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THE COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

CAPITAL—£400,000, in 40,000 Shares of £10 each.
WITH POWER TO INCREASE.

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The Capital of this Company has been fully subscribed.

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

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

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

The total actual value of imports from Africa into the United Kingdom for the six years, 1860 to 1861 inclusive (being the latest Official return), amounted to

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

£9,804,356

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

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

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

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

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

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The Royal Mail steamer Armenian, Captain Leamon, arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday, 10th inst., with the West African mails, fifty passengers (twenty-five being distressed seamen), 1,000 bales of African cotton, 1,308 oz. gold dust, 9,029 dollars, 1,900 francs, and 2,472 sovereigns. Her dates were: Benin, Dec. 7th; Fernando Po, 2nd; Brass River, 4th; New Calabar, 6th; Bonny, 7th; Lagos, 10th; Accra, 11th; Cape Coast Castle, 14th; Sierra Leone, 21st; Bathurst, 25th; Teneriffe, 31st; and Madeira, January 2nd.

Trade was brisk at Fernando Po, notwithstanding the small-pox still prevailed to a great extent among the native population.

At the Cameroons, the river was healthy, but business was at a complete standstill.

A slight improvement had occurred in trade at Old Calabar since the sailing of the last steamer. The ship Moulton sailed for Glasgow on the 28th November. When off the bar, her commander, Captain Kiddie, committed suicide by jumping overboard; his body came up alongside the vessel the next day. The chief officer of the ship Golden Age was put in charge, and the vessel sailed from the bar on the 30th. The Navigator arrived from Glasgow on the 28th November.

Trade had much improved at Bonny during the month of December, oil being freely brought down from the interior.

Brass was healthy, but there was very little business doing in oil.

Trade at Benin still stopped in consequence of the fine imposed by Commodore Wilmot on the natives, for outrages committed on Dr. Henry's establishment, not being paid.

Trade very brisk at Lagos since the roads from Abeokuta had been opened. A great quantity of cotton was daily arriving. There were at least 4,500 bales in the town when the Armenian sailed. The roads being again closed, no more cotton could come down at present.

There were 1,500 slaves in irons at Whydah ready for shipment. Her Majesty's ship Zebra was stationed off the port, and had her boats cruising in search of the expected slave vessel, which is said to be a large steamer, that has made several voyages so successfully, and given our cruisers upon more than one occasion such annoyance.

At Accra trade had slightly improved, and several lots of cotton had arrived from the Volta. The brig Governor Elias was totally wrecked on the 27th December; the crew were saved, and landed at Accra.

An average amount of business was doing at Cape Coast Castle. Business was very dull at Sierra Leone. Great preparations were being made for the races and the exhibition. Lieutenant Hawkins, of Her Majesty's ship Pandora, died on the 24th November, and Captain Merritt, overlooker for Messrs. Evans, on the 30th.

At Bathurst, several small lots of cotton of a very superior staple had arrived from the interior. The brigantine Monarch, laden with cotton, had been towed in by the steamer Saxon to Teneriffe, dismasted, and the mate washed overboard.

A PEEP THROUGH BATHURST AND OTHER PARTS OF THE RIVER GAMBIA.

On entering the River Gambia our attention was first attracted by a building on the left bank of the river, to which was attached a small light. We wondered what that was, and were told that it was a substitute for a lighthouse, and a miserable one it was. Our vessel suddenly came to anchor, to our great surprise, as we had intended to have a jolly good turn out on shore, and on inquiry we were told that the pilots would not conduct vessels to their safe anchorage in this intricate river at night. We grumbled and stamped our feet, but were obliged to succumb to the will of the *pilote*, and remained. Before break of day, however, steam was again up, and we were introduced, through deep channel by uncertain turnings amongst the sandbanks on the mouth of the river, to the anchorage opposite Bathurst.

It was in the rainy season of August, 1856, that I thus first visited St. Mary's. The night before there had been heavy rain. The appearance of the front buildings was indeed picturesque, white houses beautifully laid out, peeping through a row of bushy trees, unlike Sierra Leone, where the backs of the houses fronting the sea are in a *demi-semi* state of dilapidation, a standing disgrace to the colony. The frontage houses in the Gambia are in perfect harmony with each other, substantially built, and in very good condition. Through the kindness of our polite captain, I had an easy row in one of the ship's boats to the shore. I was a perfect stranger to the place, and my companions and myself intended to have a regular *déjeuner* in the hotel. We stood for a long time in the front street, which was in excellent condition, and I was surprised to find lamps hanging by ropes on trees all along the streets. On inquiry we found that there was no hotel, and no place of accommodation; and therefore, after a brief consultation with my companions, we agreed to make a regular inspection of the town. The condition of the back streets produced a rather unfavourable impression, those especially in the soldiers' and the Mohammedan town were in a state of swamp and dirt; there was very little drainage, the streets were covered with water knee-deep, and, as I was told by our guide, visiting from one house to the other was most difficult in some parts; in fact, he repeated the antiquated story that at times some of the people were obliged to visit by canoe; but this statement, in my second visit of 1864, I heard indignantly denied by natives of the Gambia, and from their countenances read that it was the production of an over-heated imagination.

In close proximity to the town, towards the left, there was an extensive mangrove swamp, not provided with a natural embankment, and not even by a proper artificial one; consequently, the poorer inhabitants in its neighbourhood were in constant dread of being swamped one fine morning by the overflowing of its banks. I was told that in 1847 and 1851 the rains were so heavy, that the water made its way into the town, a large amount of property was destroyed, and some of the houses were under water. There was a rivulet right through the town; the pedestrians were put to fearful inconvenience and distress; children dare not come out of the houses unless carried. There were few drains, and most of those were in bad condition. There was no proper road to Cape St. Mary's, but a mere footpath, and mostly covered with water. With these partial observations, we retraced our steps towards the beach, and found that our *aquatic earth*, as the King of Dahomey would call a large steamer, was alongside the jetty of one of the principal merchants. Of course, the swamp so near the town produced the most unhealthy emanations, most prejudicial to European constitutions. But it cannot be said that Bathurst was always in this state of dangerous neglect, because in the time of Governor Randle, in 1838, a capital sea embankment was made with mangrove plants and the trunk of the Talipot Palm. Having now given you a brief account of my first visit to St. Mary's, I shall continue my account of my second visit (1864) in my next, recounting at the same time the improvements which have been made under Colonel d'Arcy's government.

CORON.—The market is dull; prices without variation, although there have been many fluctuations during the month.

SIERRA LEONE.

The death of Dr. Baikie, on his way to England from the River Niger, is commented on by all our correspondents with expressions of the very deepest regret. Dr. Baikie, we are informed, brought with him to Sierra Leone some boys and girls from the Niger countries (two or three hundred miles up the river), with the intention that they should be educated at Sierra Leone. This purpose will of course be fulfilled, although poor Dr. Baikie has been removed from their guardianship by his lamented death.

Colonel and Mrs. O'Connor, with an aide-de-camp of the former, had gone on from Sierra Leone to Cape Coast. The Colonel, as before announced, has gone on a *tour of military inspection*.

Colonel Ord, who has been sent out to the Coast on a *tour of civil inspection*, remained some short time at Sierra Leone. The *Observer* makes the following comments on Colonel Ord's visit: "Her Majesty's paddle-wheel steamer Gladiator arrived here with Colonel Ord, from England, on the 22nd of last month. It is rumoured that this gentleman has been sent out on a civil mission, as it is likely that the English Government will relinquish a few of her settlements on the Coast. We forbear giving our opinion on this subject, as it can scarcely be credited that Great Britain is going to give up her colonies and loyal subjects, and leave them to the mercy of foreign powers and barbarous chiefs! However, on the occasion of his visit, his Excellency the Governor called upon and introduced him to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and the Nominee of the said chamber, the Hon. John Ezzidio. The Marshall of the Vice-Admiralty Court was invited to lunch. Various are the opinions in circulation as to what were, looking to the limited policy of his Excellency's administration, the motives that prompted his Excellency to introduce the gentleman in question."

Two petitions had been presented to the Governor by the Chamber of Commerce. The one prayed, "that persons incarcerated for nonpayment of the House and Land-taxes and Road-tax, should no longer be confined with and treated as criminals," their default of payment being caused generally by an utter inability to pay. The other petition prayed that "a regular postal communication with the Sherbro, bi-monthly, should be established." To these the Governor had replied. The Governor objects to defaulters for nonpayment of taxes being merely confined in a debtors' prison, where they would have to be kept in idleness; but promises, that although he must maintain the present system of placing them in the criminal prisons, he will order that they shall not in future have their heads shaved, &c. The Governor says: "I have directed that defaulters shall not be subjected to have their heads shaved, and that they shall be separated as much as possible from the other prisoners, and that the work on which they are employed shall be under the supervision of the colonial surveyor, the officer who had originally the power of calling upon them for their labour" (in lieu of money).

It seems from this that where they could not pay House and Road-tax, they were placed in prison, and made to contribute a *Poll-tax*, which, however, cannot have added much to the general revenue. However, it is satisfactory that they are not to be any longer *polled*.

