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COTTON GINS AND COTTON PICKING OR HUSKING MACHINES.

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COTTON SUPPLY ASSOCIATION, MANCHESTER, 1864.

—“Much yet remains to be done to provide what is urgently needed—viz., a machine which, without injuring the staple, as the Saw Gin often does, shall approximate to it in productive capability. Your Committee regard this as a matter of VITAL IMPORTANCE to the Cultivation of Cotton.”

This long-desired object has at length been attained by the North Moor Foundry Company, whose Gin turns out as much as a Saw Gin, without injury to the fibre, and is the most simple and durable machine yet invented.

The Company have also perfected a “Husking Machine,” which is the first Machine invented for the purpose. The separation of Cotton from its husk or pod, has hitherto been done by hand. This has added enormously to the first cost, as for some kinds of Cotton it has required fifty to sixty persons to pick sufficient to supply a Gin producing 100lbs. of cleaned Cotton per hour.—(See leader in the “Engineer” of February 3, 1865.)

THE PATENT “KNIFE-ROLLER” COTTON GIN.

The extraordinary superiority of this Gin over all others will be apparent from the following remarks:—

- 1.—It is the simplest Gin yet invented, having only three wearing parts.
- 2.—Perfectly self-feeding and self-acting; a load of Cotton may be put to it at once.
- 3.—Does not injure the fibre, so that the same Cotton will fetch 2d. to 3d. per lb. more than if ginned by a Saw Gin.
- 4.—Guaranteed to do more than double the work of any other Gin on the Macarthy principle.
- 5.—One person can attend to several Gins, and can turn out 300lbs. to 800lbs. of cleaned Cotton per hour.
- 6.—No Cranks, Camms, or other similar motions, consequently neither noise nor vibration.
- 7.—Equally suited for Cotton of short or long staple, and woolly or smooth seeds.
- 8.—Only half the weight of any other Gin, and is packed complete and ready for work in one-third the space. The saving in reight, packing for shipment, &c., is 75 per cent.
- 9.—The Patent Ginning Roller is very durable, and any wear maintains its draught. Not affected by damp or heat.
- 10.—Its speed is only 100 to 140 revolutions; other Gins run at 700 to 900 revolutions per minute.

A 40-inch “Knife-Roller” Gin (single roller) can be seen doing 50lbs. of cleaned short-stapled Smyrna Cotton per hour (about 150lbs. of Cotton in the seed).

NOTE.—Makers of Gins on the Macarthy principle state that a 40-inch Gin will do at least 25lbs. of clean Cotton per hour, but when tested at the Italian Exhibition in Turin last year many of the 40-inch Gins only gave 9lbs. or 10lbs., and the best only turned out 18lbs. of cleaned Cotton per hour when fed by the maker himself. These Gins were of the best description and by English makers, and the trials were most carefully made by the Royal Commissioners, the Cotton being dried before it was put to the Gins.—(See the Table of Experiments, published in the “Cotton Supply Reporter” for December, 1864.)

No. and Sizes of Gins.	Production of Cleaned Cotton per hour.	Prices.	
		£	s. d.
No. 1—40 inches wide.	50 to 150 lbs.	15	0 0
“ 2—30 “ “	36 “ 112 “	12	10 0
“ 3—20 “ “	25 “ 75 “	10	0 0
“ 4—12 “ “	12 “ 36 “	7	10 0
“ 5—8 “ “	8 “ 24 “	6	0 0

Packing and delivery in Liverpool, 5 per cent.; Packing and delivery in London, 7½ per cent. The Nos. 3, 4, and 5, can be worked by hand.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—TO PARTIES USING “SAW-GINS.”

How 20 “Knife-Roller” Gins effect a clear SAVING of £20,000 in ONE SEASON!

Cotton cleaned by a Gin on the Macarthy principle will always fetch 1½d. per lb. more than if ginned by a Saw Gin. A 40-inch “Knife-Roller” Gin, doing 50 lbs. of cleaned Cotton per hour, and working 20 hours a day, therefore saves 6l. 5s. each day; and taking the Ginning Season at 150 days, the clear saving is nearly 1,000l. per Gin in one season.

For further information, apply to the undersigned, General Engineers and Manufacturers of PATENT COTTON GINS, HUSKING MACHINES, SEED CLEANERS, PACKING PRESSES, CORN MILLS, OIL PRESSES, HYDRAULIC PRESSES, STEAM ENGINES, BOILERS, PUMPS, TURBINE WATERWHEELS, FANS, &c.,

THE NORTH-MOOR FOUNDRY COMPANY,
OLDHAM.

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

LOSS OF THE ARMENIAN.

In a second edition of this journal, published on the 30th January, for transmission to Africa by an extra mail, we gave an account of the loss of the Royal African Mail Steamship Armenian, which left Liverpool on the 24th January, and was wrecked the same night on the Arklow Banks.

EXTRA MAIL.

In consequence of the loss of the Armenian, the African Royal Mail Steamship Company most promptly and liberally despatched an extra mail steamer, the Ethiope, from Liverpool for the West Coast, on the 1st February. We trust our African friends will have safely received the SECOND EDITION of our January number by the Ethiope.

ARRIVAL OF THE MACGREGOR LAIRD.

The African Royal Mail Steamship Company's steamer Macgregor Laird arrived at Liverpool on Thursday, the 9th instant, after a very rapid passage from the West Coast, Tenerife, and Madeira. The following are the dates by this arrival: Benin, Dec. 24; Fernando Po, 29; Cameroons, 31; Old Calabar, Jan. 2; Brass River, 5; Bonny, 7; Lagos, 10; Accra, 12; Cape Coast Castle, 14; Cape Palmas, 16; Sierra Leone, 21; Bathurst, 25; Tenerife, 30; and Madeira, Feb. 2.

The Macgregor Laird brings a very valuable cargo, 2,767 ounces of gold specie, and twenty-six passengers.

Trade had at last been recommenced at Benin. Some time ago a dispute arose between the natives and the European traders, which eventually resulted in the factory of one of the traders being attacked and ransacked by the natives. In consequence of this outrage, and the loss sustained, a fine was imposed upon the natives by Commodore Wilmot. For a long time the natives refused to comply with the Commodore's injunction; refused all commercial intercourse with the traders, and openly intimated to the Commodore that they would not pay the fine, which, of course, was to be paid in produce—palm-oil. At last matters came to a crisis; the European residents at Benin feared that they would be personally attacked by the natives, and asked for protection. Commodore Wilmot at once proceeded in the screw corvette Rattlesnake, 21 guns, and with a large portion of the squadron, to Benin. His arrival there with so formidable a force had the desired effect upon the natives, who professed to have no evil intentions towards the British residents, but, on the contrary, were desirous of resuming trade and paying the fine imposed. This was at once done; and after being admonished by the Commodore on their past conduct, they promised to be good for the future, and to open trade at once, which was done. The Rattlesnake, however, remained in the river. The barques Medea, Benin, Alumaia, Runnymede, and ship Sunshine, were also in the river.

Fernando Po was tolerably healthy, but trade inactive. No vessels in port.

At Cameroons health was good; trade at a standstill. No ships in port.

Old Calabar was healthy; trade quiet. The Paragon, Commodore, Tapley, and Hannah Balkeld, of Liverpool, and Blanche, of

Bristol, and Navigator, of Glasgow, were in port. The Sarepta, of Bath, was off the bar.

At Brass health was good; trade dull.

Bonny; the river was sickly; trade continued tolerably brisk. The ships Manners Sutton, Flora M'Ivor, Ferozepore, Charles Horsfall, Grand Bonny, and Iphigenia, all of Liverpool, were in port.

Lagos; communication with the interior had again been closed, and business was almost lifeless. The Exact, Louisa, and Abbott, all of London, and the Cecil and Eagle's Wing, of Liverpool, were in port.

At Accra the health of the inhabitants had much improved, but trade was very slack.

At Cape Coast Castle, health fair; trade very flat.

From Cape Palmas there is news of a disturbance between the Liberian Government and the natives, causing an entire stoppage of trade and all communication between the disputants.

Sierra Leone was tolerably healthy; trade flat. The vessels in port were Her Majesty's ships Espoir and Wye; the Cockatoo, of Liverpool, and the Richard and William, of London. The brigantine *St. Helier's*, of Jersey, with the captain and several of the crew dead from yellow fever, was in port.

Gambia—The ground nut season at Bathurst was just commencing, but not much business had been done. The health of the place was fair. The Splendide, of Marseilles, and the Elm, of London, were in port.

SENEGAL.

