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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 ALLIANCE BANK OF LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND MANCHESTER.

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
In 1860,	"	"	"	1,145,434

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The African mail-steamer Calabar arrived at Liverpool March 12, with dates from Benin to Jan. 24; Fernando Po, Jan. 29; Cameroons, Jan. 31; Old Calabar, Feb. 2; Brass River, Feb. 4; Nun, Feb. 4; Bonny, Feb. 4; Lagos, Feb. 7; Accra, Feb. 9; Cape Coast Castle, Feb. 11; Cape Palmas, Feb. 13; Sierra Leone, Feb. 19; Bathurst, Feb. 23; Teneriffe, March 1; and Madeira, March 4.

The Calabar brought 1,600 ounces of gold dust. Consul Livingstone had arrived at Fernando Po on the 28th January. The island was healthy; trade brisk.

Her Majesty's ship Lee was at Bonny on the 8th January, to enforce payment of the fine of 240 puncheons of palm oil inflicted some time ago by Consul Burton upon King Peppel for having stopped the trade of the river in the early part of last year. The King refusing to go on board the Lee when sent for, Commander Lane sent in an armed boat and brought him off by force. When on board he still refused to pay the fine, in consequence of which Commander Lane has stopped the trade at Bonny. The principal native traders have removed all their most valuable property into the interior, expecting another visit from Her Majesty's ship Lee.

At Lagos, trade improving. The roads to Abeokuta remained closed, but the local government were endeavouring to bring about the restoration of trade. A fire had occurred at Abeokuta, destroying a large quantity of palm oil and cotton, which were stored there, awaiting the opening of the roads.

Accra, trade very dull. Smallpox had entirely disappeared.

Sierra Leone, Feb. 19. Governor Blackall left in Her Majesty's ship Rattlesnake on a cruise for the benefit of his health. He intended returning on the 1st of March to open the Exhibition, for the success of which great fears were entertained. Her Majesty's ship Zebra was daily expected. She was to convey General O'Connor to the Gambia on a tour of inspection.

GAMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, February 23, 1865.

Sir,—There is nothing of much interest to note here this month. Bathurst is unhealthy at this time of the year; pulmonary diseases are prevalent among the civil population; Her Majesty's West India troops at present stationed in this river suffer most dreadfully from its attacks.

For the last six years during my residence here I do not recollect an instance of so malignant a type of constitutional disease amongst the men of this island. Twenty cases of that disease now under medical treatment have been reported to me to be of a very severe form.

A medical officer, who has recently arrived at this station from England (in January), is endeavouring to remedy the evils in part reported in the *African Times* of October 22. I hope to be able to give you and your British readers some reliable information as to this medical gentleman's attendance on the sick of Her Majesty's troops in my next.

MARTINET FIDDLESTING.

HER MAJESTY'S gunboat Torch, having undergone the usual tests on Saturday, the 18th, was afterwards handed over to Commander George A. Douglas. The Torch sailed on the 20th for the West Coast of Africa.

SIERRA LEONE.

The four young lads educated in the Grammar School here, who were taken two years ago by Commodore Wilmot on board the Rattlesnake for instruction, have passed a very favourable examination in navigation, seamanship, gunnery, &c. The worthy Commodore entertained their parents on board the Rattlesnake, and congratulated them on the good use made by their children of the opportunities that had been afforded to them. Fever is prevalent.

The building for the Exhibition was rapidly advancing to completion. The local papers publish the rules and regulations to be observed at the opening of the Exhibition.

There is some little improvement in trade generally.

The news of the loss of the mail-steamship Armenian, which we have heard by Her Majesty's ship Highflyer, from Madeira (by telegram to the latter *via* Lisbon), has created a very painful sensation, especially as no particulars are yet known, with the exception that the number of deaths by drowning were four.

In a speech of Mr. A. Walker to the Chamber of Commerce, relative to the requirements of the colony, Colonel Ord's mission, &c., the following changes were stated to be necessary:—

1. That the nominee of the Chamber to the Legislative Council should not require the sanction of the Governor to his election, but sit absolutely in virtue of that election alone.
2. That a charter should be given to the Chamber of Commerce by the Government constituting them a corporate body.
3. A town corporation.
4. That the people should send three or four members to the Legislative Council; as the people willingly paid taxes, they ought to be represented.
5. Competitive examination for Government offices.
6. An uniform *ad valorem* duty of 2½ per cent. on all articles except *spirits* and *tobacco*.
7. A system of general water supply to Freetown.
8. A colonial steamer. (Governors Macdonald, Kennedy, Hill, and Blackall had all acknowledged this to be necessary, and made unavailing efforts to procure one.)
9. Certain measures for the encouragement of agriculture, building, &c.
10. The Imperial guarantee to a loan for the colony.