With regard to the second petition, his Excellency, who we know has always been most anxious to increase the commercial facilities in the colony, has promised, "the petition with regard to the establishment of postal communication with the Sherbro shall have my earnest support. And I have no doubt the desired result may be obtained."

Trade dull both at Sierra Leone and up the Melleconrie River.

SHERBRO.

A gentleman of the Mendi Mission writes: "M. P. Horton, Esq., our neighbour, and a native of Dahomey, though his farming operations proved abortive last year, seems determined to persevere till success crowns his efforts. He has now under cultivation nearly 300 acres of land at Bendoo, 200 of which is devoted to the growth of cotton, 35 to sugar-cane, and the rest to ground-nuts; and thus far the prospect of a beautiful crop of each of the articles named is good. This noble example is being followed by

others in the Sherbro, and his success will stimulate many in this part of the country, who as yet know nothing of the intrinsic benefits of agricultural pursuits."

The *Early Dawn* says: "We note with much interest the construction of the first road in the Sherbro, leading from Victoria to Bonthe. Considerable progress has been made during the past month—in fact, it is very commendable when we consider the great obstacles—a dense bush and occasional mangrove swamps—which are to be overcome. We hail this road as the harbinger of an advancing civilization."

"The health of the Sherbro has not been very good of late. As on many other parts of the Coast, the past six months have been remarkably fruitful in fever, dysentery, and deaths among the foreigners. No general epidemic, however, has prevailed, and there is no special cause for alarm."

PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY OF CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 11, 1864.

Sir,—We are glad to announce that in the town of Cape Coast a society has started into being, which has for its name the "Philanthropic Society of Cape Coast."

It is worthy of note that, unlike the generality of the Africans of the Gold Coast, they have divested themselves of all love of particular homes, rooms, or towns, and have engaged to become and act as inhabitants of the various homes, rooms, and towns of which the entire Gold Coast Protectorate is composed.

Nor is this all. The very objects of that body prove them alive to the interests of the kings, chiefs, and people. Among other things, they have proposed the very laudable and desirable measure of raising public funds in the country, and their objects and proceedings are not unknown to the chiefs of Cape Coast, and other places on the Gold Coast. In short, all that the society has been doing have been approved and sanctioned by the chiefs in question.

It is much to be regretted, however, that the society have met with opposition; but it is singular that the opposition should come principally from the *Government* and *white men generally*. No doubt a blow has been struck; but what do the white men at Cape Coast say? They say that the members composing the society in question are but half-educated and semi-civilised. It is true that the members have not had the advantages of a liberal education. Yes, they have not been privileged to take a scholarship, obtain a fellowship, or receive the degrees of B.A., M.A., or D.D., &c. We are not unaware that they were only locally educated in a common school, and really brought up by persons who perhaps wanted learning themselves. But we are satisfied that they have acquired an amount of useful knowledge which, limited though it be, has not failed to give them that needful self-confidence by which success is attained. It is no wonder, then, that the self-dependence—that just and modest self-reliance without which a man is but a mere weathercock—which their knowledge has produced should be aimed at.

They are said to have "followed a false light," and to have got up a scribbled sheet of errors in consequence. But this saying, we believe, is only designed to make them despair of being ever able to effect what they have undertaken. Presumption is evidently intended to be laid to their charge, for the express purpose of making them submit their so-called errors to be erased, when it will follow that their sheet will be left blank, and themselves still kept in ignorance.

At length the happy intelligence has reached us to the effect that the society has so far braved the difficulties in its way as to give notice of its intention of advancing a claim on behalf of the Gold Coast Protectorate before the Committee of the House of Commons during next session. The object and the prospects of the society would have appeared in print before now, and even the claims about to be made would have been transmitted long ago, if our excellent Governor had not been graciously pleased to delay matters for months.

SPECTATOR.*

* We regret not having been able to insert this letter earlier.—Ed. A. T.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, December 14, 1864.

Sir,—Colonel Ord* arrived here a week ago in H.M.S. *Gladiator*. He is the guest of his Excellency Governor Pine, who gave a grand banquet in his honour to the officers of the *Gladiator*, &c., last night.

The people are still growling about Mr. Pine's rum licence, and they are evidently determined *not* to submit to it. Owing to this impost, and other causes, the influence which Governor Pine formerly possessed for good in these countries is entirely gone.

A most important case is now being tried in the Supreme Court—Swanzy against McIntyre, as administrator of the estate of the late Hon. Robert Hutchison. Some queer disclosures have been made, and when the case is closed I will endeavour to furnish you with the particulars, should the Governor not consider it to be a *breach of etiquette*.

Cape Coast is nearly drained of every available resource for water; the condensers are scarcely of any use. Colonel Conran is, however, working wonders. He seems to take more interest in the place than all the civil authorities put together. He has converted one of the most filthy districts in the town into a beautiful promenade and garden. On the 9th instant he paraded his men, and I must say that there never was such a sight on the Gold Coast before. The men looked so beautifully clean, and went through their evolutions so admirably, that Colonel Ord could not help expressing most emphatically his admiration at their appearance. So much for a good ruler. The soldiers love their colonel, and will do anything for him. This is as it ought to be.

The Dutch brig, Governor Elias, belonging to Messrs. Bowman and Vanrickersford, of Amsterdam, was totally wrecked last week at Accra. She was quite new, not being a year old.

Smallpox still infests Accra, but it is on the decrease.

Judge Hackett was to have left by this mail, but on account of the case referred to above, he cannot go till next mail.

With a hope that the inquiry about to be instituted by the Parliamentary committee may bring about a change of government, I am, yours truly,

JULIUS.

LOSS OF THE DUTCH BRIG GOUVERNEUR ELIAS, 275 TONS, OFF CHRISTIANSBORG, NOV. 29, 1864.

Accra, Dec. 1, 1864.

Sir,—This fine brig, belonging to Messrs. Bouman and Van Ryckersvordel, of Amsterdam, on her maiden voyage, was lost, on November 29th, off Christiansborg, about three miles to leeward of Accra, through what was apparent to all on board and ashore—viz., the mismanagement of an incompetent master.

The vessel was in charge of William Hoffman, mate (the captain having left the Coast some two months before), and was riding in a heavy swell on that morning *with only thirty fathoms of chain*. She, of course, parted at that; the second or starboard anchor was then let go, but with fifty fathoms only, and, as might be expected, it held her only about fifteen minutes, when she drifted ashore.

I trust that Lloyd's agent at Amsterdam will cause some investigation to be made as regards this loss, for it is monstrous that owners, who insure goods and vessel so enormously—and I believe in this case all goods are insured at invoice prices, and those most fabulous ones—should allow men ignorant of the common laws of seamanship to hold command of a vessel.† Do other vessels on this Coast anchor with thirty fathom chain, even

* Civil Inspector for Her Majesty's Government.—Ed. A.T.

† It seems to us that, in order to establish any culpability on the part of the owners of this vessel, she must have been sent out under the command of an incompetent master. In this case it appears that the master, whose capacity is not impugned, had (compelled by illness, we suppose) given over the vessel to the mate, and left the Coast. The question raised seems, therefore, rather to be, whether any man ought to be allowed to go out in a vessel as mate without having in some way or other proved himself fully qualified to take the command, should it by any unforeseen circumstance devolve upon him?—Ed. A.T.

in fair weather? I say decidedly it was not half sufficient; and if I am doubted, I refer it to sailors on the Coast.

The supercargo, Mr. E. B. Reekes, was unable to save anything, either personal or otherwise, and, to have any chance of saving his life, was obliged to jump overboard into the breakers and swim ashore.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. Z.

DAHOMEY.

Whydah, December 3, 1864.

Dear Sir,—Since I wrote you last the King of Dahomey has been quiet, only buying back his people who were caught by the Abeokutans during his attack upon them, through Porto Novo. The Abeokutans only bring the men to sell, but not any of the women soldiers. This corroborates the report we have heard, that the Abeokutans preferred taking women prisoners to the men, not because they were afraid of the men, but that the women may be kept for wives.

I think the poor women like rather to stop at Abeokuta than stopping at Dahomey. A very short time before going to attack Abeokuta, seven poor young women were killed for having transgressed with men, but the men were spared. On that occasion there were several hundred pardoned for the same cause, but the case of the seven was the worst one; that was the reason they were not spared. Three weeks ago our trade was stopped by orders having come from the King to seize every pot of palm-oil seen carried by any of his subjects for less than half-price, to aid him in buying back his people from the Abeokutans. This order, of course, obliged the oil-sellers to hide their oil instead of bringing it to market. We have been obliged to send messenger after messenger, which has induced him to give up, and now we are getting in better trade.

The French Commissioner, who went to Dahomey three weeks ago with the Consul, Mr. Dumas, has sent down a circular to report that he has been kept and treated as a prisoner. This report could not be correct, as there is no reason for it. It must have been caused by his being ignorant of the habits of the King and people, and because he has not got the chance* to take his leave of the King to come down, he makes it out that he is detained a prisoner. One requires a deal of patience and good temper to go up to Abomey.

The agent in the French factory tried to make it appear that Whydah will either be blockaded or bombarded if the Commissioner be not at Whydah in fifteen days, and asks us, the residents, to put our things on board the ship of war in the Roads, Surprise; but no one has yet paid any attention, as we do not believe any thing of the kind.