The expedition for Timbuctoo, under the direction of MM. Mage and Quentin, which left St. Louis at the close of 1863, had, according to the last accounts received, not advanced beyond Ségou-Sikoro. There was not sufficient water in the river Niger to allow them to proceed by that route—and wars among the natives rendered the land journey impossible. MM. Mage and Quentin were waiting for more water in the river, when they intended to push on for Timbuctoo.

SIERRA LEONE.

The Chamber of Commerce declined to send memorials home by Colonel Ord. His Excellency Governor Blackall has ever shown himself ready to make known the real or supposed wants and grievances of the colony to the Home Government. This has been fully appreciated by the colonists; and they very wisely and properly preferred to make their esteemed Governor the medium of communication with Downing-street, instead of fatiguing Colonel Ord with any complaints during his two days' stay at Freetown while the Gladiator was coaling.

Great dissatisfaction is felt in the colony at a measure introduced to the Legislative Council by Mr. Huggins, the Queen's Advocate. This bill proposes that, in actions for damages plaintiffs shall be compelled to give security for costs. The preamble states: "Whereas persons not having property in this colony are induced to bring actions for wrongs in the Supreme Court, frequently for the express purpose, and in the expectation, of extorting large sums of money from the defendants, who, though successful in obtaining a verdict, would have no chance of recovering the heavy costs to which they would be put in defending such actions, be it therefore enacted," &c., &c.

We are not surprised at this proposed enactment causing considerable excitement in the colony. We have often heard complaints that actions for damages, or compensation, are too numerous and frequent in the courts at Sierra Leone. But it has always occurred to us as quite possible that the just causes of action are, perhaps, much more frequent also than they ought to be. At any rate, it seems to us that the remedy proposed by the Queen's Advocate is worse than any special disease in Sierra Leone that it may be intended to cure thereby. It cannot be doubted that innocent defendants are occasionally victimised in England, as well as in Sierra Leone, by actions got up expressly for costs by low and unprincipled attorneys; and if a remedy could be found for this, that would not involve a denial of justice to others who have been so wronged as to afford them good and legitimate

ground of action, we should rejoice to see it applied in England as well as in Sierra Leone; but until then the law had better be left as it is, both in the mother country and in the colony. It would be monstrous for the law to say to a grievously-injured poor man, "You shall have no redress, because you are not a person of property." We shall be very much surprised, therefore, if the Legislative Council make any such enactment; but should they be so ill advised, it would certainly never be confirmed by Her Majesty's Government. It would, in our opinion, have been more to the point if the learned Queen's Advocate had introduced a remedial measure for such a disease as seems to have stirred him to legislative action with some such preamble as the following:—

"Whereas certain low and unprincipled attorneys and pleaders are in the practice of instigating suits for damages, where the cause of action is very questionable or frivolous, and the plaintiff is without means for paying costs in the event of a verdict passing against him, &c., &c. Be it therefore enacted, that it shall be at the discretion of the judge, in what appears to him to be such cases, to order that the defendant's costs be paid by the plaintiff's attorney, and in default of the plaintiff's ability to pay the same," &c., &c.

We beg leave to propose this for the consideration of the learned Queen's Advocate.

We see that in a case tried before the Supreme Court, a charge of robbery from a bedroom, in which the Queen's Advocate was for the prosecution, and broke down lamentably in his case, through the nonproduction of a witness whom the learned Chief Justice deemed to be essential, Mr. Rainy, the prisoner's advocate, attributed the Queen's Advocate's legislative proposals to his Supreme Court failures: the speech seems to have been an amusing one, and we give it as reported in the *Sierra Leone Observer*:—

"Mr. Rainy then, in an amusing and able speech, which occasioned roars of laughter in court, told the jury that the Queen's Advocate could hardly be in earnest to ask them to convict the prisoner without producing the female servant whose duty it was to attend to Mr. Pinnock's bedroom, and who was there and had sent the prisoner for pepper on the night of the robbery. This was a case of circumstantial evidence only, and there was a link wanting to bring home the case against the prisoner. He (the learned counsel) would not say that the female servant had committed the robbery, but he would insist that it looked, by keeping her away, that there was something the prosecution were not desirous of appearing, and this remarkable omission was damaging to the prosecutor. They had imported all sorts of irrelevant evidence in the case, producing even a swell from the receiving ship to display the gold chain his (the learned counsel's) client wanted to purchase, but this female servant, the lovely Mary Ann, whose great privilege it was to attend to Mr. Pinnock's bedroom, the most material witness, was not forthcoming. It was, Mr. Rainy remarked, the very imperfect way the Queen's Advocate got up his cases that led to his defeat so often; and because, owing to this, juries gave verdicts against him, he was angry with them, and had interfered so much with the jury laws. It was he who had prepared a law by which a Court of Revision, composed of four salaried Government officials, could revise the verdict of eleven out of twelve jurors. This was no doubt intended to frighten the juries of this colony, by showing them how their privileges could be curtailed unless they pleased him, the Queen's Advocate. But he (Mr. Rainy) hoped that the jury would nevertheless do their duty, although it might be attended with a further encroachment on their privileges; and that as often as the Queen's Advocate brought imperfectly-got-up cases into court, they (the jurors) would reject them."

It will be quite understood in England that the declining to send any requests through Colonel Ord was not because the colonists had any lack of reforms to urge upon Her Majesty's Government, when the following list of suggestions were made at the sitting of the Chamber of Commerce, at which such resolution respecting Colonel Ord was adopted:—

"An uniform system of duties; encouragement to agriculture and manufacture; water rates and supply; encouragement for a

better style of dwelling houses, by the admission of building materials free; free action of the Chamber of Commerce, and if it be necessary, for any other collective body to be formed for the purpose of strengthening the power of the executive by being a referable body; if not, to suggest that a charter be given them and acknowledged by the Governor as a corporate body; for the establishment of public buildings and all such useful institutions, an Imperial guarantee be asked to be given for a loan to the colony."

SHERBRO.

We are indeed glad to see the progress made in the Sherbro during the past year, thus described by the *Early Dawn*. Sierra Leone is doing something in Africa, and the work of the zealous American missionaries is not fruitless:—

"Peace has prevailed.

"Trade has been prosperous, and the Government is being more fully established and much more highly respected by the people.

"Some good buildings have been erected, roads have been opened, agriculture has received more than usual attention, and there has been general progress in wealth, civilization, and happiness. That the general tone of morals is higher than it has been heretofore, is evident from the fact that marriages are now of common occurrence; formerly they have been rare, even amongst those who claim to be civilized.

"On the whole, the past year has been one of progress for the Sherbro, and the future is full of hope."

CAPE COAST, JANUARY 13TH, 1865.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL O'CONNOR'S SPEECH TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 4TH W. I. B., STATIONED AT CAPE COAST, ON THE 10TH JANUARY, 1865.

A novel sight presented itself at Cape Coast on the 10th inst. General O'Connor inspected the troops; and after they had gone through several very pretty evolutions, the men were ordered to form squares, when the General addressed them as follows: "Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers,—When I accepted the kind offer of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge to come out here and inspect you, I certainly never expected to find you in such a high state of discipline. My forty years' experience of West India regiments does not furnish me with an example that it is my pleasing duty to witness to-day. Cleanliness and order appear to reign everywhere. It was a pleasure to visit your barrack-rooms; and I confess the only difficulty I have now, is to express sufficiently my admiration of your conduct. To you, Colonel Conran, in particular, I beg to express my high admiration, and now offer you my congratulations on the extraordinary manner you have raised this infant regiment, in order and discipline, second to no other West India regiment. It will be my pleasing duty to lay before his Royal Highness a most gratifying account of the noble manner you have performed your arduous duties, rendered more so by the fearful mortality and sickness that has thinned your ranks within the last eighteen months."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 13, 1865.

Dear Sir,—I am sure you will be very much distressed to hear of the severe, if not dangerous illness, of the man to whom the people here have been so deeply indebted. When I wrote you before about the smallpox raging in this place and the surrounding districts, I told you that, although there is a colonial surgeon for Accra on the list of salaried officers, it is long since we have had one here; and that if it had not been for the devotion to the cause of humanity of the person alluded to above, Dr. Gunn, S.A.S., attached to the few troops in garrison here, there would have been no medical assistance at all for the people. Dr. Gunn has nearly killed himself by his arduous and unselfish exertions. You may judge what he had to do by the following short statement: He vaccinated above 1,200 of the people—of these only ten or twelve have died. The population of British and Dutch

Accra was 9,000. Of these over 6,000 have been under the infection, and 2,300 have died. I always speak my mind, you know; and you must let me say it will be a disgrace indeed to British rule, if such devotion and zeal as Dr. Gunn's go unrewarded by the Government; of course, I mean if poor Dr. Gunn recovers, which I do not feel at all sure of.

