; and, further, that they have retarded the extension of legitimate trade in the rivers on the coast, to the injury of private individuals engaged in commerce. And,

Thirdly. That one principal argument hitherto urged in favour of the grant has, for many years, ceased to exist in the Niger or any of its branches.

(No. 5.)

Mr. Layard to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Foreign-office, April 29, 1864.

Sir,—I am directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copies of a correspondence, as marked in the margin, which has passed between the Company of African Merchants and this department, on the subject of an application made by Mr. Hamilton, the chairman of the company, for a subsidy from Her Majesty's Government, to enable the company to establish a line of steamers on the Niger river, with the view to the development of the resources of the countries bordering on that river and its tributaries.

Their lordships will perceive, from the letter addressed by Lord Russell's directions to Mr. Hamilton, on the 13th of August last, that his lordship was unwilling, in the first instance, to entertain the proposal of the company, on the ground that, if a subsidy were granted, it would place the company at an advantage, as compared with other parties, who might contemplate engaging in commercial operations in the Niger. Experience, however, would seem to prove that no private individual, or company, is willing to incur the large expenditure necessary for navigating and establishing proper trading stations in the Niger, with little chance of adequate returns for several years, unless a subsidy is granted by Her Majesty's Government; and Lord Russell is, therefore, of opinion that it would be sound policy, and money well spent, to accede to Mr. Hamilton's application for a subsidy to this company.

His lordship desires me to observe that the failure of the late Mr. M'Gregor Laird's efforts for the navigation of the Niger may be attributed, in the first instance, to his having undertaken a scheme which was beyond the means of a single individual to carry out successfully.

Subsequently, the hostility of the natives and the failure of an escort which had been promised to convey his vessels past the hostile towns, and then the death of Mr. Laird himself, compelled the abandonment of an expedition which, under more favourable circumstances, would probably have been attended with very different results.

Since Mr. Laird's death, three expeditions have ascended the Niger successfully, without the loss of a single man. The reports of the officers and other persons competent to form an opinion, who have ascended the river, are unanimous in stating that the resources of the country offer every probability of a large and valuable trade being developed in a few years. The hostility of the natives, moreover, has been overcome, and treaties made with the principal kings and chiefs in the rivers, by which they have agreed to protect European and other traders, and in return promises have been made to these chiefs, that trading posts should be established in their territories.

I am to state that the only object Her Majesty's Government have had in view in maintaining Dr. Baikie's expedition in the interior of Africa, for the last six years, has been to prepare the way for opening out the Niger and its tributaries to the commerce of this country, and, by developing legitimate commerce, to strike at the root of the slave-trade.

The character and standing of the persons composing the Company of African Merchants, the means they possess, and their experience in the African trade, offer, in Lord Russell's opinion, every probability that the present scheme for navigating the Niger will be carried out in a manner that will settle the question whether it is possible or not to establish an extensive and profitable trade by means of this river with the interior of Africa, and, under these circumstances, his lordship has no hesitation in recommending the application of this Company for a subsidy to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Treasury.

I am to add, that Lord Russell would be disposed to consider a subsidy of five thousand pounds (5,000*l.*) a-year for five years as sufficient; and if, as Lord Russell trusts, their lordships will be prepared to accede to this recommendation, it will be important that he should be made acquainted with their decision at as early a date as possible, in order that the necessary instructions may be sent to the African Coast in time to communicate with Dr. Baikie this season.—I am, &c., A. H. LAYARD.

NOTICE.

Cape Coast, August, 1864.

Her Majesty's Supreme Court on the Gold Coast of Western Africa having admitted the undersigned to practice as an "Advocate and Attorney" in all the Courts of Law in this Protectorate, hereby offers his services in that capacity, with an assurance that all business entrusted to his care will meet with undivided attention.

WILLIAM CHAS. FINLASON,
Advocate and Attorney.

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