I will write you again by the next mail. Trusting this will find you well.—Yours very obediently,

O.

P. S. 7th December. The Commissioner has been received and sent down. It was just as I supposed.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

January.

Sir,—The road from Abeokuta has been kept open longer than was at first promised by the Egbas, and above 4,000 bales of cotton are said to have come down, nearly 1,000 of which will go on to England by the mail steamer, if she has room for them.

The war between the Egbas and Ikorodu is not yet terminated, but there seems to be some parleying going on that may lead to peace. But whether we shall then get constantly open roads to the interior is a matter of doubt, for there is some rumour of a possible war once more with the Ibadans. The latter will, I think, never give up their project of a road to the Coast, and the Abeokutans on their part are not likely to give up their opposition to it.

No oil has been allowed to come down from Abeokuta, only cotton. But even this latter is some relief to our suffering traders who have had their property so long embargoed up the

* 27. Had an audience granted.—Ed. A.T.

rivers. That this cotton has been allowed to come says a good deal for Lieutenant-Governor Glover's management. We doubt if the same result could by any possibility have been obtained had Mr. Freeman been here in command. Can you tell me why it is that Glover is still only lieutenant-governor. Surely there cannot be any intention on the part of the Government to send Governor Freeman out again. I do not want to say anything about his merits or his faults. But even if he were one of the very best of governors, it would be wrong to send him out again to a place where he cannot be in good health—and from which, therefore, in a few months he would have to go home again to recruit strength. Such constant changes of rulers are great evils; and in the case of Lieutenant-Governor Glover, who is now for the second time acting in that capacity, another change of that kind would, I think, be unfair. He has at least a better chance of settling these disputes with the neighbouring peoples than Freeman could have; and we have suffered too severely by the long suspension of trade with the interior not to feel very anxious about this.

Improvements are being made in Lagos, which must take away many sources of disease. This is a great advantage our being made a British colony has brought to us. In other respects I need not say we have not been so well off as before. Heavy duties and reduced trade have tried our loyalty very severely. Of course, the end by and bye will be very beneficial—but we are so selfish that we are not full of consolation under our misfortunes because our successors may be exceedingly well off after we are ruined.

It has been hot and wet, and hot again—and we are not in a very healthy state.

Some commissioner (French, of course), taken up to Abomey by the French Consul at Whydah, has, it seems, been making a fool of himself. The laugh goes terribly against him here. Because the King did not receive him so soon as he desired, he tore off his epaulets, or some such tomfoolery, and Dahomey was to be blown away altogether to the lower regions, by French artillery. I do not know how many thousand ships of war were coming out for the purpose. But I believe it is all amicably arranged.

We are all expecting to hear that you will give Dr. Baikie a grand reception in England. It is no joke to have lived six years up the Niger, and to have travelled about as he has done.—Yours,

S.

ABEOKUTA.

Nov. 18th.—Every cotton gin has lately been brought into request, and cotton presses have been kept constantly at work. The price of clean cotton is 22 20 to 24 strs. per lb. (900 to 960 cowries), or about 7d. English, and it is likely to rise in price unless some check is given by a fall of price in England.

There has been some sharp fighting at Ikorodu, and it is expected there will be much more of it.

Dec. 5th.—The quantity of cotton that has passed the Aro gate since the opening of the road is 3,574 bales; each bale is estimated to contain 130lbs. of cotton, at which rate the entire amount will be 464,620lbs. The price paid for it may be reckoned at 6d. per pound—that is, the sum received by the natives for their cotton amounts to 11,615l. The amount of duty paid on passing the gate is 486l., or about 3½ per cent. on its first cost. The carriage from Abeokuta to Lagos, together with the labour of pressing, amounts to about 328l. The total sum therefore received by the native population on account of cotton is 12,359l.

We have not much information from the interior that can be relied on. Various statements are made as to the intentions of Ibadan, without sufficient foundation to be repeated. It is also reported that the Ibadans in the Efon country are being largely reinforced, so that Massaba's army will find themselves opposed to a much larger force than heretofore. We are by no means assured of a speedy return to peace and security, such as was before the war broke out; we expect there will be a partial peace, a breathing time only, with a view to renewal of the con-

dict. It is not a mere slave-catching war; it is one for dominion. In the opinion of the natives, their greatest interests are at stake. The Egbas have been afraid of the growing power of Ibadan; they think a free passage to the sea coast would add to that power, and make their own position insecure; it is not a case of trade rivalry, for the Ibadans do not excel in this, but the power of conquest and the disposition to put all the country under tribute to themselves.—*Iwa Irohin*.

RIVER GAMBIA.

The fact of mortality among the European officers of the army in Africa is so often commented upon without reference to the attendant facts of the remediable hardships they have to endure, and which so strongly tend to aggravate the special dangers always more or less incurred by Europeans in tropical climates, that we cannot refrain from alluding to evidence which has been for some time accumulating upon us from the Gambia, touching this important matter.

McCarthy's Island, as is well known, is far from being one of the best spots in Africa. We have no intention to particularise here the removable causes to which much of its extreme unhealthiness is to be attributed. We shall confine ourselves to a brief statement of the accommodation which Great Britain has for a long time past given to those gentlemen who have what we must term the misfortune to be in Her Most Gracious Majesty's service in that locality. We learned, a few months ago, for instance, that the commandant and the two medical officers, the commandant being a married man, were allowed the extravagant and expensive indulgence of three rooms! Three rooms each? It will perhaps be said; but no, *three families in three rooms!* Three gentlemen, women, children, and servants, with only three rooms for the entire superior official community! And this, with the thermometer averaging for many months of the year 95 to 100 in the shade!

Is it to be wondered at that our officers fall victims to the African climate, when, in addition to the many territorial, climatic, and personal incentives to disease among them, they are so pampered and indulged as regards quarters? Truly, as a nation, we are justly chargeable with the extremes of prodigality and meanness in our public service, and the extremes of meanness is, we think, to be found in Africa—in a country and under a climate where, if anywhere, a most liberal system should prevail. From governors down to the meanest employes, all are insufficiently paid and cared for, and valuable official life is sacrificed with the *extremest wantonness of indifference!*

Advocating the interests of Africa, we are guardians of the interests of all who are really engaged in serving her, and called upon, as we too frequently have been, to condemn and protest against the conduct of officials in our various settlements on the West Coast of Africa, it is no less our duty to them and to Africa to protest against a system in which less care is taken of the lives of those who at least ought to be, and would be, under proper treatment and regulation, valuable public servants, than is taken of Private No. 987 or anything else in the Metropolitan Police Force. We hope the committee of the House of Commons will order a hatchment to be placed over the remains of this system, *without the word "RESURGAM."*

VACCINATION.—The neglect of vaccination in our colonies has been remarked upon in late medical reports, and in the opening discourses of the lectures in the great London medical schools. In one of the latter it is stated: "This neglect is seen from the occurrence of small-pox among our troops stationed in various parts of Her Majesty's dominions. It appears from an elaborate paper on the results of re-vaccination in the British army, as compared with Continental armies, lately read before the Epidemiological Society, that no portion of the empire is exempt from the scourge. From Canada to the Mediterranean, from the West Indies to Sierra Leone, and from the Cape of Good Hope to India and China, the same tale is to be heard of small-pox prevalent among the civil populations, and of more or less disease among the troops in consequence."

THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, December 14, 1864.

Orl* arrived here a week ago in H.M.S. *Orl** as the guest of his Excellency Governor Pine, and a banquet in his honour to the officers of the *Orl** last night.

*Orl** is still growling about Mr. Pine's rum licence, and has evidently determined not to submit to it. Owing to other causes, the influence which Governor Pine possesses for good in these countries is entirely

important case is now being tried in the Supreme Court against Mr. McIntyre, as administrator of the estate of the late Robert Hutchison. Some queer disclosures have been made when the case is closed I will endeavour to give you the particulars, should the Governor not condescend to *deign* of etiquette.

*Orl** is nearly drained of every available resource for the officers are scarcely of any use. Colonel Conran is working wonders. He seems to take more interest in the civil authorities put together. He has turned the most filthy districts in the town into a garden and garden. On the 9th instant he paraded the troops, saying that there never was such a sight on the coast. The men looked so beautifully clean, and their evolutions so admirably, that Colonel Ord was expressing most emphatically his admiration at the *Orl** to much for a good ruler. The soldiers love him, and will do anything for him. This is as it ought

to be, Governor Elias, belonging to Messrs. Bowdler and Co., of Amsterdam, was totally wrecked last night. She was quite new, not being a year old. A still vessel, Accra, but it is on the decrease.

Packet was to have left by this mail, but on account of the wreck above, he cannot go till next mail.

I hope that the inquiry about to be instituted by the committee may bring about a change of government. Yours truly, JULES.

THE DUTCH BRIG GOUVEURNEUR ELIAS, CAPTAIN CHRISTIANSBORG, NOV. 29, 1864.

Accra, Dec. 1, 1864.

*Orl** is a brig, belonging to Messrs. Bouman and Van der Meer, of Amsterdam, on her maiden voyage, was lost, on the 20th, off Christiansborg, about three miles to leeward of the coast, that was apparent to all on board and ashore. The vessel was in the charge of an incompetent master.