We heard from you of Colonel Ord coming out to investigate the rotten state of our Government. Well, the Colonel has been here. We had not much hope when we heard of him. Such inspections are pretty much alike everywhere—that is, a shameful waste of public money. We remembered an inspection by a former British commissioner, who, when he arrived here, lodged, of course, with those whose conduct he had to investigate, and after he had published that everybody who had complaints to make should come forward, and had come out of the fort to a tent as if to hear them, refused to listen to all who had anything really to say. We were thinking Colonel Ord would do the same; but he did his work with much more ease. He arrived at Accra at about 11 A.M., I believe, went with Captain Edmund, the chief civil commandant, in a carriage to Christiansborg—I suppose to see and be seen—and at 3 P.M. he steamed off again for Cape Coast!

I have been a good deal up the country lately, and that is why you did not get any news from me by the last steamer, and I don't think I should have sent to you by this one, if it had not been that I thought you ought to know about poor Dr. Gunn, and about the great Colonel Ord—one who has been working, at the daily risk of his life, amid all sorts of horrors here, for nothing, and the other who has been spending some of the money such men as that ought to have.—Yours, &c.,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Abokobi, January 11, 1865.

Dear Sir,—Though by pressure of my work I could not write to you by the last mail, there is very little to be reported. Some of our missionaries have, by the Lord's blessing, been saved from an early death by Dr. Gunn. The smallpox is leaving these parts now. It has made great ravages among the people in Accra.

Some of your other correspondents are sure to write you about what all are talking about—Colonel Ord's visit. I feel sure you will not keep quiet about such a farce. Everybody out here calls it a farce; and if England has no better men to do us justice than Colonel Ord, they had better spare their money. Do people in England think the Protectorate is a state of monkeys, who, as their forefathers, according to Sir —, have become wise men, wish also to ascend in the scale of humanity? We have here many people who see through all this nonsense; and I must confess it will be better for us to have the French, with an army of Jesuits and Dominicans, than such a rule. But I trust we have still some friends in England who will do us justice, though my heart gets sick when I hear that even such a man as Lord Shaftesbury is able to say that it will be better to leave these African potentates to themselves to fight out their quarrels, and begin in England with reforms. Has this great philanthropist heard nothing of the mission work which has grown up under the indirect protection of Great Britain? Shall all the work of the Wesleyan Society and of the Basle Mission be left to tumble down in those quarrels, as surely it will do in such a case? We look to you to sound the trumpet with a clear note, that everybody who cares about God's work may perceive what is at stake. Let the Christian people unite, and take up our cause. Government and the Parliament will then know the truth, and are sure to do their duty.

The sickness has given me so much to do, you must pardon my not writing more now.—Yours truly,

THE LANDRAIL, 5, screw, Commander Maitland, having had her defects made good, left Plymouth on Friday for the West Coast of Africa.

MEMORIAL OF SIERRA LEONE RESIDENTS AT LAGOS TO COMMISSIONER ORD.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUT.-COLONEL H. ST. GEORGE ORD, ETC.

Sir,—We, the undersigned British subjects, immigrants from Sierra Leone, with our children, hail with joy your arrival to this colony as Commissioner from Her Britannic Majesty's Government, to visit all her colonies on the West Coast of Africa, and to investigate the state of their respective affairs.

We therefore feel ourselves highly privileged by the opportunity afforded us of furnishing you with information relative to the state of affairs in this part, based on facts and warranted by our long residence, experience, and relation with the people of the interior. We humbly trust you will submit the same to the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

On the cession of Lagos to the British Crown, anticipation of a glorious future filled our breasts with joy—with this exception, that the cession was not prudently and honourably accomplished; knowing that under British rule the land of our fathers is more opened to improvement, lives secured, property protected, Christianity and civilization advanced, and legitimate trade encouraged. Your memorialists regret to state that the experience of the past three years under British rule have proved the fallacy of our hopes; we learn from sad experience that British laws cannot be reconciled with native laws, nor be appreciated by them; the consequence is, that instead of increasing friendly relations with the surrounding tribes, we have distrust; instead of extensive commerce, we have stagnation of trade; for peace we have continuation of war; for contentment, dissatisfaction.

Your memorialists are fully aware of the equity, purity, and impartiality of British laws, when compared with the laws of other civilised nations; yet, we cannot conceal the fact that it is impracticable to work both the British and native African laws together; we are convinced that the most prominent cause of the deplorable state of things above enumerated are occasioned by the diametrically opposite views in which the question of slavery is taken by the two Governments in question, say British and native African, to wit:—

1st. Lagos, as a British colony, is a *bona fide* asylum for slaves; all slaves, therefore, that put their feet in Lagos become free.

2nd. The natives look upon and hold their domestic slaves in the same light and manner as civilised nations their real and personal property.

Since the cession hundreds of slaves have made their escape to Lagos; many were sent by their masters to convey supplies from their creditors, but on reaching Lagos took shelter within the slave court, and in course of time they were either liberated, apprenticed, or a compensation, in most cases not half the value of a slave, were given them. These liberated slaves become Government servants, either as policemen, armed police, or by being enlisted in the regular West India Companies, or employed as farm labourers by Government agents. Such, then, are the various manner in which the native masters see their slaves made use of. Another cause to which we attribute the distressed state of affairs, is the distrust and suspicion engendered in the minds of the interior people by the grand and expensive display of power, coupled with the extraordinary number of appendages attached to this local Government, in the shape of gun-boats, military, and haussas, or armed police, and the uses they are put to, as the late attack on Epe, the annexation of Badagry, Okeodon and Addo. These led the people to infer that the occupation of Lagos by the British is fraught with danger for their safety as a nation, and their lands being theirs much longer.

Your memorialists beg to state that since the commencement of the late Ijaye war, our trade with Abeokuta was interrupted, but we have been doing a little trade with Ejirin and Ikorodu, two market towns on the Jebu territory. After the attack of Epe the expedition in coming down burnt the market town of Ejirin; since that time our native traders have not been able to buy any oil from that market.

Your memorialists beg to express that this country was more

* Qy, "The Native."—ED. A.T.

prosperous as a protectorate than as a colony. During the protectorate the British name was venerated, confidence placed to an unlimited extent; so much so, that then the dress of an Englishman was a sufficient passport to any man to travel through these parts inland, as far as the banks of the Niger; a consular stick was sufficient in those days to secure the countenance and support of any of the surrounding kings and chiefs in the interior of this part; but since the cession of Lagos the interior is closed against us, either for commerce or exploration; we are looked upon as spies and deceivers, the British name has become odious, our lives are not even safe among the natives.

Your memorialists feel convinced that had a less demonstrative establishment been kept, a more conciliatory policy pursued, a regard for native rights and privileges been acknowledged, and a promulgation to the natives given out, the sum and substance of the British Government's views in reference to their relations with neighbouring kings and chiefs, and of the Government's intentions as regards annexation of territories from native kings and chiefs, that better feelings would be engendered, suspicions removed, confidence restored, and consequently peace and prosperity.

Your memorialists deeply regret to state that the authorities of this settlement have since the occupation of Lagos as a British colony broken through that unity which existed between the European residents and educated native Africans in Lagos. Because the latter have expressed their dissatisfaction of the general state of things, and of the manner in which Lagos was annexed to the British Crown, they are consequently looked down upon, the intelligent ones among us and our children are counted upstarts, interlopers, Government opposers, and such like opprobrious terms; that the most humble suggestions from us are visited with the abuse, scandal, and persecution of the authorities.

That your memorialists take this opportunity to defend themselves against the malicious and calumnious charges often preferred against the immigrants from Sierra Leone by the Government agents in this part, by stating that the Government authorities take great delight in disseminating any rumours, however unfounded, since they tend to render us contemptible. As an instance of this, we give the following: Early in October, 1863, a party of our class was commissioned to proceed to Ibadan to endeavour to effect peace. This deputation was well received, and returned safely to Lagos, with the intention of proceeding to Ibadan, *via* Ikorodu, to arrange a final agreement between the contending parties for peace. Our executive would not co-operate with us, and not satisfied with discouraging us, but we were told for the first time, that the deputation had been presented with two slaves, which were not reported, inferring thereby that we were engaged in the slave-trade. This we have proved and are still ready to prove is a gross falsehood.