It was decided by the Chamber that the proper channel for bringing these suggestions and requests under the notice of Her Majesty's Government was through his Excellency Governor Blackall, and not through Colonel Ord.

The Governor is on a cruise in the Rattlesnake for his health. He will return on the 28th February, in order to open the Industrial Exhibition. Commodore Wilmot will, of course, also be present, and the Bishop will have returned from Lagos to take part in the ceremony.

The agent of the Company of African Merchants has given public notice that the Company are prepared to draw bills on London and Liverpool, thirty days, at par, upon application at the Company's banking establishment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, February 10, 1865.

Sir,—I am happy to inform you that Governor Pine has issued an order, dated 1st February inst., wherein he instructs his stipendiary magistrate not to enforce fines on offenders against his new rum licence ordinance until further orders. Doubtless his Excellency has, after his attention has been brought to Mr. Chichester Fortescue's speech, in June last, come to the conclusion to abide by his instructions, "by endeavouring to reform the ways of the natives without forcing British laws and usages upon them," particularly at this critical juncture, when British influence is at so low an ebb.

But is not all this deplorable? And can we wonder that a Government thus administered should fall into contempt among a shrewd though ignorant people? It seems to me that, if there had been a settled purpose in England to cause the Queen's Government to be despised here, the authorities at home could not have found a better instrument and a better way than to send

out such a Governor, and to leave him to his own devices. He is certainly of those who only want to have rope enough allowed them to make a deplorable end infallible.

The chiefs are busy here about electing a king! This work will be done next week, and I may then have something more to tell you about the proposed native deputation to give evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons.—Yours truly,
A. M. S. L. P.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 9, 1865.

Sir,—As you purport to have nothing in view but the good of Africa in your publication, I beg you will insert the following lines in your columns.

Although we natives here agree with you that affairs on this Coast, during "the last twelve months" especially, of Mr. Pine's (mis)management—necessitate a change in the system hitherto pursued on this Coast, yet we do not agree with you that that change must necessarily be the conversion of these protectorates into a British, or any other, colony. No, we deprecate such a change. If, while the land is still ours, we are hooted and treated like inferior animals, mere savages, and looked upon as little better, if at all, than the brute creatures, what will it be when the land passes away from us and our children for ever? That we are thus treated and looked upon, that we are despised and esteemed as nothing, the late arbitrary and despotic conduct of Mr. Pine (see his mode and style of reply to our petition respecting the rum licence) abundantly testifies. He came here with a mask on, to bamboozle and gull the much-despised savages of Cape Coast, whose "fingers," to use his own language, "are so swollen, that they cannot write a document worthy his notice." But his own doings have torn that mask off from him, and he now stands in his own true naked character, which is sufficiently mean and undignified. Experience has taught us, and we are daily gathering fresh confirmations to the lesson, that the white man never acts or proposes anything for the benefit of the black man. If he comes over to Africa, it is not to benefit the black man, but to better his own condition. If he aspires to the Government, it is not that he may be a useful man, but to gratify his vanity and ambition. As Mr. Pine said some time ago, are we to think that they (white men) come over here to give us (black men) the meat, and they take the bone? No, we trust them for that; we never thought so; we well know it is the meat they come over for, as evidently he did, without which there is no knowing how he would have ended his obscure career. Another of these gents here expressed his opinion that we ought not to be educated, because, I suppose, it "would take us out of our place in nature;" and was—as, in fact, the whole brood of white men here were—in high wrath against the late Chief Justice Moseley for being disposed to measure out even-handed justice to the natives. Indeed, our condition under the mock protection of those who are sent out as the representatives of the mildest of rulers is anything but pleasant. We see nothing in their policy towards us but hate, spite, contempt, and oppression, and that—which I complain of—while the land is ours. With what reason, then, can we look favourably upon the conversion of these protectorates into a colony? Will it be for our benefit? No; but that of the white man and his children, at the expense, perpetual keeping under, and hence, continual degradation, to their latest day, of those to whom God has bountifully given the soil, as He has Europe to you. You may give us men of a different and higher stamp than the man who holds the present post—men who wish to deserve well of humanity and their country, and not influenced solely by a title or position, or even by "the meat." The Colonial Secretary may give affairs here a little attention; he evidently has not had time to do so since his accession to office, as the despatches respecting the *prison affair* show; and he may not be too hasty in appointing whoever may choose to apply for the office, whether he be a Jew or infidel, or anything but a Christian, influenced by every other but the right motive; but we cannot see how the making a colony of these protectorates will

put an end to abuses which we know exist even in those places which are now called colonies.