*Orl** was in charge of William Hoffman, mate (the vessel left the Coast some two months before), and was wrecked on that morning with only thirty fathoms of cable. She, of course, parted at that; the second or starboard cable went, but with fifty fathoms only, and, as might be expected, it held her only about fifteen minutes, when she

that *Orl**'s agent at Amsterdam will cause some inquiry to be made as regards this loss, for it is monstrous that a vessel so valuable and so enormous—and I believe all goods are insured at invoice prices, and the captain should allow men ignorant of the duties of seamanship to hold command of a vessel.† Do you on the Coast anchor with thirty fathom chain, even

spect to Her Majesty's Government.—Ed. A.T.

*Orl** must have been sent out under the command of the captain.

In this case it appears that the master, whose ship was impounded (compelled by illness, we suppose) given over to the crew and left the Coast. The question raised seems, therefore, to be, whether any man ought to be allowed to go out in a vessel, having in some way or other proved himself fully qualified to command, should it be by any unforeseen circumstance. —Ed. A.T.

in fair weather? I say decidedly it was not half sufficient; and if I am doubted, I refer it to sailors on the Coast.

The supercargo, Mr. E. B. Reekes, was unable to save anything, either personal or otherwise, and, to have any chance of saving his life, was obliged to jump overboard into the breakers and swim ashore.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, A. Z.

DAHOMEY.

Whydah, December 3, 1864.

Dear Sir,—Since I wrote you last the King of Dahomey has been quiet, only buying back his people who were caught by the Abeokutans during his attack upon them, through Porto Novo. The Abeokutans only bring the men to sell, but not any of the women soldiers. This corroborates the report we have heard, that the Abeokutans preferred taking women prisoners to the men, not because they were afraid of the men, but that the women may be kept for wives.

I think the poor women like rather to stop at Abeokuta than stopping at Dahomey. A very short time before going to attack Abeokuta, seven poor young women were killed for having transgressed with men, but the men were spared. On that occasion there were several hundred pardoned for the same cause, but the case of the seven was the worst one; that was the reason they were not spared. Three weeks ago our trade was stopped by orders having come from the King to seize every pot of palm-oil seen carried by any of his subjects for less than half-price, to aid him in buying back his people from the Abeokutans. This order, of course, obliged the oil-sellers to hide their oil instead of bringing it to market. We have been obliged to send messenger after messenger, which has induced him to give up, and now we are getting in better trade.

The French Commissioner, who went to Dahomey three weeks ago with the Consul, Mr. Dumas, has sent down a circular to report that he has been kept and treated as a prisoner. This report could not be correct, as there is no reason for it. It must have been caused by his being ignorant of the habits of the King and people, and because he has not got the chance to take his leave of the King to come down, he makes it out that he is detained a prisoner. One requires a deal of patience and good temper to go up to Abomey.

The agent in the French factory tried to make it appear that Whydah will either be blockaded or bombarded if the Commissioner be not at Whydah in fifteen days, and asks us, the residents, to put our things on board the ship of war in the Roads, Surprise; but no one has yet paid any attention, as we do not believe any thing of the kind.

I will write you again by the next mail. Trusting this will find you well.—Yours very obediently, O.

P. S. 7th December. The Commissioner has been received and sent down. It was just as I supposed.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

January.

Sir,—The road from Abeokuta has been kept open longer than was at first promised by the Egbas, and above 4,000 bales of cotton are said to have come down, nearly 1,000 of which will go on to England by the mail steamer, if she has room for them.

The war between the Egbas and Ikorodu is not yet terminated, but there seems to be some parleying going on that may lead to peace. But whether we shall then get constantly open roads to the interior is a matter of doubt, for there is some rumour of a possible war once more with the Ibadans. The latter will, I think, never give up their project of a road to the Coast; and the Abeokutans on their part are not likely to give up their opposition to it.

No oil has been allowed to come down from Abeokuta, only cotton. But even this latter is some relief to our suffering traders who have had their property so long embargoed up the

* 27. Had an audience granted.—Ed. A.T.

rivers. That this cotton has been allowed to come says a good deal for Lieutenant-Governor Glover's management. We doubt if the same result could by any possibility have been obtained had Mr. Freeman been here in command. Can you tell me why it is that Glover is still only lieutenant-governor. Surely there cannot be any intention on the part of the Government to send Governor Freeman out again. I do not want to say anything about his merits or his faults. But even if he were one of the very best of governors, it would be wrong to send him out again to a place where he cannot be in good health—and from which, therefore, in a few months he would have to go home again to recruit strength. Such constant changes of rulers are great evils; and in the case of Lieutenant-Governor Glover, who is now for the second time acting in that capacity, another change of that kind would, I think, be unfair. He has at least a better chance of settling these disputes with the neighbouring peoples than Freeman could have; and we have suffered too severely by the long suspension of trade with the interior not to feel very anxious about this.

Improvements are being made in Lagos, which must take away many sources of disease. This is a great advantage our being made a British colony has brought to us. In other respects I need not say we have not been so well off as before. Heavy duties and reduced trade have tried our loyalty very severely. Of course, the end by and bye will be very beneficial—but we are so selfish that we are not full of consolation under our misfortunes because our successors may be exceedingly well off after we are ruined.

It has been hot and wet, and hot again—and we are not in a very healthy state.

Some commissioner (French, of course), taken up to Abomey by the French Consul at Whydah, has, it seems, been making a fool of himself. The laugh goes terribly against him here. Because the King did not receive him so soon as he desired, he tore off his epaulettes, or some such tomfoolery, and Dahomey was to be blown away altogether to the lower regions, by French artillery. I do not know how many thousand ships of war were coming out for the purpose. But I believe it is all amicably arranged.

We are all expecting to hear that you will give Dr. Baikie a grand reception in England. It is no joke to have lived six years up the Niger, and to have travelled about as he has done.—Yours, S.

ABEOKUTA.

Nov. 18th.—Every cotton gin has lately been brought into request, and cotton presses have been kept constantly at work. The price of clean cotton is 22 20 to 24 str. per lb. (900 to 960 covies), or about 7d. English, and it is likely to rise in price unless some check is given by a fall of price in England.

There has been some sharp fighting at Ikorodu, and it is expected there will be much more of it.

Dec. 5th.—The quantity of cotton that has passed the Aro gate since the opening of the road is 3,574 bales; each bale is estimated to contain 130lbs. of cotton, at which rate the entire amount will be 464,620lbs. The price paid for it may be reckoned at 6d. per pound—that is, the sum received by the natives for their cotton amounts to 11,615l. The amount of duty paid on passing the gate is 486l., or about 3½ per cent. on its first cost. The carriage from Abeokuta to Lagos, together with the labour of pressing, amounts to about 328l. The total sum therefore received by the native population on account of cotton is 12,359l.

We have not much information from the interior that can be relied on. Various statements are made as to the intentions of Ibadan, without sufficient foundation to be repeated. It is also reported that the Ibadans in the Efon country are being largely reinforced, so that Masaba's army will find themselves opposed to a much larger force than heretofore. We are by no means assured of a speedy return to peace and security, such as was before the war broke out; we expect there will be a partial peace, a breathing time only, with a view to renewal of the con-

flict. It is not a mere slave-catching war; it is one for dominion. In the opinion of the natives, their greatest interests are at stake. The Egbas have been afraid of the growing power of Ibadan; they think a free passage to the sea coast would add to that power, and make their own position insecure; it is not a case of trade rivalry, for the Ibadans do not excel in this, but the power of conquest and the disposition to put all the country under tribute to themselves.—*Iwe Irohin.*

RIVER GAMBIA.

The fact of mortality among the European officers of the army in Africa is so often commented upon without reference to the attendant facts of the remediable hardships they have to endure, and which so strongly tend to aggravate the special dangers always more or less incurred by Europeans in tropical climates, that we cannot refrain from alluding to evidence which has been for some time accumulating upon us from the Gambia, touching this important matter.

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The African Times.

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

The African Times.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1865.

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TO LORD ALFRED CHURCHILL, PRESIDENT, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Fort George, McCarthy's Island, Dec. 20, 1864.

My Lord and Gentlemen,—In the Supplement to the *African Times* of August last we were surprised to find that the Society has made such changes as to reduce its expenditure to a maximum of 200*l.* per annum. So small indeed is this amount, when compared with the immense good the Society has effected, that I am emboldened to say that the whole ought to be subscribed on the Coast of Africa; and being sure that this feeling is shared by most of the inhabitants on the Coast, I was enabled to make an appeal to those of this small island, pointing out to them that the Society employs its energies for aiding the more rapid elevation of the several communities of Africans in the scale of civilization, and is consequently working for the general interest of every African, as well as of Europeans, on the Coast. And as a productive Africa is needed, to meet the growing demand for tropical and other commodities, so I have no doubt that their works will enlist the sympathy and secure the co-operating assistance of every one who desires the happiness of mankind and the glory of God.