Your memorialists are denied the rights and privileges of British subjects, inasmuch as we are not allowed the right of being judged and condemned by our countrymen. We are refused to be tried by jury. We give an instance of glaring injustice resulting from the system of administration hitherto pursued by our Government: A Mr. C. W. Carew was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with hard labour, under the evidences, copy of which annexed. This individual, after labouring six months in the chain gang, was released without any explanation or satisfaction, because his prosecutor, who was a judicial assessor, having represented to the executive his belief and conviction that the evidence against Carew to have been malicious, on this confession alone he was released, although the evidences were conflicting. The prisoner in this case was not afforded the benefit of the doubt. We therefore humbly pray that we should be blessed with that great right of British subjects, a trial by jury. We learn for the first time in Lagos that the laws as administered in Sierra Leone will not be tolerated in Lagos; that your memorialists in any case in which they are concerned in Lagos are not permitted to defend themselves in the police-court, but are invariably silenced by the assurance that we (the authorities) will have none of your Sierra Leone privileges.

Your memorialists therefore humbly pray that your Excellency

will be pleased to represent these facts to the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

That your life may be spared to accomplish your commission, your health unimpaired, a happy and safe return home, are the sincere wishes of your Excellency's most humble and obedient servants, &c., &c., &c.

Lagos, December, 1864.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Union Company's Cape Royal mail steamship Roman, Captain W. Strutt, arrived at Plymouth, Sunday, the 12th Feb., bringing news from Natal to Jan. 3, Algoa Bay Jan. 6, Table Bay Jan. 12, St. Helena Jan. 19, and Ascension Jan. 23.

At the Cape, Colonel Maclean, the late Lieut.-Governor of British Kaffraria, had left King William's Town and proceeded to Natal, where he had been sworn in as Lieut.-Governor of that colony. Mr. Graham, late civil commissioner at Graham's Town, had been sworn in as governor's deputy over the territories of British Kaffraria.

The settlement of the Basuto difficulty continued to progress favourably. Moshesh had withdrawn his people from the territory awarded to the Free State, and most of the burghers had passed through Bloemfontein on their way home. Peace also prevailed along the immediate colonial frontier elsewhere. A furious native war, that has lasted for two years between the Hottentots and Damaras, continued to prevail, and was becoming every day more and more serious, and threatened utterly to efface what good had been effected by the missionaries amongst them. The present extent of country unsettled by this war, and likely soon to be fully involved in it, was estimated at eight degrees of latitude and ten of longitude, or from Agra to the Okovango north and south, and in the other direction from the Coast to Lake Ngami.

ABYSSINIA.

THE IMPRISONED BRITISH CONSUL AND MISSIONARIES.

Mr. Badger has communicated the following as the latest intelligence:—

"I have received advices direct from Massowah as late as the 26th of December last. Mr. H. Rassam was still there, and up to that date had received no reply from King Theodoros.

"The rumour that two of the captives were dead, and that Mr. Rassam's messengers had been imprisoned, appears to be unfounded.

"The most reliable intelligence from the interior represents the British captives as having been placed in the hill fort of Makdala, together with 500 native prisoners, during the King's absence to repress an insurrection in Shoa. Prior to his departure Captain Cameron had been well supplied with provisions by Royal order. The missionaries and other British captives shared in Cameron's rations; otherwise they subsisted on charity.

"Mr. Flad and the German artisans are reported to have interceded for the release of the prisoners. Theodoros at first consented, but subsequently withdrew his promise, stating that he could not release them until he had received a reply from the Queen of England.

"There is something inexplicable in this statement, because the King knows full well that Mr. Rassam has been waiting at Massowah for the last four months with a letter from Her Majesty.

"The upshot of the latest information leaves the ultimate fate of the British captives as uncertain as ever. King Theodoros may release them at any moment, or he may refuse to do so until some further attempts have been made to propitiate his offended dignity."

SANTO DOMINGO.—A private account says: "The Dominican Republic seems to be at last consolidated. Since the renewal of hostilities they have triumphed in every encounter with the Spanish troops. A very decisive combat took place in view of the walls of Santo Domingo; the Spanish soldiers were surprised, and 150 were killed with the machettes; not a single shot was fired."

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

	£	s.	d.
Contributions previously announced	135	15	0
Mrs. Joseph Moseley thankfully acknowledges the following further donations:—			
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Miss Vernon Harcourt (2nd don.)	3	5	0
Rev. H. Moseley	5	0	0
Miss Emily Moseley	0	10	0
Miss Ripley	0	10	0
Miss M. Saunders	0	5	0
Miss Hamilton	1	0	0
Miss Henchey Hastings	0	5	0
A. D. C.	0	10	0
Miss Cooper	0	1	0
Miss Eastwood	0	1	0
Miss Cairnes	0	2	0

Further information will be gladly given by Mrs. Joseph Moseley, 2, Montagu-street, Portman-square, London. Messrs. Rivington, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall, Mr. George Parker, Librarian, High-street, Fulham, S.W., and Miss Webb, Secretary to the Society for Promoting Female Education in the East, 15, Shaftesbury-crescent, Piccadilly, S.W., have kindly consented to receive subscriptions and donations.

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The African Times.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1865.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

SMALL-POX AT ACCRA.—The deaths from small-pox at Accra, Gold Coast, in the Dutch and English towns, have been about 2,300 during the last four months of 1864, out of a population of from 8,000 to 9,000 only. About 6,000 are supposed to have suffered from the infection. Of 1,200 who were vaccinated by Doctor Gunn, S.A.S., many had the small-pox, but only twelve died.

LAGOS.—It is believed that Mr. Freeman will again go out from England and resume the government of this colony.

LIBERIA.—There are troubles with the natives on the seacoast, who oppose the new Government regulation which insists on all produce going to one or other of six ports for export.

THE SIERRA LEONE EXHIBITION is still fixed to open on the 28th February.

PORTO NOVO.—The French Government has entirely given up the protectorate of this place, which is so situated that they could not send a steamboat in without obtaining British permission for her passage through British waters.

GAMBIA.—By express desire, we insert a report on "Dykes and Drains" in the Island of St. Mary's, presented to the Executive Council by Governor D'Arey.

THE SLAYER CICERON.—It is understood that during the absence of some of the blockading squadron from the coast of Dahomey, the above-named vessel slipped in near Porto Novo, embarked 1,500 slaves, and got safely off with them—bound for Cuba, of course.

COTTON.—Shipments of the new cotton from Accra, the produce of the Volta and Trans-Volta districts, are now being made by every mail steamer. It is expected that the quantity to be shipped from Accra this year will reach fifty or sixty tons—all brought down to the coast on human heads.

MEASURE OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO SUPPRESS THE SLAVE-TRADE.

THE Minister for the Colonies repeated in the Congress, on Friday, the 17th inst., that he intended to bring forward bills for the rigorous suppression of the slave-trade, and for economical reforms in the Administration.

THE LAGOS MEMORIAL.

THE visit of Colonel Ord to the West Coast of Africa has led to the production and presentation of a memorial, in which certain of the principal Sierra Leone traders resident at Lagos have expressed their opinions respecting the Colonial Administration of that place, and the influence of British Colonial Government and laws with the natives of Lagos and of the surrounding countries.

In perusing this document, it is but fair that we should take into consideration the results which the annexation of Lagos to Great Britain have produced, or are supposed to have produced, on the individual fortunes of these traders. Like many other great and beneficial measures, it has produced some immediate and temporary suffering. The annexation has caused a disturbance of pre-existing relations between Lagos and the mainland. This disturbance, which although not perhaps the sole cause, has undoubtedly been in part the cause, of the long suspension of the old profitable trade with the interior, has severely tried the merchants and traders of Lagos, British, foreign, and native. Some of the former have retired from the Lagos trade, and others have only been able to continue and wait for better times, because they may have possessed ample resources. But bad as their position may have been, that of the Sierra Leone British subjects trading there has been yet more difficult and painful. Not possessing much capital of their own, they have found their credit impaired in England, and been subjected perhaps to close personal inconvenience, from a temporary annihilation of the accustomed profits on which they depended for the support of their position as traders, as well as for the supply of their daily wants.