A NATIVE CHIEF, his X mark.

DUTCH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 10, 1865.

Sir,—In my last letter, dated November, I mentioned that the people of Elmina had forwarded a second letter to Holland, urging that they wished to be ruled "by men who respect the laws, not trample them under foot." Now, before I proceed further, I must give you some idea of the stuff that the so-called officers at Elmina are made of, and the class of men that the Dutch Government, in "their high wisdom" (to quote their own words), sometimes think proper to send out, or you would not be able to understand the following narrative.

One of the so-called officers at present actually in service at Elmina began life, it is said, as a merchant's clerk; he then enlisted as a soldier; afterwards entered the Navy; then he became a missionary!! for each of which above respectable callings his refined nature successively proved him to be unsuited. Finally, and as a last resource, his friends persuaded him to accept an appointment to the Coast of Africa, in the hope, no doubt, of his speedy deliverance thence; but hitherto he has cheated them of their fond hopes, and the devil too, for he enjoys very good health (bless his liver!), although he lives almost entirely upon cankey (the native bread) and fish, and tipples gin that smells very strongly of turpentine and lingfish. Another so-called officer lately returned to Vaderland from the Coast of Africa has set up in business in a small rural village, where formerly he served some years' apprenticeship, in retailing potatoes and coals, greasy cheese and suetty butter, mutton candles and second-hand clothing. After this necessary explanation, I will proceed; but mind I do not pretend to say that the Dutch *employés* have all been missionaries, degraded soldiers, or retailers of sour milk and rancid lard; I merely wish to call attention to the class to which the generality belong; some honourable exceptions there are, and have been, no doubt.

Governor Elias arrived at Elmina on the 8th December, in the Princess Maria, a Dutch man-of-war. On the same day the King and his chiefs repaired to the castle to welcome his Excellency on his safe return. Immediately on the King making his appearance in the reception-room, the Governor saluted him with the following: "I have a very heavy palaver to settle with you, King." To this the King replied in his mild, quiet way, that he and his chiefs had come only on a complimentary visit to congratulate the chief of the Government on his safe return, and neither came to make or hear complaints. Finally, an interview was arranged for two or three days later.

At the appointed time the King and his chiefs made their appearance in the castle. It appears that the question to be discussed was that of the two letters which had been addressed to the Minister of the Colonies at the Hague; and the course adopted by the sapient Dutch Governor was not to elicit whether the charges brought against one of his so-called officers (q.v., creatures?) had any foundation in fact, but to find out what unlucky wight had dared to write the letters for the people; because if nobody had dared to write these letters, the complaints of the people would never have reached Holland; and no awkward questions would have been asked. The King and his chiefs declined to give the names of the party whom they had employed to write their letters, saying, "These letters have been read over again to us here in the castle, and they contain nothing more nor less than what we had to say, and we alone are responsible for their contents, and not the mechanical agent we employed to embody our ideas in civilized language." The Dutch Governor would not listen to this argument at all; he must have the *writer* exposed and punished, for he was the real delinquent.

This is part and parcel of the blind Dutch policy. Some years ago the people of Bussima, in Ahanta, sent a petition to the Dutch Governor at Elmina, praying for a schoolmaster to be sent to instruct their children, and offered to pay his salary and give

him a residence, and provide a suitable schoolroom. The idea could not be entertained, because, said the then Governor, "If we educate the natives, we shall ruin the country!"

The people were threatened with imprisonment, fire, and flames, and to have their town blown down about their ears, if they persisted in their refusal to give up the delinquent writer; because, said the Governor, "The King of Holland has sent me out with a man-of-war to punish you, if you refuse me the names of the writers of these letters." A scene ensued that baffles all description, and that to any other government, otherwise constituted than the present one at Elmina, would have been most humiliating. After one or two other meetings the people were dismissed with the intimation that the Governor and his satellite, MAGNIN, would take their own time, and investigate the matter after their own fashion, even if it cost them two years to do it in.