My appeal met with a response far beyond my expectation, and I therefore now beg to enclose you a bill for 24*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, as well as the names of the subscribers, and hope that the example of McCarthy's Island, where there are only two large mercantile firms, will be followed by Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Cape Coast, and Lagos, and more than 200*l.* be subscribed on the Coast towards

your income for 1865.—I have the honour to be, my Lord and Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant,
JAMES AFRICANUS B. HORTON, M.D.,
Staff Assistant-Surgeon.

AFRICAN SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

In our closing number for 1864 we stated the necessity of increased funds, if the Society is to fight the battle of African civilization before the committee of the House of Commons during the coming session of Parliament. It has been a cause of great satisfaction to us to receive the above donations from McCarthy's Island; and these, too, spontaneously collected by Dr. Horton before our remarks of last month had reached the Gambia. It is an encouraging fact that, with one or two exceptions, such as the Commandant, &c., all the contributors are Africans. We cannot too strongly urge upon the Africans in every part of West Africa to which this journal penetrates, that all our efforts are directed to procuring for them increased facilities and protection—for advancing their interests and the Christian civilization of their native countries. Doctor Horton suggests in his letter that the Africans on the Coast ought to contribute the 200*l.* a-year which the Society requires in order to give it sufficient freedom of action. If all the native traders down the Coast would make it a personal affair; if every one would for himself determine to be an annual subscriber of, say, only one guinea to the Society, and to send this subscription forward regularly, we should indeed feel stimulated anew, and powerfully stimulated, to increased exertions for them. It will be a proud day for us when we can say to the English friends of Africa, as well as to the revilers of Africa, that the African-Aid Society has an *African list of subscribers*, whose annual contributions render it independent of lukewarm European sympathies. Such a position would greatly strengthen our hands, both with the British Government and the British public. It will do much for us to be able to show them an educated Africa, keenly alive to its responsibilities towards those from among whom they have been brought out by the education they have received—fully alive to the necessity of those ameliorations of Government system, and those increased facilities for the development of African resources, for which we, in their interest, have ever been contending. We write freely, because we do not want one penny of their money for ourselves—but only for those disbursements necessarily attendant on public action. All we do for them is *done gratuitously*, in the hope of advancing God's cause in the world—and all we ask from them in return is to evince their sense of the importance and utility of our services—of those services which have really now given to West Africa a voice and a representation in Europe—by relieving us from the painful necessity of having to ask from others the small amount necessary to cover the unavoidable expenses incurred in thus serving them. If some leading native trader at each trading station, or town, or river along the West Coast, would organise the work among his fellow-traders, all that is wanted might speedily be accomplished.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There can be no better proof that education and trade are making way on the West Coast of Africa than is furnished by the Report of the Postmaster-General for 1864. The letters between Great Britain and West Africa, which in 1857 numbered only 51,000, amounted during the year 1863 to 103,000—an annual increase of 52,000, or above 100 per cent., in no more than seven years.

The late lamented Dr. Baikie died, not of fever and dysentery, but of Guinea worm. We shall give some account of this in our next.

The Abeokuta paper says: "Notice of confirmation by the Lord Bishop of Sierra Leone has been given in the various churches of Abeokuta. A large number of persons have come forward as candidates for that holy rite. The Bishop is expected to arrive at Lagos by the coming mail steamer." We are sorry to see this. We had hoped that since the consecration of Bishop

Crowther, such a perilous journey on the part of the Bishop of Sierra Leone, whose health is far from good, would be unnecessary.

ANOTHER YEAR.

The book of African history for one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five is opened, and its yet unwritten pages are waiting the record of events. What will be inscribed on them? Of course there will be the inevitable lists of suffering, disappointment, and death. These belong to the record of every year. Africa will not fail to exact its quota of victims. The lamented Dr. Baikie has had his name already inscribed among the number. True he died before the year was born, but we have only now received the mournful intelligence, when we were waiting eagerly his arrival among us, to indicate how the civilising agencies of Great Britain could best be made to penetrate these countries with which years of persistent residence, in spite of great hardships and failing health, had made him more familiar than any other European has ever been. His papers of course will remain a legacy to his country; but, alas! the living artist and interpreter, who could alone have given them their full meaning, and thrown in justly the lights and shades, has closed his career of earthly labour and usefulness—destroyed by one of those dreadful maladies to which we, happily, are strangers in these more temperate climes.

What will the record be on this year's pages? What will be the general character of that record? Will it indicate progress? Will the outposts of civilization be advanced this year? Will the civilising influences marshalled at present against darkness and barbarism be increased or diminished? Will there be an increase or a decrease of energy evinced in the employment of those influences? We have no doubt on our own mind that the record, however painful it may be in many respects, and however it may fall short of our earnest desires, will yet indicate progress—progress material, moral, and Christian. We will not doubt this; we cannot doubt it. Believing firmly that there will be an African regeneration, we feel assured that, come what may, there will be an advancing triumph of good over evil—there will be an increased development of material resources—an increase of effective moral and Christian agencies there.

With this new year we urge, therefore, upon all the friends of progress and civilization in Africa to ask themselves to what extent they ought to consider themselves called upon to contribute during this year to that advancing triumph, to that increased development, to those augmented agencies? The work has to be done, and some must therefore be working. Who then? Who but those who have already put their hands to the plough; who but those who with more or less of heartiness and sincere desire to stem the tide of moral and material misery—to staunch the bleeding wounds—of Africa, have already made some effort on her behalf in the past. Expressions of sympathy, expressions of disgust, will of themselves have no efficacy. These will not advance the cause of God and of humanity even by a single foot-length. When unaccompanied by deeds, these only deserve contempt. Standing upon the watch-tower for Africa, we are witnesses to but too much of that cheap protest against the influence of the powers of evil which God calls upon every enlightened Christian man to combat. We call, therefore, earnestly upon all who affect to care in any way for Africa, and for the triumph of good over evil within her blood-stained borders, to be up and doing. We care not which of the effective agencies alluded to they may support and aid. But let them support some one or more—let them aid some one or more. We implore them not to measure too nicely whether this or that missionary or other society engaged in the great, the arduous, and noble work, gives them their full pound's worth of accomplished good for the sovereign they may have invested. Let those who can work, work; let those who can better give than work in any other way, work by giving. At this advanced hour of the world's limited existence, we ought all to be working in some way or other for God and good; and there is no field of labour in which greater efforts are required than in Africa.

THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

THE note of preparation for the inquiry before a committee of the House of Commons into the affairs of our colonies and settlements on the West Coast, and the action of the Slave Suppression Squadron there, has already been heard in high places. Our intelligence from the Coast this month is very clear on this point. Both military and civil commissioners have made their appearance there. Colonel and Mrs. O'Connor on a tour of military inspection! Colonel Ord on a tour of civil inspection! They were expected, of course. No considerate Government ever takes its subordinates by surprise, when it wants information as to their doings. "Set yourselves in order; we are about sending out a special inspector." *Presto*—the dirty dens smile in all the purity of new whitewash; the infested lumber-holes are clean swept out! Model station! Model governor! Wise Administration! But for the life of us we cannot comprehend why the report, which is sure to proceed from such an inspection, might not as well be furnished direct to the Home Government from the local authorities themselves, instead of through the very expensive medium of a commissioner sent out expressly in a ship of war. For our old friend of last year's Parliamentary discussion, the steam-ship *Gladiator*, has been detailed on this service. We were rather surprised at this when the news first reached us. We remembered that the Committee of the House of Commons, which is, we suppose, to be named next month, or in March, was first mooted in consequence of supposed extravagant doings at the Gold Coast; and it seemed a strange mode of beginning a wise economy to send out a special commissioner in a ship of war, to be entertained by the respective governors of our forts and settlements at sumptuous champagne banquets given in honour of the pasha with ever so many tails, and of the officers of the ship that conveys him. But it is of course all owing to our ignorance as unofficial persons; as individuals ignorant of the sublime and abstruse knowledge which resides wherever red tape rules and governs. We should be told, perhaps, on inquiry, that the ship costs nothing—she must be employed somewhere—there was a glut of coals at the several coaling stations, and the so enormously paid governors were suffering under such immense pecuniary accumulations, that a little depletion by means of sumptuous hospitality was desirable! And so—yes—and so the Government at home will have *dependable* information to lay before a Parliamentary committee! Dependable information gathered during a few days' visit at a prepared station, where the delighted authorities were all "on hospitable cares intent." Dependable information! Yes, now we are about it, we may as well make a clean breast of it. We have no belief in the value of inspections thus made, or of supposed information thus obtained. On occasion of the late disgraceful abuses in Cape Coast Prison we suggested that the commodore on the station should be ordered to land there, and hold an open court of inquiry. But for very good reasons, no doubt, this was not deemed to be the proper course. And yet it is only thus that any real and true information can be obtained. We remember to have heard, from good authority, too, that on occasion of a similar tour of inspection to that now making by Colonel Ord, the attention of the commissioner was about to be called to some administrative acts that were thought to be quite unjustifiable. But the commissioner was inexpressibly shocked that any one should have thought it possible he could listen to such evidence! "The Governor is a very particular friend of mine, and I cannot hear anything against him." Of course there was no *African Times* in those days. We do not suppose for a moment that such an open avowal would be made now, even if Colonel Ord (which we would not for a moment insinuate) were capable of such conduct. The worst we could expect from him under present circumstances would be, that he should hold himself so aloof as to make it impossible for any such communication to be attempted.