We have no right to expect that people so circumstanced should reason with the same coolness and judgment respecting those events to which they attribute their sufferings as may be shown by others whom the "shoe has not so pinched." But it would be indeed deeply to be deplored should they have allowed such private considerations to warp their judgment, and overpower the influence of right principles in their hearts and minds, as to prompt them to come before the civilised and Christian tribunal of British public opinion in the character of advocates of the continuance of domestic slavery in Africa. It is very possible, and we are willing to hope and believe that it is not only possible, but true, that they had not the most remote intention of becoming the apologists of slavery in any, even the most modified, form. We can scarcely imagine the existence of any body of men with stronger reasons for abhorring slavery than themselves. The fetters of the slave have been struck from the persons of some of them in years gone by; they have been delivered by British effort and sacrifices from the hold of the slave ship, or from the slave pen; they have become freemen—have obtained education—have been made acquainted with the blessed precepts of Christianity. They must—it is impossible it can be otherwise—they must abhor and detest slavery in every form. Instead, therefore, of denouncing them as traitors to the holy cause of liberty—to the holy hatred of disgusting and brutalising slavery—we have been anxious to interpret the expressions made use of in their memorial in a sense which will allow us still to consider them as faithful to the great principles to which they owe their own freedom and civilization. We are willing to believe that in pointing out the manner in which the "diametrically opposite views" taken of the question of slavery by the British Government, and the native chiefs, had worked to the pecuniary prejudice of the latter, their real sympathies were with the "hundreds of slaves" who "have made their escape to Lagos," and not with the masters who considered that not the half of their value had been given for them. We are willing to

believe that the men who complain of not having the privilege of "trial by jury," did not, in deploring that the country was not so prosperous as a colony as it had been as a protectorate, for one moment mean the Government to infer that in their opinion the extinguished native rule was better than the actual one. We are willing to believe that what they intended to convey, but have failed in expressing, is, that in the face of such difference of laws the conduct of the Colonial Executive ought to have been characterised by considerate forbearance in everything that did not involve a sacrifice of principle, and even in vindicating those principles which are now at least sacred in British eyes. And if this is what they intended, we entirely agree with them. While we would have had a far higher ground taken as regards escaped slaves than has been taken, because we consider it to be a treason to principle to admit the right to compensation for a slave who has escaped from the interior to Lagos—or from any other place to Lagos—we would have tempered our assertion of this principle in its fullest extent by the constant exhibition of an earnest endeavour to attract the neighbouring natives who are not slaves by the road of other interests toward that Christian civilization by which alone the real happiness of peoples can be promoted and secured.

We are sorry, deeply sorry, for every private calamity which the annexation of Lagos to the British Crown may have directly or indirectly caused. But we rejoice that it is a British colony—an outpost in the Bight of Benin of that Christian civilization which we desire to see prevail everywhere—an open and visible protest of that civilization against the horrors of adjacent heathenism. Despite all the errors that have been committed in its government as a colony, we are convinced that within a very short time it will attain to a material prosperity such as it never could have reached under native rule, and become an acknowledged instrument of an at present inconceivable amount of good.

THE GOLD COAST.

POLITICIANS and economists talk as easily of getting rid of this West African encumbrance as some unprincipled seducer does of abandoning his victim. The motive in both cases is the same. The object has been used to gratify the vilest desires. The tide of passion has ebbed and changed. The ruined one is no longer needed. The sooner she or it is gone and forgotten the better. It is quite in character with both parties to vilify what they have helped to degrade. The nation has become virtuous; the seducer wants to marry; and the wronged one must pay the penalty of past offences. Great Britain was once a great slavetrader. The Gold Coast was then a great favourite. It was a noble field for the gratification of her then dominant lust. Five millions of people, inhabiting a very limited territory, which was cultivated in every part for their support, had irresistible attraction for her. She revelled thence. In little more than a century (110 years) she shipped thence to one of her West India islands—to one only of her islands (Jamaica)—nearly one million of slaves (above 960,000). She and others like her reduced that population by such means from five millions to about two or three hundred thousand—a debased and degraded remnant—and the cultivated country lapsed into tropical forest.

The great British nation became virtuous! It would be a slavetrader no more. It could not quite throw away the ruined object of former regards. Its pride would not allow her to become another's. It pensioned her off at the least possible cost. It threw her a reluctant alms, and told her to become pure; she had still sufficient charms, it told her, to make her agreeable to virtuous suitors. But the poor wretch has been unable to emerge from the filth of her shame. Her every appetite was corrupted and made impure. And now the Pharisee of the nations looks with disgust upon her, and says, "Get thee gone, thou art vile."

Vile she is. There is no denying this. But who made her, and all the countries along three or four thousand miles of coast—who made them all vile? Who but the one who now reproaches and would desert her, because, forsooth, it does not pay to keep her. Instead of gratifying the old lust of gold in the new and virtuous way, she remains comparatively unproductive. Let her

go. She has outlived her charms. Her very name is a reproach to her old accomplice in iniquity.

It is of no use, we are told, to point out that if she were carefully and liberally treated—if a helping hand were lent to her, and patient effort bestowed upon her—she might well repay the toil and the temporary expense. It is of no use to point out that she has a soul as well as a body. The only questions to be asked are—*Does she pay? Can she be made to pay without risking anything upon her?* If she does not pay, and cannot be made thus to pay—let her go. But we cry aloud, and will cry aloud, no, this must not be. No, thou now rich and virtuous England, thou must take this poor vile one, with whose degradation thou hast had so much to do, to thy side, and link her destinies with thine own. Make her a colony—she has abounding elements of wealth, which she of herself can never utilise or develop. Open roads—bring all the people into peaceful contact with one another—relieve them from being beasts of burthen, and make them agriculturists and miners, under proper direction, and with the assistance of capital—give them good laws—show them good example in those you send to govern and to teach them—spread the knowledge of God's truth while you instruct in industry and repress iniquity—and the now vilified and condemned Gold Coast will become a pride and a glory, because she will become profitable.

GET RID OF OUR COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS.

THERE is a cry just now against our colonies and settlements on the West Coast of Africa—a senseless cry, originating in the losses and expenses of the late Ashantee war, for which neither the settlers on the Gold and Cape Coasts, nor the natives, were in any way responsible. That war, which is being made so much use of against Africa, was a war proceeding entirely from the acts of authorities acting in behalf, and supposed to be under the control of the British Government. Under these circumstances, we cannot refrain from transferring to our columns some pungent observations of the able editor of the *Natal Mercury*—the public champion of the interests and reputation of that colony. They are certainly to the point, and we think may be read with advantage:—

"Are British colonists—are the men who have left English shores not only to better their own fortunes, but to build up new, and it may be mighty empires in different parts of the world—are these colonists—are such men—the grasping, tyrannic, mercenary, semi-brutalised race of beings that the *Times* and the *Standard*, &c., would represent them to be? Perchance a colonist may be deemed the wrong person to discuss a matter in which colonists are so intimately concerned. But if he does not take up cudgels in his own defence, it seems tolerably certain that no one else will do so. He is driven, in self-vindication, to be his own champion, and his own trumpeter. Unless he helps himself, no one else will help him. He stands alone. He has few, if any, admirers. He is the fashionable butt of polite politicians at home. His wrongs, or his affairs, are the scarecrows of the House of Commons. He is the ogre of politics. Of all nations and classes he is the elect recipient of abuse. The King of Dahomey may have his apologists; red-handed Maoris may be pitied and compassionated; savage African chieftains who have slain their thousands may be extenuated, if not defended; these and a hundred other sensational heroes of modern history may be judged tenderly and treated with more or less consideration; but the unhappy fellow whose fortunes have led him to turn colonist is out of the pale of mercy; towards him the quality of that rare virtue is tightly strained; he has placed himself beyond the reach of pity—he is in a social and political sense 'Anathema maranatha.' No opportunity is lost—whether it be fair or foul—to bully and to bait him. Upon him the harpies of the press pounce with ruthless virulence, upon the slightest plea. All the sins of Downing-street are fathered upon him. All the evils bred by a bad and pernicious system, in times past, are laid indiscriminately at his door. A native war breaks out, and the Imperial exchequer is drawn upon, and it is all due to the greed, the rapacity, tax-payer is touched—it is all due to the greed, the rapacity, and the enslaving tendencies of the colonists. A cry for retrenchment takes place—and then it is the colonies that cause a lavish

and fruitless expenditure; their maintenance it is that costs the nation so much, and brings it in so little; their abandonment is the policy which a large class of pseudo-economists, and stay-at-home politicians, fondly and blindly advocate."

The writer goes on to show, in a most able manner, how immeasurably the colonists of Natal have been, as regards the best interests of the native population, in advance of the system and theories of the Home Government, and "an official and nominal executive acting under the instruction of a Secretary of State."