The first object they directed their attention to was a quiet, inoffensive young man, named Joseph Pignari, who, having no friends nor relatives (save an only sister two years his senior) to help him on in the world to better employment, having received a little education, and being a tolerable penman, earns a precarious livelihood (like many others) by writing letters, making accounts, and doing other scribes' work, that the uneducated natives are incapable of. This young man was summoned to the presence of the Dutch Governor, and asked if he knew who was the writer of the obnoxious letters. He was even offered two dollars (8s. 4d. sterling!!) to perjure himself, and say that either Scheffelaar, Lejeune, Kamerling, or Bartels (the three former in service, the latter a private individual), had written the letters and palmed them on the natives; but as the young man knew nothing of the matter, he replied, "If you were to offer me *ever so much*, I could not tell you." Hereupon he was assailed with a volley of Dutch expletives, in which the letter *r* rolls and predominates, like an under current in one of Haydn's fugues; then his Excellency the Governor, the gallant Colonel Elias, orders the young man to be cast into prison to ruminate on the matter. The sister of this young man was afterwards sent for and questioned and cross-questioned, and she knew no more of the matter than did her brother. And, will your readers believe it, Mr. Editor—will they believe that any two individuals calling themselves men could be guilty of such diabolical conduct!! This young lady, Sir, was also cast into prison and treated like a felon—"as an example," they said, "to the people of Elmina of what would be done to the real delinquents if they could only be got at"—and all, Sir, to vindicate the dignity of the Dutch Government and satisfy the vengeance of Governor Elias and his creature Magnin, *alias* Captain Magnin, the Acting Bookkeeper, Acting Justice and Public Prosecutor, Acting Colonial Secretary, Acting Cashier, Acting Commissariat Officer, Acting Registrar of Wills and Deeds, Acting Postmaster, Auctioneer, and Collector of Dues, Acting President of the Court of Appeal, Private Secretary, Governor's Adjutant, Chief Butler, and—but I won't make use of any nasty names. After about ten days' confinement the young man was released; but the sister even now, at the date of this letter, is still confined. About ten days ago this young lady was sent for by the creature Magnin, who told her that if she chose she could be at once released, and also be friends with the Governor. I merely record simple facts. "She was sent back to prison."

Mrs. Maria Stooene, a married lady, had suffered some most unjustifiable and atrocious treatment at the hands of Mr. Doyer during his short but unhappy administration, and sent a complaint to Holland on the subject. Her husband wrote the letter, and she signed it. Shortly after Governor Elias arrived she was sent for, and asked who had written the letter for her. She replied, "My husband wrote the letter for me, and I signed it." "It's a lie," says the brave and gallant Magnin; and, without more ado or questioning, she also was cast into prison; but on the husband giving notice that he would forward instructions to his solicitor in Holland to prosecute the Governor for false imprisonment, Mrs. Stooene was released on the third day.

From all this it appears that Governor Elias and his creature

Magnin are prejudiced in the idea that one or more of their own officers instigated the natives to write the letters, and all their researches have only tended to lay and fix the charge on one or other of the obnoxious persons already named; failing which, they have endeavoured to force a falsehood from Joseph Pignari, his sister, and Mrs. Stooene; and these three innocent persons are made the examples of the *exemplary patience and even-handed justice* of Governor Elias, the gallant Colonel, and his creature, Mr. Magnin, the gallant Captain.

Now, I ask you, Mr. Editor, is it not a shame and a sin to dub with military rank these "knights of the shambles of viciousness," and for virtuous people to be obliged to address the one as the "gallant Maj'r," or the "brave Cap'n," or the "gallant Kurn'l," and so forth?

The pleasures and relaxations of these gentlemen are on a par, in eccentricity, with their more active duties. With only one solitary exception the Dutch Governor never visits any of the more respectable natives or the resident merchants and their families, and seems studiously to avoid them; but he and his creatures are often to be seen at a native dance, where a lot of young girls go through evolutions something after the fashion of the Knauteh girls of India, and where—yes!! and where—your correspondent declines to follow them.—Yours truly,

SENECA.

LAGOS.

February 5, 1865.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone has been holding an Ordination Service, as well as services for Confirmation, here. Five candidates were admitted to priests' orders, and one to the diaconate. The confirmations have been numerous. Bishop Crowther is also here.