But what, then, is the information which the Government expects or desires to obtain, at the cost of sending out a civil commissioner in a ship of war to dine with the governors of our forts, and settlements, and colonies. The statement has been

openly made by Parliamentary friends of the honourable member, who has signified his intention to move early this session for a committee to inquire into the subject of the slave squadron, and of our African possessions, that the object of such a committee is to get rid of our responsibilities on the West Coast, and to limit the public action of Great Britain there to the mere retention of a few fortified points on the Coast. We will not for a single moment suppose that Her Majesty's Government look with any favour on such views. We have said over and over again, and we repeat it once more without hesitation, that Great Britain cannot, without the most flagrant dishonour, pursue such a course. We have reason to think and believe that Her Majesty's Government holds to this, the only true view of the subject. And, believing this, we cannot see what good purpose can be served by Colonel Ord's expensive visit, which is really an implied censure on the British authorities at the Coast, who ought to be capable of furnishing to the Government, without his intervention, every information as to our position and responsibilities there, in which the Government may be deficient. At the same time, we cannot believe in any such deficiency of information on the part of the Government. There are gentlemen in the different departments at home who have been accumulating knowledge during many years' official connexion with Africa. Neither Colonel Ord nor any other Gladiatorial commissioner can teach them anything on the subject. If our settlements at the Gold Coast, if our protectorate over the native tribes between the Prah and the seacoast, are to be the principal points attacked in the committee, the gentlemen to whom we have alluded are too intimately acquainted with all that has happened in those parts of the Coast during the last fifty years, to require any information that could be picked up by Colonel Ord at the dinner-table of the Governor, or in conversation with the other officials.

We are suspicious and anxious as regards this coming Parliamentary inquiry. We cannot help being so, although we rejoice that there is to be such a committee. Conversing lately on the subject with a person who may be supposed to know something of the House of Commons, and of the considerations by which it would probably be guided as regards Africa, we alluded to the letter from the chief of the Basle Mission which appeared in our December number, and stated how easy it would be to show the disastrous effects which would result from a withdrawal of our protection of the Gold Coast to the cause of civilization and Christianity. The reply was, "We do not think the House of Commons would be guided in its decision by any such considerations. What you will have to show, if you desire British influence to be continued there, is that it has led, and is leading, to a great and constant increase of a valuable trade and commerce." Now we cannot ourselves place the question on such narrow grounds. There are circumstances connected with our presence and position in Africa that forbid our doing so. And we call upon our friends, and the friends of Africa, and the educated Africans, at the parts especially referred to, to help in this great crisis in African affairs, that the committee of the House of Commons may have ample evidence to guide them and the House to a right, a just, an honourable, an advantageous, and a Christian decision as to the future connexion of Great Britain with the West Coast of Africa.

LIBERIA.

In our last we published the amount of imports and exports for Liberia during the twelve months ending the 30th September last. Our readers will not have failed to observe that *sugar* and *coffee* begin to figure among the exports. We have now the pleasure to lay before them the report of a stranger relative to the St. Paul's River, which furnishes the principal portion of the exports from the port of Monrovia, the capital. The reporter is a gentleman belonging to the "Mendi Mission" (American) at the Sherbro, and his testimony may be relied on:—"St. Paul's River.—This majestic stream, with its banks, seems destined to be to the commonwealth of Liberia what the spinal column is to the human body. The wealth and strength

of the country seem to be developing along the sides of this river. On either bank may be seen an unbroken chain of farms for the distance of twenty-one miles. Most of them are well cultivated, others are being cleared, and sugar and coffee growing carried on extensively. Every acre of land fronting the river for the distance above named is secured for agricultural purposes. Many are purchasing and cultivating farms several miles back of those fronting the stream. The people are becoming aroused to the advantages of agricultural industry. Coffee and sugar are now, and will be for a long time to come, Liberia's best medium of exchange. These products will buy what otherwise can be purchased only with gold and silver. The farms are not yet very extensive, but the excessive fertility and perpetuated fruitfulness of the soil, and its adaptedness to the growth of these articles, readily compensate for their contraction. Perhaps in these particulars the world affords no soil superior. Four steam sugar mills now operate along the river, the most extensive of which belong to L. L. Lloyd, Esq., of 35-horse power. This gentleman operates quite extensively, employing from fifty to sixty hands on his sugar farm, still he does not carry on as large a business in that line as some of his neighbours. It is said that Mr. Sharp manufactured about 60,000 pounds of sugar last season. This season he has a prospect of doubling the amount. Others operate equally extensively. Ten years ago, not a pound of sugar was exported from Liberia; foreign sugar was bought for home consumption; scarcely any attention was given to coffee growing."

We have so often insisted, with our Liberian friends, that it was by agricultural development alone their country could take its proper place among the nations, that we cannot refrain from congratulating them on the evidence we are now continually receiving of the work having really commenced in earnest. One of the great impediments to a more rapid advancement is undoubtedly the absence of those supplies of capital which have been available for developing the resources of the British sugar and coffee colonies. We think it is worth their while for the Liberians resolutely to set themselves about the inquiry as to how far their laws and regulations with regard to foreigners and to the tenure of land may be chargeable with the great evil of impeding the introduction of that which is the sinew of agriculture, as well as of war. We see no reason why, if undoubted security for foreign capital invested in agriculture could be obtained in Liberia—no reason why English money should not flow in to their assistance, so as to enable an intelligent planter, for instance, who has managed on his own resources to raise 100,000 pounds of sugar a-year, to increase that quantity within a few years to a million or to ten millions of pounds. Land is there in abundance, labour, we are informed, may be procured when there is money to pay the labourers, and under proper regulations, an estate that has been so far cleared and cultivated and supplied as to produce and manufacture fifty tons of sugar a-year, ought to be an available security for capital that would suffice to clear the land and extend the cultivation to five hundred tons a-year, if the money were well applied. We want to see Liberia, the first of the Christian nationalities of Africa, show an example of what the African soil and a civilised Christian community can produce.

SANITARIUMS FOR WEST AFRICA.

McCarthy's Island, River Gambia, Dec. 20, 1864.

My Lord,—In the editorial article in the *Lancet* of October 13, page 442, we find the remark that "it is a singular fact in medical geography that from St. Louis, Senegal, on the north, to Mossamedes, on the south, there is not upon the seaboard a single healthy acre of ground. The whole western side of that vast continent (Africa) is one hotbed of disease."

It is well known that in all diseases the great restorative agent is pure air, and this is obtained on lofty ranges, along the seacoast, or elsewhere, inaccessible to the influence of malaria. This fact has been established in India beyond all doubt, and extensively acted upon, irrespective of expense, it being known that life is sure to be saved by it. In the West Indies the same sanitary measure has been taken, in the formation of a camp, at

New Castle, the attitude of which defies the approach of the most pestilential lithoral poison.

But it appears that, until lately, there has been scarcely any knowledge amongst Englishmen that the West Coast of Africa is garrisoned by British soldiers, whose lives are as precious as any other soldiers, and who go heartily to fight for their sovereign against, not only barbarous tribes, but also against the pestiferous, ghastly miasma that poisons the atmosphere of many parts of this Coast. This was abundantly proved in the late disastrous expedition against the King of Ashantee, where men and officers died without number, and without even seeing an enemy. There has been a great neglect respecting the requirements of the West Coast of Africa, and even a simple account of the Coast, in these enlightened days, is received with the same wonder and surprise as the adventures of Mungo Park and Robinson Crusoe. So little, indeed, is known of it, that in print, in public speeches, and in private conversation, it is termed the most unhealthy region in the world; yet still if one takes the percentage of deaths amongst the different stations of the British Army, irrespective of the great sanitary measures used by the Government, it will be found that many of them were by far more unhealthy than the West Coast of Africa. The *African Times* has always endeavoured to point this out; and as a proof of it, I may state that some time ago, so great and so frequent was the amount of havoc committed on the soldiers quartered in one of the West Indian Islands by disease, that all but one officer were laid *hors de combat*, so that the troops were entirely withdrawn, and a notice was sent to the colonial authorities that, should they intend to keep the island, they were to increase their police force.

But Western Africa has hitherto not been thought worthy of much consideration and attention, and therefore officers who have been sent to command the troops in it have scarcely any means for preserving their health. I deny in toto the statement that upon the seaboard there is not a single healthy acre of ground, and this I shall endeavour to prove; and also point out which (in my opinion as medical officer on the staff attached to the troops serving on this Coast for the last six years) will be the best sanitarium the Government could and ought to select, and where both military and colonial hospitals should be erected.

I am perfectly aware, my Lord, that the Cameroons Mountains, situated in the Bight of Biafra, near to Fernando Po, have been recommended by the late Captain William Allen and Dr. Thompson, of the Niger expedition, and, more recently, by no less a distinguished traveller than Captain Burton. This last gave as his opinion, "that a few thousands spent at Cameroons or Fernando Po would, calculating only the market value of seamen's lives, repay themselves in as many years." But the *pros* and *cons* of that lofty range as a sanitarium must be considered, and officers on the Coast should be consulted before the Home Government attempt to spend a large amount on it. There are many advantages in its favour, as may be seen described in the work of Captain Burton, on "Abeokuta and the Cameroons," but there are also some great disadvantages attaching to it as a military sanitarium.