"That the colonists of Natal have not sought to grasp the lands held by the natives—most of whom are refugees, devoid of an aboriginal title to the soil—is proved by the simple fact that the representative Legislature voluntarily agreed to set aside one and a half million of acres for free distribution to them under individual titles, in contradistinction to the Lieut.-Governor's proposal, as sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and which aimed at selling these lands to the tribes at a fixed price per acre. And a yet more striking manifestation of the same feeling has been more recently exhibited in dealing with the question of annexing Nomanaland. The indifference expressed by the colonial representatives to the proposed annexation, viewed as an acquisition merely, ought to clear them and us from the imputation which British politicians and philanthropists delight to throw upon colonists of every shade. And we suppose few races realise more thoroughly the idea of social and personal independence than do the Kafirs in the colony of Natal. Now that the British flag secures them from the cruelty and rapacity of their own chiefs, and of each other—now that they enjoy for life and property the security enjoyed by British subjects—the native inhabitants of Natal enjoy a singular extent of political liberty. They retain their own laws, and can practice their own barbarous customs, while they have the free use of some of the best lands in the colony. Nor can the colonists be chargeable with having evinced any desire to degrade the social position of the native or to keep him morally where he is. It has been the chief fault of past native policy that it has failed to attempt, by practical measures, the domestic amelioration and mental elevation of the native. So far as a belief in the necessity of civilising processes is concerned, the colonists have always been ahead of the executive authorities in their avowed desire to carry out an extended and practical policy. Earl Grey—when next he rises in the Lords to stigmatise colonial shortcomings—may do so with the conviction that the plans of advancement, enunciated by him fourteen years ago, were then, and have been since, endorsed by the experienced approval of the intelligent colonists of Natal. We might, did we not wish to avoid an appearance of recrimination, go farther, and state that for years past the colonists have been at issue with the Government in regard to one of the most debasing customs sanctioned under Kafir law—that of polygamic woman-slavery—which it has been a cherished hope among Natalians to see undermined and abolished. On these grounds, then, and on behalf of the colonists of Natal, we repudiate any responsibility on their part for the consequences of the native policy pursued here by an official and nominee executive acting under the instructions of the Secretary of State."

INFLUENCE OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

The beneficial influence of Sierra Leone among the neighbouring heathen is shown by the following speech of the new king of the north Bullam Country and people.

Brought out in regal attire, and shown to some 3,000 people of all ages—declared king—and the country being delivered into his keeping, he thus addressed his subjects:—

"I thank God that He has raised me to sit on the throne of my ancestors, and I hope that I shall receive from the chiefs and people ample assistance and sound counsel in doing all that is required for the good government of our country. I would first state, and make it as a law from me this day:—

"1st. The Government of the Queen of England must be respected and befriended by us; the treaties signed by my predecessors with that Government to be adhered to in all points. Should any of the subjects of the Queen do wrong to any of my

people or those residing in my country, complaints are to be made to me, and should I be unable to settle matters amicably, I will then refer the same to our good friend the Governor of Sierra Leone, from whom we always have a ready support and redress whenever called upon.

"2nd. I declare and forbid that any person be sold as heretofore for the crime of adultery in my country, such offender or offenders are to be punished either by flogging or paying heavy fines instead of being sold.

"3rd. All women should be married or have their own husbands, and I forbid women to remain without their own proper husbands in the country, for when women remain without proper husbands, and three or four men are visiting one woman, it always gives rise to bad feelings and disputes in the country and causes war.

"4th. Agricultural labour must be strictly attended to, and the ground cultivated with produce for the consumption of the country and for sale to the Queen's subjects.

"5th. All persons are prohibited to take revenge on another for any injury done to them, but must make their complaints to me and the offender will be punished.

"6th. Lawful debts are to be paid by those who are indebted to another, and no person is allowed to seize for debt but by my authority.

"7th. Any person or persons wilfully taking the life of another, with any instruments, or the fist, hand, or by witchcraft, his life must be taken too, by my authority.

"8th. A thief is not to be sold or put to death, but must suffer punishment by flogging or paying three times the value of what he stole. Those rules and regulations constitute my just law and declaration as the King of the Lokkoh Masamma, North Bullam country. I will frame more as I see fit."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FEBRUARY 17.

THE KINGDOM OF ASHANTEE.

Sir J. HAY asked the Colonial Secretary whether there was any foundation for the statement that troops had been despatched from the Gold Coast, and had been directed to take the field against the King of Ashantee; and if so, whether provision had been made to prevent the disastrous consequences that had taken place on former expeditions.

Mr. CARDWELL said no instructions had been given to the Governor of the Gold Coast to take the field against the King of Ashantee. He had, however, heard that the Governor was going into an adjoining territory upon a friendly mission; and that he was taking troops with him as a guard upon that friendly mission.* (A laugh.)

FEBRUARY 21.

The Right Hon. Mr. ADDERLEY moved for a select committee on the British establishments on the Western Coast of Africa.

After a short debate, the motion was agreed to. Particulars are necessarily deferred to our next number, for want of space.

NATAL.

The news from Natal by the last mail is particularly interesting, in showing the great advance making by the colony. A Mauritius mail service had been inaugurated, the first steamship being appointed to leave Mauritius for Natal on December 24 last, and *vice versa*, Natal for Mauritius on the 26th of the same month.

In our last we gave account of the opening of a bridge over the Umgeni, and have now to record the opening of another, a new iron bridge, over the Upper Umgeni. These new facilities for the passage of produce to Durban for shipment were greatly needed. The progress of cultivation in Victoria County, the access of which to a seaport is thus improved, has been a very steady one. There has been nothing spasmodic about it. Fifteen years ago there was scarcely a permanent resident in Victoria County, beyond the Umgeni River. The work of advancement has been in a great degree the result of persevering effort on the

* We are glad to hear from authority that Mr. Pine's visit to Croboe is a friendly mission.—Ed. A. T.

part of men of very limited means. The next year's sugar crop in Victoria County has been estimated at *four thousand tons!* It now appears certain that the crop will much exceed the above-mentioned quantity. Where, in 1850, there were scarcely twenty acres under cultivation by Europeans, there are now 8,000 acres under crop; where there were scarcely any productive residents, there are now 3,201 hands regularly employed. The tonnage estimated as coming into and going out of Durban, during 1865, from and to Victoria, is 8,122, and a rapid ratio of increase is predicted. It is also worthy of note that of the above 8,122 tons, two-thirds are *export*, against one-third *import*.

The great event of the month has been the laying of the foundation-stone of a *lighthouse* on the Bluff, near Durban. Colonel Maclean having been gazetted as Lieut.-Governor of Natal, was expected soon to arrive, and most properly the distinction of laying the foundation-stone of the *first Natal lighthouse* fell to the lot of the retiring Governor, Mr. Scott.*

This lighthouse question has been, and most justly, we think, rather a sore one in the colony. There were important Imperial interests to be served by the erection of such an edifice, as well as local and colonial ones; and it was certainly a case in which the Imperial Exchequer ought to have assisted. The remarks of the editor of the *Mercury* on this subject are very much to the point:—

"For many years we cherished the hope that a paternal Home Government would contribute with some measure of liberality towards the erection of the Bluff lighthouse. Very naturally, it was deemed but just and fair that the Imperial Exchequer should help us, in our youth and poverty, to supply a work that would be so useful and advantageous to national interests. But the Admiralty does not think so. The Admiralty, with its vastly superior knowledge, and its weight of wisdom, holds quite another opinion. A lighthouse on the noble headland that guards our port would be purely of local benefit, and could not possibly be of service to vessels that were not coming to Natal. So thinks, and so says, the august Admiralty. True, there is a point where a light might be useful, and that is on the islet of Inyack—a lump of rock near the entrance of Delagoa Bay—two hundred miles north of us, and famed for its Portuguese relations! Here, although there is not a single resident on this small Juan Fernandez, except a few pigs and chickens, and although not a single British bottom finds its way there—here, out of the reach alike of commerce and civilization, the far-seeing Admiralty deem it desirable that a light should be erected, in preference to one at Natal. In all probability such an opinion is based on pure ignorance. Our port, as we have said, is peculiarly placed hitherto, homeward-bound ship-masters have not customarily made the land at this point, preferring to do so further south, where lights are more common, and where the coast is better known. Given a light on the Bluff, however, such a light as is about to be placed there, visible thirty-two miles off, and the probability is that, in a great many cases, the Bluff would be made a point of sight. Then as to its function as a beacon to a harbour of refuge, too much cannot be said. It might often happen that to distressed vessels the saving of distance effected by running in here would be of the utmost value. We are just on the verge of the cyclone circle, in which so many ships meet with accidents, and on more than one occasion vessels have been very efficiently repaired here. Moreover, as a port of call, in the course of a year and a-half, we shall be in as favourable a position as Simon's or Algoa Bay. The overland telegraph will bridge over the distance, and vessels can then call here for orders or advices with a certainty of being able to communicate at once with any other port along the coast. On one point the Admiralty seems to have been wholly oblivious, although that ought to be the most vital consideration with them. Will not this port, when the telegraph and the lighthouse and the harbour works are completed, be incomparably the best naval station on the Coast? Even now cruisers often call here for supplies or despatches. Regular steam communication being established with

* We are compelled to defer the description of the Lighthouse, and the speech of Lieutenant Governor Scott, until next month.—Ed. A. T.