All the information received agree in that the Egbas have been generally unsuccessful in their conflicts with the people of Ikoradu. The wisdom of Governor Glover's policy in preventing (by his blockade of the Coast) the desertion of their towns by the people of Ikoradu, &c., has thus become manifest. They have been able to maintain their ground against all the force Abeokuta has sent against them. This successful resistance might have led to a temporary pacification of the country—but the Ibadians have recommenced war, although in a desultory way, and the old conflict seems about to be renewed.

Trade, however, has been rather improving of late in Lagos. The abandonment by the French of the protectorate of Porto Novo has had some influence in this. It is stated, with something like authority, that one of the results of the Lieut.-Governor's visit to Porto Novo will be that the King of Porto Novo will levy there precisely similar duties to those paid at Lagos.

ABEOKUTA.

We deeply regret to have to record the fact of a fire at this town, in which much property has been destroyed. It broke out, the dry harmattan wind blowing violently at the time, in the division of the town where the merchant stores were situated, and spread from store to store with great rapidity. The following details are from the *Free Press*:

"On Sunday, the 22nd January, at 8.30 A.M., a fire commenced somewhere near the Kobbity-market, said to have been caused by the discharge of a musket.

The townships of Owu, Oba, and Igbo were the first to suffer. The fire then passed over the Oba hill and between it and the Owu hill, destroying the Church Missionary station at Owu. Both houses and church were burnt down, the premises of Capt. J. P. L. Davies, of Mr. McCoskry, of Mr. F. Borgmeyer, where a large quantity of palm oil was stored in casks, all of which were destroyed, of Mr. C. N. Young, who lost every thing, the Wesleyan chapel at Ogbe, but the house was saved; the house of Mr. Monday was burnt; Mrs. Gbambalas' house was saved, but the thatch over the walls enclosing the premises was burnt. The fire passed over Shokore, a rapid stream in wet weather, but now dry, and ignited the extensive premises of Mr. Ribeiro, Madam Tinabu, Mr. Savage, and that of the West

African Company. The iron house of the West African Company was no protection; by some means the property stored inside caught fire and was entirely consumed. The large hydraulic cotton press of the West African Company, just completed, was destroyed, together with their oil and cotton. A quantity of oil belonging to Capt. Davies and Mr. H. Robbin was saved, from being stored at some little distance off and in the open air. Among the Sierra-Leone people who suffered were Mr. Savage, who is said to have lost 30,000 gallons of oil, Mr. Peter Rae 9,300 gallons of oil, Mr. Jas. George 4,560 gallons of oil, and 12 kegs of powder, Mr. J. Holloway 1,300 gallons of oil, and 319lbs. of cotton, Mr. C. N. Young, who lost every thing, furniture, clothing, books, cotton, cotton gins, puncheons of oil, rum and building materials, and Mr. S. Williams 30 puncheons of oil. There are many of whose losses we have no information, but the estimated total loss is 25,000l. or 30,000l."

Although this calamity will thus cause serious loss to many, there is cause for rejoicing that it did not happen at an earlier period, before any of the accumulated produce was allowed to go down. During the month of open river the West African Company sent down 700 bales of cotton and large quantities of oil, all of which, as well as the other 3,500 bales of cotton and quantities of oil, also sent down at the same time by other parties, would otherwise have been consumed.

We cannot conclude this notice without saying how much we sympathise with those whose property has been thus destroyed.

We are sorry to add that it seems but too likely that active hostilities between the people of Abeokuta and the Ibadians may be shortly resumed.

The price of clean cotton in Abeokuta was 5½d. to 6d. per lb.

GABOON RIVER.

We regret to say that fever has been very prevalent among the Europeans at the Gaboon, and small-pox among the natives. Several Europeans, including an officer of engineers, a Sister of Charity, and an hotel-keeper, all French, have fallen victims to the fever. During the last three years there had been little, if any, fever at the Gaboon, which is considered one of the healthiest places on the West Coast; and persons long residents at the Gaboon never heard of small-pox among the natives there until the present epidemic broke out.

THE PRISONERS IN ABYSSINIA.