Its distance from the different military stations on the Coast is one great objection, as it is situated about 400 miles below the last—viz., Lagos. It will be no great consolation for a sick officer—laid up, perhaps, with intractable fever, debility, diarrhoea, or dysentery, to be ordered, say, from the Gambia or Sierra Leone, to the Cameroons Mountains, a distance of about 2,000 miles, in a steam-packet, which is most uncomfortable, and unadapted for the conveyance of the sick during a voyage of eighteen days, in a direction quite opposite to the accustomed route—viz., to Teneriffe, Madeira, or England. The result would be found invariably to be that most of the cases, and certainly all the serious dysenteric cases, would succumb before the patient could reach the mountain of good hope. As a naval sanitarium it would be excellent, as it is in the neighbourhood of the rendezvous of the West African squadron, extending from the Volta to the Island of Ascension; and of the great oil rivers, to which so many English merchant vessels resort. Those on the

Sierra Leone station should, however, have the advantage of the sanitarium about to be proposed.

It is evident, therefore, that the best military sanitarium is that which is situated, more or less, in the centre of the military stations on the Coast. The barracks at Sierra Leone, which are about 300 feet above the level of the sea, are known to be more healthy than any part of the city of Freetown, as was proved in the late visitation of yellow fever, when all the Europeans were dying in the town, and not a single case occurred in the barracks. Officers there are consequently more seldom affected by the malaria in the low land. Still further in the interior, Leicester Mountain stands in great prominence, above 2,000 feet above the sea's level, possessing a fine table land on its summit, and an agreeable and pleasant view all round. Beyond this is the *Sugar Loaf*, a mountain from 3,000 to 4,000 feet in height, and second to none in Western Africa, except that at Cameroons and Fernando Po. It commands a most extensive view towards the sea, and the most picturesque scenery that could be viewed, at least in Western Africa. Far above the miasma of the valley and plains, it is pointed out by nature as the sanitarium from the injurious influences of the low lands, and it only requires the ingenuity of man to make it habitable. Winterbottom, Aitkin, and Clarke, have all spoken of the healthiness of the mountains of Sierra Leone, but without effect; in former years periodical visits were made to it, and its value as the most healthy spot in Sierra Leone—and, in fact, in that portion of Western Africa situated between the Gambia and Lagos—was much appreciated by military and naval officers.

As a committee of the House of Commons will soon meet to consider all matters relative to the government of Western Africa, I hope, my Lord, you will urge the necessity of a good military sanitarium on the Sugar Loaf Mountain at Sierra Leone, and a station at Leicester Mountain.

How invaluable it would have been had the poor sick soldiers who were engaged in the Ashantee expedition had a sanitarium to go to. Assuredly they would not have been left to die in such great numbers at Cape Coast Castle.—I have the honour to be, your Lordship's most obedient servant,

JAMES AFRICANUS B. HORTON, M.D.,
Staff Assistant-Surgeon.

To Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P., Chairman of the
African-Aid Society.

NATAL.

By our latest advices from Natal, we found, as we had expected from so enterprising a community, that the bridge over the Umgeni River, the Queen's Bridge, was but a first step in transit improvement in that locality. The *Natal Mercury* says: "397 vehicles crossed the Queen's Bridge during the ten days subsequent to its opening. The Queen's Bridge has instantly led on to what had been foreseen would be its appropriate issue. Opened to traffic at a time when the demand for transport has been greater than it ever was before, and when local production has exceeded all known or expected limits, the bridge naturally suggested as another necessity to be met—better means of transit. Thus it is that before two weeks had passed over, a meeting of the principal planters and landholders had taken place, and certain resolutions affirming the need either of a tramroad or railway, unanimously adopted. That meeting we have already described as being one of the most harmonious, determined, and influential gatherings ever held in Natal. It was an ample representation of the interests most concerned, and it was a conclusive pledge of the reality and importance of Victorian enterprise."

The delighted colonists of Natal, worthy of their British origin, feel that "without proper facilities of transport, natural endowments are useless, and industrial effort is thrown away." We wish we could make those who take an interest in other portions of Africa feel similarly, instead of being met with the assertion, as we have for the most part been when advocating increased facilities of transport, "that they are unsuited to Africa; that the bearing of burthens on human heads answers all the purposes of Africa."

The Treasury returns for the third quarter are most favourable. Revenue, 30,114*l.*, against 27,492*l.* last year. The revenue for the nine months is 116,398*l.*, against 94,691*l.* last year; being an excess of 21,707*l.* The revenue for all last year was 112,975*l.*, and that estimated for next year is but 137,145*l.* This year's income will probably be 150,000*l.* In 1859, the colonial revenue was 50,904*l.* Expenditure for the three months, 28,314*l.*

1,173,874 lbs. of sugar (586½ tons) were exported during October. The aggregate value of exports for the month was 18,786*l.*

The exports to the end of October may be roughly estimated at about 187,000*l.* Of these about 71,000*l.* represents sugar only.

At a land sale at Maritzburg, on October 19, 75,000 acres of land were sold, realising 45,000*l.* The sale consisted of a great number of lots.

Two more Coolie ships had arrived—the Ocean Chief, from Calcutta, with 405, and the John Vanner, from Madras, with 355. About 2,500 Coolies have been imported during the past twelve months.

SLAVE-TRADE CARRIED ON BY THE BOERS OF TRANSVAAL.—The Transvaal Boers called lately upon the Amaswazis to assist them to fight some tribes to the northward who have annoyed the Boers considerably for a long time past. Amaswazi divided his army into two divisions, one to join the Boers in the attack, and the other, the majority, to hunt up the cattle. The Boers found the enemy strongly posted in stockade, and dressed in soldiers' red coats, and were received with a volley of musketry which made the Boers skedaddle in a hurry, leaving the Amaswazi army to see it out. The latter, after three or four furious assaults, and losing a great number of men, were obliged to give it up for a bad job. The Enyamman division, however, succeeded in finding the cattle, and captured between two and three thousand and a great number of children and girls. The Amaswazi are quite disgusted with the conduct of their allies, and have told their king if at any time he is short of cattle, they shall not be afraid to fetch them from the Boers' country. The Boers have sent to reclaim some of the cattle brought back by the Enyamman, as cattle stolen from them. Do they wish they may get them, was the answer. A very brisk trade has been carried on since with the Boers in young niggers. One lucky Boer got ten head of cattle and three young blacks for a dog, and every day gangs of from ten to twenty slaves are passing the waggoners; the average cost in goods is about 20*s.* per head, and worth from 20*l.* to 30*l.* over the mountain.

THE DEATH OF DR. BAIKIE, HER MAJESTY'S LATE COMMISSIONER IN THE RIVER NIGER.

The Armenian, Royal Mail steamer, from the West Coast of Africa, which arrived at Liverpool on the 10th inst., brought the sad intelligence of the death of the African traveller, Dr. Baikie, who expired, after a short attack of fever and dysentery, at Sierra Leone, on the 30th November last. The previous mail brought news that Dr. Baikie, after residing and travelling for six years in the interior of Africa, and after having established a native colony near the confluence of the Niger and Chad, had returned to Lagos on the 21st October, in Her Majesty's ship Investigator, which had been up the Niger 400 miles on a cruise. We believe Dr. Baikie intended returning to Liverpool by the last mail; but, in consequence of being obliged to assort and rearrange the accumulations of over six years' travel in an uncivilised country, he was compelled to stay on the Coast until the next homeward mail. The deceased gentleman was born at Arbroath, Scotland, and was educated for the medical profession in Edinburgh. He would, at the time of his death, be about forty years of age.

OFFICIAL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, DEC. 7TH.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Charles Livingstone, Esq., now Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, to be also Her Majesty's Consul in the territories on the Western Coast of Africa comprised within the Bight of Biafra, and lying between Cape Formosa and Cape St. John.

CAPTAIN BURTON AND THE LATE CAPTAIN SPEKE RE THE NILE BASIN.

There has been some controversy between Captain Burton and the *Standard* reviewer. In a letter just published, the latter writes: "Captain Burton says the river Bann flows into and out of Lough Neagh. He is welcome to a discovery which I had already conceded, as far as the names are concerned. But a name is not everything. There is more than one Regent-street in London. If Captain Burton will take the trouble to look at a map of Ireland—the only one I have at hand is Lewis's Atlas of the Counties—he will find that into Lough Neagh there flows the Main, a small 'burn' rising to the south of the town of Antrim, the Six-mile Water, a small stream running into Sandy Bay, another rising near Lurgan, then the Upper Bann, and next the Blackwater, the Ballinderry, and the Moyola. Which of these, I should like to know, would Captain Burton choose for the source of the Lower Bann. Perhaps he will say the longest, perhaps the largest. In neither case, then, will the source be the Upper Bann. What remains but that Lough Neagh is a reservoir for the waters of a large number of mountain streams, and that it overflows into the Lower Bann, and is the real source of that river, in just the same sense that Speke named the Victoria Nyanza as the source of the Nile. Speke never supposed, as I said in my notice of 'The Nile Basin,' that the Victoria Nyanza was a self-creating piece of water. All he meant was—as I understood him—that there was no great river falling into the lake, and that it was the product of a number of small, unknown streams, none of which could be said to be the source of the Nile, any more than any one of the mountain streams running into Lough Neagh can be said to be the source of the Lower Bann."