Mauritius, the Seychelles, and the East, and frequent mail intercourse being had with the Cape, it is almost inevitable that Natal must be constituted a naval station, and that a prize court must be proclaimed here. All these movements can only tend to consolidate and secure the interests and to enhance the importance of Durban. Perhaps the Admiralty may in time be brought to see that Inyack, after all, is but a figment when compared with a place possessing and presenting so many distinct and material advantages."

SLAVE-TRADE IN THE TRANS VAAL REPUBLIC.—The Natal *Mercury* has the following: "It is time that the Government of this colony should call the attention of the President to the existence of slave-trade in the Republic. Amaswasi is driving a roaring trade with the Boers for the young Kafirs taken by his people in the recent war. I know one man who obtained a Kafir boy and girl, nine or ten years old, in exchange for a dog, and many other Boers have obtained young Kafirs for even less valuable consideration."

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

(Per Roman.)

Colonel Maclean, our new Lieutenant-Governor, arrived by the Anglian, on the 24th December. His Excellency was very enthusiastically received. Colonel Maclean left for Maritzburg on the 26th, and arrived very quietly in the city, where he was not expected. He was sworn in on the 31st.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott return home by the Athens. Various valedictory addresses have been presented.

The total exports for 1864 have been about 225,000*l.*; of this 98,000*l.* in sugar. 116 vessels arrived. 3,380 persons entered the colony, and 519 left. The revenue will probably be about 148,000*l.*

The following statistics will best show the progress of the Colony:—

Principal Articles of Export for the Six Years ending 31st December, 1863.

	Value in 1858.	Value in 1859.	Value in 1860.	Value in 1861.	Value in 1862.	Value in 1863.
Arrowroot.....	5,464	13,336	6,680	4,685	1,547	2,801
Butter.....	15,685	17,610	19,306	14,582	11,381	8,204
Feathers (Ostrich).....	510	391	465	564	2,510	7,255
Grain (Maize).....	247	1,942	849	—	4,905	8,721
Hides.....	16,299	12,699	16,483	10,551	5,932	6,454
Ivory.....	31,754	17,618	21,064	22,825	27,059	40,736
Sugar.....	3,870	8,006	31,559	19,401	21,178	26,153
Wool (Sheep's).....	11,368	23,990	27,790	32,888	38,432	48,526

Actual Revenue and Expenditure of the Colonial Government for Five Years, ending 31st December, 1863.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In 1859.....	50,904	15	0	49,916	14	9
In 1860.....	86,858	19	11	80,384	18	10
In 1861.....	114,087	4	4	121,710	16	0
In 1862.....	109,299	2	9	113,237	13	4
In 1863.....	123,087	17	5	118,891	18	10
In 1864.....	148,000	0	0	(Estimated)		

Of the chief agricultural products the report is as follows:—
SUGAR.—The year's crop has probably been about 6,000 tons, or more than double what it was in 1863.

COFFEE.—Plantations are being formed on all hands. The success of the pioneers has induced others to embark their fortunes in an industry that is both pleasant and profitable, and that does not entail the wear and tear of mind and body inseparable from the larger liabilities of the sugar-planter.

ARROWROOT is advancing again, and the few engaged in its growth find it remunerative.

CORROX has been less successful, and we cannot yet pronounce definitively as to the future of this staple. Small plantations continue to be carried on, and superior samples produced; but the profitableness of its growth on a large scale remains a moot question.

TOBACCO throughout the colony is a popular product. The soil and climate are well fitted for its culture. Both in the leaf and in cigars the quality of the article has been subjected to most conclusive tests.

In the Midland Districts.

FLAX.—The farmers who have tried its growth are confident still that the plant will thrive when once the preliminary difficulties are overcome.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—Unsatisfactory, dysentery being very prevalent. At the same time, a disease akin to acute dysentery, and called "Imfa," is raging amongst the natives, and proving very fatal. They have no remedies for it, and white men do not seem to suffer from it.

LABOUR.—The Edmondsbury arrived from Madras, December 17, with 282 coolies, at 97. per head.

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE GAMBIA ON DYKES AND DRAINS.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL D'ARCY, GOVERNOR, ETC.

"Nova constructio aggeris aquatilis."

St. Mary's Island, River Gambia, July 30, 1864.

Having served for many years in Bombay and Demerara, I was much struck on arrival here to mark the affinity the Gambia bears to these places; for of all three we may appropriately quote that their inhabitants live

Where the broad ocean leaves against the land,
And sedulous to stop the coming tide,
Lift the tall rampire's artificial pride.

It is therefore but wise to consider what are the capabilities this island affords to resist the annual August inroads of the spring tides and freshes from the upper river, commonly called by the natives the Waumees. As I have before remarked, Bombay and Demerara are below the level of the sea in some parts, but the greater part of the Island of St. Mary's is considerably so; for on observing the wells during the dry season, the water is ten or twelve feet below the surface of the earth; whereas during the rains the surface of the water in the well of the military hospital, one of the highest parts of the island, is scarcely a foot from the level of the ground. This proves that the whole of the race-course and all Half Die must be considerably below the level of the sea; and observing this peculiarity, I was induced early in the year 1860 to commence the sea wall round Half Die. It was an amateur work, performed entirely by convict labour, under my own supervision. Being somewhat doubtful of success, I was afraid of expending too much money; consequently, I laid down but two inexpensive terra-cotta pipes. They are not, however, of sufficient width to carry off the rain water during the rains. It will be, therefore, necessary to construct a sluice-gate. When we consider that no less a sum than 500*l.* has been received by the Colonial Government for the land thus reclaimed from the sea, 30*l.* will, I am sure, be cheerfully voted by the Council for this work. At present the arena resembles a washing bason, the sea wall forming the rim of the bowl, and the concave hollow Robertson Town *in esse*. But in a few years, if the proprietors of the lots will only sedulously throw trashes on the surface of their investments, covered again by one foot of sand, the ground will rise sufficiently for all agricultural and dwelling purposes, such as the people of this town generally adopt, or be convertible to garden purposes, so much alluvial soil being in the sand of the island, partially formed of the decomposed matter, which has been floating down this mighty river for ages.

I am sorry to say that the sea is encroaching at the burial-ground corner and at Government House. The palisades ought to be thrown out at right angles to the beach, and not parallel to it, as heretofore. At Demerara all the palisading is invariably at right angles. The engineer employed by the Colonial Government was a Dutchman, of great experience in making dykes and sea walls. In tradition this knowledge has been handed down from generation to generation; for we read that in 1667 the English colonists, being disheartened with the difficulties that presented themselves in keeping the sea back, exchanged settlements with the King of England, receiving New York in ex-

change. To the Dutch it was an easy matter, and for two centuries they successfully strove against the deep, when the British took the colony by force of arms in 1802, and have since retained it.

One of my constitutional political opponents in council, Mr. Quin, was pleased to eulogise this embankment as my "great work," and therefore I am desirous, before probable departure, to make such collateral arrangements as may tend to its durability. The weak part of the wall lies between the One-gun Battery and the old wrecks. When the violence of the Waumees is increased by the southerly wind, this part of the wall is in great danger of giving way. It may, however, be considerably strengthened by the outlay of a few pounds, expended in facing the front with masonry, and the wall itself made doubly broad at this point.

I have lately undertaken the extension of the sea wall, by throwing out a spur to protect the houses and lots belonging to the poor people of Soldier Town. This good work I hope to finish before the rains. It will join the wall made by the first settlers in 1816, forming not only a great protection, but a pleasant promenade round the prettiest native town on the West Coast of Africa, each dwelling house having a garden planted with cocoanut and other useful trees.

I cannot help recording that I actually consider the very existence of this island precarious. Let there ever be a combination of elements in a sea breeze during the month of August, blowing strong when the Waumees happen to be in the ascendancy, preventing thereby the ebb tide from acting freely, and nothing could save the island from being covered with six feet of water, to the great destruction of life and property. It therefore behoves us to bestir ourselves to fight the

Dark, heaving, endless, and sublime

with the mattock and the spade, devoting so much every year from our revenue for that purpose. My idea is not original, for I find, on reference to the Colonial archives, that in 1828 Colonel Findlay, the then Governor, constructed a much longer and larger sea-wall. It extended from the One-gun Battery at Half Die to Fort Lovell. It appears that the wall was extensively repaired from time to time, but I can find no record of the exact time, or the reasons why the wall was allowed to be washed away, for at present no traces remain of so important a work; but I understand, from the old people of this place, that the coloured inhabitants petitioned the Secretary of State, requesting that the wall might be repaired and kept up, as it was a great comfort to them.