Intelligence received at Alexandria, Feb. 11, from the confines of Abyssinia, states that no change for the better has taken place in the state of Abyssinian affairs. The captives, Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, and the English Consul, have not only not been set at liberty, but have suffered from great violence. According to information, received from different authorities, the prisoners find themselves placed in the most pitiful condition, as the rainy season has gravely affected their health. The ostensible cause of ill-treatment on the part of the King seems to lie in the discovery which his Majesty made in the journal of Messrs. Stern and Rosenthal as to his maternal descent. Mr. Stern mentions in his confiscated paper that the King's mother had been a vendor of kosso, a medicinal fruit that is constantly used by the Abyssinians. Mr. Stern was quite right in his assertion, for it is true that the King's mother was a seller of kosso, whereas his father was a relation of Dedjaji Comfo, the governor of Dembea, who beat back several times the Egyptian troops that came from Sennar. In the beginning of his reign the King (who was then a kind and liberal man, and not a despot, as he has become since the death of Mr. Bell, his adjutant, who kept him in a moral check) often used to say, "If I do not help the poor people they will complain of me before God, for I myself have been a poor man." Had Theodoros been a man of Napoleon's stamp, he would not have felt ashamed of his descent, nor would he have had recourse to the absurd idea of being descended from King Solomon, who had a son, as the Abyssinians say, called Menelei, who was sent to Ethiopia, which was then subjected to the Queen of Sheba. Hence the Royal Family of Abyssinia consider themselves to this day the lineal descendants

of Solomon, an idea to which King Theodoros attaches the greatest importance, and which he is said to have strongly stated in his late correspondence with Napoleon to outdo the latter in respect of genealogy. Theodoros, very angry at Mr. Stern's assertion, wished to know the source from which he had derived his information. As he would not mention the name of his informant, the King ordered him and Mr. Rosenthal to be beaten and put to the Abyssinian rack—i.e., the wrist of the hand and upper part of the arm of both gentlemen were firmly tied with ropes, in consequence of which the blood was forced out of the tips of the fingers. After the prisoners had confessed the rack was removed, but one may imagine how dreadfully they suffered. Whether the efforts made by the English Government in behalf of the prisoners will not be too late, and whether they will lead at all to a satisfactory result, is still doubtful.

FEB. 24.—The Vienna papers assert that King Theodoros of Abyssinia has imprisoned messengers from the British Embassy in Constantinople, and ordered the English Consul, Mr. Cameron, to be put in irons.

THE ABERDEEN ACT AND RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. WHITE, Lord PALMERSTON said Her Majesty's Government had no intention to bring in a bill to repeal the Aberdeen Act; for this reason, that if that Act were repealed, the slave-trade between Africa and Brazil would be free to be resumed to any, even almost unlimited extent. (Hear.) The best intentions of the Brazilian Government would be futile to prevent it, as we see by the example of Cuba, where the Captain-General is most honestly and sincerely anxious to put an end to the trade, but the venality of his subordinate officers entirely defeats and frustrates his intentions.

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS. — Commander: James Elphinstone Erskine, to the Speedwell, 5, screw gun vessel, on the West Coast of Africa, vice F. T. Cottam, invalided. Lieutenant: John George Graham M'Hardy, late of the Narcissus, 39, on the Cape of Good Hope and Africa station, to the command of the Investigator, 2, paddle, on the West Coast of Africa station, vice G. C. F. Knowles, invalided.

SHERBRO AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Horton has a considerable quantity of sugar cane, and others are commencing its cultivation. Among others, we notice Mr. W. E. Bull, who finds farming to be profitable even on Sherbro Island. He is extending his cotton and cane cultivation, and hopes to devote attention mainly to these articles.

POPO BEADS.—At Popo, on the Gold Coast, the natives dig up dull blue beads about two inches long, each one of which is now valued at two or three dollars. Formerly one would purchase a bullock. They are worn around the neck by gentlemen. The people believe that they "grow" or exist in the ground like minerals. They are probably under the ruins of old Portuguese factories.

THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" ON LORD STANLEY'S SPEECH.—"If England could make up its mind to give up its great war against the traffic—if it could adopt the cold, calculating policy put forth by Lord Stanley—there would be no difficulty whatever in our relations with any other state adhering to the system of African bondage. But we should be prepared to find a terrible and painful result in an increase of human suffering, such as this generation has never seen. In the olden days, when the commerce in man was not prohibited or prevented, steam was unknown, and enterprise was comparatively sluggish. Now-a-days, if the traffic were revived, we should have large steamers carrying at speed enormous cargoes of wretched fellow-creatures; and probably the joint-stock mania would develop one of our limited companies, with agents on the coasts and satisfactory dividends every half-year. Meanwhile the interior of Africa would be a hell; raids would be renewed, as before, by petty chiefs merely to collect slaves for sale on the Coast; the legitimate commerce that has been developed would be stopped; and we should simply record in our history that the many millions we have given to ameliorate the condition of the African race were utterly thrown away."