"Captain Burton says, 'it is curious to find a critic,' &c. No doubt it is very curious that any critic should have the temerity to differ with Captain Burton. It was my lot, however, to disagree on a small point with Captain Speke, and it is now my misfortune to differ on a greater question with his opponent. That opponent is so uniformly courteous to those holding different views—tests his insulting personal allusion to Colonel Rigby, in 'The Nile Basin'—that I ought to feel humbled when I consider how I have dared to disagree with him. The 'Spekeian White Nile' may, indeed, share the fate of the 'Brucean Blue Nile,' but I may be allowed to think it will not be by the Bur-tonian and McQueenian arguments that this consummation will be secured. When somebody goes out and brings us facts, to set against Speke's facts, then the name of Speke may go down into the oblivion which Captain Burton desires for it. Meanwhile, even at the close of 1865, there will probably be some people in England who will still have the audacity to think that Captain Speke was a greater geographer than Captain Burton."

SIR RODERICK MURCHISON ON THE DEATH OF DR. BAIKIE.—"Dr. Baikie died at Sierra Leone, on his homeward voyage, on the 30th of November, of fever and dysentery. The death of this good and distinguished man will be as deeply deplored by geographers and naturalists, who have been daily looking out for his arrival in England, charged as he was with much important knowledge and rich collections relating to the interior countries on the banks of the Niger, as he will be by the Government which he served during nearly eleven years with so much ability and zeal in carrying out his arduous mission."

LOSS AT SEA OF THE BARQUE PRIDE OF CANADA.—This vessel, bound from Bonny for Liverpool, was fallen in with by the barque Generous, on Christmas Eve, in lat. 40 N., long. 43 W. The Pride of Canada was showing signals of distress, and was labouring very heavily in a tremendous sea. The captain of the Generous lay to for several hours, and after many attempts succeeded in rescuing the crew (with the exception of four) of the Pride of Canada. This vessel, which was deeply laden with palm oil, was sinking fast, but owing to the fearful sea that was running at the time, the four poor fellows were left to their fate. Shortly after leaving the Pride of Canada the Generous lost sight of the barque, which is supposed to have gone down.

ABANDONMENT OF SANTO DOMINGO BY SPAIN.

Madrid, January 7.

The following is text of the bill presented to the Cortes by Marshal Narvaez, abolishing the decree of the 19th May, 1861, declaring the territory of the Dominican Republic reincorporated into the Spanish monarchy:—

"TO THE CORTES.

"In the old Spanish island, the first land of the western world which the great Christopher Columbus considered worthy of an important establishment, in that great Antilles where, many years after its separation from the metropolis, not a drop of Spanish blood was shed, now flows that generous blood, and the rigours of a pestiferous climate aiding the enemy, make terrible ravages in the ranks of our valiant soldiers."

"This sanguinary struggle, which is also attended by the disadvantage of uselessly and profitlessly expending the public treasure and consuming the abundant products of our colonial possessions, was not provoked by the attempts of anterior cabinets to carry out an ambitious war of conquest, so opposed to the rational, just, pacific, and disinterested policy so long observed by Spain. Neither did it originate from the necessity of repelling foreign aggressions, of opposing force to force at any cost, considering only the defence of insulted honour. Such was not the case. This cruel struggle commenced the day following that on which her Majesty's Government of that day believed that all the inhabitants of the Dominican Republic asked and solicited with impatient desire to be reincorporated with the Spanish nation, their ancient mother, and to form one of its provinces, aspiring to the happiness enjoyed by those of Cuba and Puerto Rico."

"Such a desire might not be certain, but it was very probable. The Government, actuated by these sentiments, had faith in that which appeared to inspire the Dominicans, and therefore accepted their votes and counselled her Majesty to effect the annexation which this state professed so ardently to desire."

"On this account the Ministers in a solemn document described this event as auspicious, highly honourable for Spain, and one not often encountered in the annals of peoples. For this, also, after referring to the lamentable history of Santo Domingo since the proclamation of its independence in 1821, following the example of other provinces of the American continent, after drawing the sad picture of such prolonged misfortune, of a state of things in which the sources of public and private wealth were exhausted, independence completely lost for want of strength to maintain it, liberty no less lost through the insecurity felt by the citizens and the continual agitations of the Republic, the Ministers invoked every sentiment of justice, humanity, and honour, in counselling the annexation of this unhappy island. They believed such a measure was all the more desirable considering the circumstances and character of its inhabitants, the fertility of its soil, and the strong attachment which the people, after past excesses, whereby they had been terribly disabused, professed towards their ancient metropolis."

"The annexation was thus founded upon two most noble, just, and weighty reasons. The first was the right inherent in the unanimous will of a people—a right not disputed, and previously affirmed by the general assent of the nations of Europe and America in a recent case. The second was the duty of humanity, of compassion towards the unfortunate people who sought favour and mercy, overwhelmed as they were by a sea of disaster and misfortune. No other right supported nor supports the Spanish Government in holding the Spanish portion of the island of Santo Domingo; neither the right of revindication nor the right of conquest, both being opposed to the policy of the Government, the interests of the people, and the friendly relations which Spain has always endeavoured to maintain with the Independent States of America, which once formed part of the immense territory protected by the tutelary mantle of the Kings of Spain."

"But such flattering hopes soon disappeared, fatal symptoms very soon manifested themselves that the annexation had not that spontaneous and unanimous support upon which it was based. Nevertheless it was the duty of the Government to ascertain with certainty whether those violent protests, several times repressed, did not proceed only from a discontented few, but

were the expression of the feeling of a people who rejected the legitimate power they had invoked in a time of trouble and distress. The agitation increased, and gained towns and frontiers, extending over the whole of the territory, and at this day the Spanish portion of the island of Santo Domingo presents to the civilised world the spectacle of an entire people in arms ungratefully resisting as tyrants those whom they called in as preservers."

"So strange a political phenomenon has been examined by the Ministers undersigned with delicate attention and deep study. They have thoroughly sifted the sad history of the annexation of Santo Domingo, and have considered the question from every point of view imaginable, commencing by those of justice and right, and last regarding those of expediency. They have well taken into account the reasons that might be alleged on the ground of the national honour and respect, and have considered the event of the most brilliant future possible, a triumph obtained at the cost of immense sacrifices; they have weighed the arguments for and against that may be based upon considerations of national and foreign policy, and, finally, have carefully made the sad calculation of the numerous and precious lives that Spain loses every day that this sterile contest is prolonged, and of the great amount of treasure it consumes."

"As a result of this laborious examination, the Ministers are impressed with the conviction that the question of Santo Domingo has reached a point which will allow us to make the following deductions:—

"That it was a delusion to believe that the Dominican people, as a whole, or in the great majority, desired, and above all, demanded, their annexation to Spain. That the struggle having become general, it does not now bear the character of a measure taken to subject a few discontented rebels, but of a war of conquest completely foreign to the spirit of Spanish policy. That even by concentrating our efforts and sacrifices, in order to obtain a triumph, we should place ourselves in the sad position of holding the island entirely by a military occupation, full of difficulties, and not exempt from dangerous complications. That even under the most favourable hypothesis that a portion of the population may show themselves devoted to us after victory, the governmental system that would have to be established in those dominions must either be little suitable to the usages and customs of the inhabitants, or very dissimilar to that of the other colonial provinces."

"Upon all these and other considerations, which the superior intelligence of the Cortes will supply, the Ministers, anxious to put an end to the useless sacrifices in men and money which the war in Santo Domingo imposes upon the nation, have the honour to propose, being duly authorised by her Majesty, the following project of law:—

"Art 1. The Royal decree of the 19th May, 1861, declaring the territory of the Dominican Republic re-incorporated with the monarchy, is repealed."

"Art 2. The Government is authorised to take the necessary measures for the execution of this law, giving account of the same to the Cortes."

"The President of the Council, Duke of VALENCIA, &c."

MADAGASCAR.—A letter from Tananarive (Madagascar), published in the *Moniteur*, says: "Many persons continue to propagate the report that Radama II. is still alive, but the general opinion is that he is dead. His real assassin, the ex-Prime Minister, is still in disgrace. His brother and successor, Rainilaiarivony, has added to his title of Commander-in-Chief that of Prime Minister. This personage is very favourable to Europeans, but unfortunately such is not the case with all the members of the Queen's Council."

CLIMATE OF THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—"It is now five years," writes a missionary of the American Board at the Gaboon, "since our numbers have been diminished by death, and about four years since any one has suffered from severe and prostrating sickness. All our missionaries in the Gaboon have passed the average of the life of foreigners in West Africa. One has been a missionary here twenty-two, one twenty, and the other sixteen years."—*American Missionary*.

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Mr. L. desires to open correspondence with those gentlemen desirous of transacting business with him. Address as above. The best of references given.
Monrovia, Liberia, 1864.

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