In the year 1856 the ocean made a great onslaught into George Town, Demerara, carrying away a great part of the right bank of the river; the whole of the barracks were under water. It was proposed by many to abandon that part of the settlement, retreating and delivering up to the ocean a large tract of country; but others again contended, and not without considerable reason, that such a retrograde step was contrary to all true engineering principles—"advance rather, and face the enemy." The latter bold resolution was carried out by the Court of Policy, and the sea wall at George Town has become a great work, faintly imitated by my construction at Half Die.

At one time I thought that the proposed large Fitzgerald lock-gates were the *summum bonum* for the Island of St. Mary's, and so they probably would be, but we cannot at present afford so large an expenditure as 7,000*l.* This improvement is out of the question, I fear, for some years to come, unless the revenue is increased; but I still think there is very much to be done by inexpensive labour alone.

The Duke of Wellington used to say that his country seat of Strathfieldsay would have ruined any other man, so tempting an opportunity for drainage presenting itself, but he sternly bid the demon avaut who whispered to him "drain extensively," and steadily set aside a certain sum every year for the purpose; and no homied words from his land steward ever tempted him to swerve from his purpose. His grace lived, however, long enough to see his park and demesnes cleared of swamp, and his property give a good return for all the capital so gradually expended on it. So let it be with us, by a system of decimal drainage, em-

ploying only labour (no expensive cut stone or iron work is required from England); let us reduce the swamp to mythical proportions. I propose next year to make, by convict labour, a sea wall stretching in an oblique line from the One-gun Battery to the privy, in Soldier Town, a distance of 1,000 yards, throwing the sea back one quarter of a mile. This will be a real comfort to all the poor people residing there, for at present the sea during the Waumees washes into their yards. This work will be of easy construction, no less than three islands lying on the line.

Again, I would construct a small sea wall at right angles with Governor Captain Fitzgerald's lock-gates, making it abut on to the rear of Newtown Chapel; about five acres will then be at all times dry land, and the whole town sleep in peace, in no fear of the Waumees.

Still, I am not content; I bend now to the little Jola Town on the Clifton-road, and would do likewise there, throwing a short wall across the gentle ebb between the Clifton-road and the Hogg's Back. Moreover, this would save the poor people who carry the produce of the country on their heads a few hundred yards in this journey to British Combo.

This year I followed in Governor Captain Fitzgerald's footsteps, and tried to repair his sea wall at Mungo Park's resting-place, snatching nine acres of beautiful land from the sea; but after six weeks of victory, a Waumees came, avoided my wall, it is true, but burst through, with irresistible violence, an adjoining strip of land, which I had previously supposed to be a natural formation, till the avalanche displayed many worm-eaten piles driven into the banked earth to keep it together. After the rains I hope to cope with my victorious assailant, the river, when he is no longer aided by his colleague, the Waumees. If I commence in November, the wall will have six months to settle down and obtain strength before the rains in 1865.

(To be concluded in our next.)

EASTERN AFRICA.—Dr. Livingstone's proposed expedition to the district between the north of Lake Nyassa and the south of Lake Tanganyika assumes a substantial form. The Royal Geographical Society have held out the prospect of 500*l.*, the Foreign-office are understood to promise a similar sum, and a private friend and admirer of Dr. Livingstone's has given anonymously 1,000*l.* In addition to all this, it appears that Dr. Livingstone's position as consul to the native races of Eastern Africa, with a salary of 500*l.* a-year, remains unmodified; though his duties as consul at Quillimane have ceased. Adequate funds are therefore in existence for the maintenance of the expedition, conducted, as it is proposed to be, in a simple and economical manner.

ORIGIN OF THE SEA.—AFRICAN FABLE.—A man had two wives. One he loved best got something good from the bush, with which she cooked him the most savoury food. Her jealous partner determined to follow her, to ascertain the secret of her success in cooking. Doing this, she saw the favoured wife take off a little from a white mass in some secluded spot. Watching for an opportunity, she afterwards repaired to the place, determined to get a good supply for herself. For this purpose, she assailed the white mass with her axe. Suddenly the water burst out of the salt hill, and flowed on and on until it formed the great salt sea.—*Carallo Messenger*.

THE HIPPOPOTAMI OF THE CAVALLA RIVER, LIBERIA.—"One of these creatures was killed by To, a hunter at Borobo, on Monday, October 16th. It was towards evening, and the beast was coming up out of the water in one of the streams that flow into the Cavalla. The man described it as larger than a full-grown bullock, large head, small ears and eyes, a mouth rather smaller than a bullock, large legs with divided hoofs, short tail, and jet black and shining hide without hair. It had two tusks, nine and a-half inches long and one and a-quarter inches in diameter. These I was glad to obtain. It had afforded meat for the whole town for some days. On three occasions it was served at my meals, when I partook of it. It was very much like the flesh of a bullock. These animals are not very common, and it is only occasionally that they are killed."

LOSS OF THE DUTCH BRIG GOVERNOR ELIAS.

Our last number contained an account of the loss of this vessel. We have now the pleasure of inserting a letter received by us from the owners, which is a complete refutation of any covert charges against them that the writer of the former letter may have intended to convey:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Amsterdam, February 12, 1865.

Sir,—In your number of January 23 you inserted a letter which gives an account of the stranding of our brig Governor Elias, Hoffman master p. t., by no means calculated to establish an exalted idea either of the writer's good faith, or of his proficiency in nautical matters. The main points in his statement are as follows: "First, that the vessel was lost through the mismanagement of the chief officer; second, that the owners had given her in charge of an incompetent master; third, that both vessel and cargo were enormously insured; and, fourth, that a close investigation into these asserted facts, by Lloyd's agent at Amsterdam, was desirable."

In order to demonstrate in the simplest manner the insincerity of "A. Z.'s" statements, we shall only have to set against them such facts as we can prove:—

First.—The vessel was riding at anchor, with thirty fathoms of chain, the weather being fair, as, in fact, it always is on the Guinea coast during the fine season. The master in charge and all the crew were on board. Suddenly the vessel parted, upon which the heavy anchor, with fifty fathoms of chain, was at once let go. Meanwhile, the S.W. wind, and the current setting in round the coast, caused the vessel probably to drift farther into the swell, for she parted again, and the consequence was that she stranded. Anchors and cables were manufactured at the Royal Ironworks in Leiden (Holland).

According to the protest, and, as is also evident from the result, the master exerted himself most strenuously to save vessel and cargo, and succeeded in saving more than could reasonably be expected under the circumstances, and this "A. Z." calls mismanagement.

Second.—The vessel was sent out by us in charge of Capt. P. Schuurman, who has been for the last twelve years in command of vessels in the foreign trade, and who has made three voyages along the West Coast of Africa, on two of which he was accompanied by his mate, Hoffman, who merited his full confidence. Captain Schuurman, compelled by the state of his health, proceeded home, and gave over the command to his chief officer, Hoffman, who therefore acted as master, and this "A. Z." terms giving a vessel in charge of an incompetent master.

We do not apprehend the incompetency either of Captain Schuurman, or of the acting master, Hoffman; but let us even for a moment suppose that the incompetency of the latter were substantiated—which is in no way evident from his conduct, particularly at the time of the disaster—can shipowners, then, be expected to engage two masters to one brig?

Third.—The vessel, fully equipped for sea, cost 74,800*fl.*, as our books will show; we insured her for 75,000*fl.*, which is certainly not too high. The cargo, free on board, cost 74,300*fl.*, and was insured to 85,000*fl.* Is that too much? We should suppose not, and had we entertained the remotest doubt as to the ability of either Captain Schuurman or Hoffman, we should certainly have covered the interest of both vessel and cargo to a larger amount.

Fourth.—Lloyd's agent has, in this case, nothing to do with either vessel or cargo. Not a single Englishman has any interest whatever in our affairs. But it appears, in this matter, that there are even British public officers who seem incapable of apprehending that other nations besides their own navigate the ocean, for the commandant of British Accra, who had undertaken to realise such goods as were saved, assured Captain Hoffman that he was accountable to no one but Lloyd and Co. (*sic*), and he refused officially to deliver up the books and papers that were saved, and the nett proceeds of the goods. Do you not consider such conduct to be very strange and arbitrary, or rather, injudicious, Mr. Editor? We, at least, think so; and we have consequently entered a legal protest against this manner of proceeding, and lodged a formal complaint against Mr. Edmunds' conduct with our Minister for Foreign Affairs.

We are not in the habit of compiling for the press, Mr. Editor, but in the present instance found ourselves compelled publicly to contradict the foolish and slanderous report of "A. Z."—whose real name we can easily conjecture—by a statement of facts; and we expect, from your well-known impartiality, that you will insert this refutation in the first-coming number of the *African Times*.

In anticipation thereof, we have the honour to be, with the highest respect, Sir, your obedient servants,

BOUMAN AND VAN RYCKEVOERSEL.

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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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