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Mrs. Joseph Moseley thankfully acknowledges the following further donations:—			
Miss Burdett Coutts	10	0	0
J. S. Harford, Esq., Blaise Castle, Bristol (2nd don.)	2	0	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, Pimlico, S.W., have kindly consented to receive subscriptions and donations.			

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The African Times.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1865.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Jonathan Pim, Esq., Dublin (ann.)	£1	1	0
Robert Ferguson, Esq., Carlisle (ann.)	1	1	0
William Scholefield, Esq., M.P. (ann.)	2	2	0
Messrs. R. and W. King, Bristol (ann.)	2	2	0
Capt. Close, R.N. (ann.)	1	1	0
Rev. Joseph Greaves	0	10	0

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

We understand that the West African Company had an insurance of 1,200*l.* on their stock and machinery burnt at Lagos, so that the loss, though serious, was not a total one.

Major Elliott has been sent out to Cape Coast Castle as acting governor during the period of Mr. Governor Pine's visit to England for the purpose of giving evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons.

At the second general meeting of the Company of African Merchants, Limited, on the 10th inst., a dividend out of profits of ten per cent. per annum was declared, and a surplus carried forward to next account, all preliminary and exceptional charges attending the formation and early action of the company having been also fully paid out of profits. This looks well for future prospects, as, should the trade of the present year be similar in results to that carried on by the Company in 1864, there would most likely be a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.

EVIDENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE.—We had hoped that the Committee would have sought for evidence out of official or semi-official circles. We have lost that hope. If there are, therefore, any capable persons on the Coast who desire to give evidence before the Committee, they will have to make the voyage to England for that purpose entirely at their own expense; and to have a chance of being allowed to appear before the Committee, they ought to be in London certainly not later than the 12th June.

The first meeting of the House of Commons Committee for the reception of evidence was held on the 20th, when Mr. Elliott, of the Colonial-office, appeared before the Committee.

HER MAJESTY'S Government are supposed to be in favour of establishing at Sierra Leone a Governor-Generalship of the whole of the African settlements, with subordinates at the Gambia, Cape Coast, and Lagos. This system has been for some time past advocated by Commodore Wilmot.

LORD STANLEY ON THE MOTION FOR A SPECIAL
COMMITTEE (WESTERN AFRICA).

LORD STANLEY is a man of mark in the political world. He is one of the chief men of a large political party. In public discussion he is supposed to speak under those restraints which influence men who may be called upon within a few months to take upon himself the responsibilities of a Secretary of State. We are not permitted, therefore, to pass by his lordship's speech on Mr. Adderley's motion for a select committee on the affairs of Western Africa, as we should have been inclined to do with that of some parliamentary mediocrity, who might similarly have erred in judgment. We cannot avoid expressing our deep regret at some of his lordship's remarks. We have no difficulty in accounting for what was wrong and injurious in them. The affairs of the West African Coast settlements have been made a party question. In the discussion relative to the Ashantee war last session, Ministers had a very narrow victory; and Mr. Adderley's motion may be said to have issued from that debate. The question of who should occupy the Ministerial benches in the House of Commons, and of our settlements in West Africa, were jumbled together; and the latter have been attacked as if Lord Palmerston's continued rule in Downing-street was somehow or other mysteriously mixed up with our having those settlements, and in endeavouring to stop the foreign slave-trade on that coast. But for the evil spirit thus evoked for the recent discussion, Lord Stanley would have been more discreet, if not more wise. All the good that is to be found in Western Africa is the result of missionary exertion there. But that exertion could never have been made or sustained, but for the presence and protecting and restraining influence of British power also. We accept the question therefore as stated by Lord Stanley, when he said, "The real question is, whether there are not some among the settlements which involve us in cost and risk, and the maintenance of which served no useful purpose." We say, No. But accepting the question thus, we cannot narrow it as Lord Stanley did. We consider that the spread of Christian civilisation on the earth is as much a part of the business of this country as is the promotion of commerce, and as is the increase of wealth; and that from the moment we descend from that high position, and unblushingly acknowledge that all our hopes and views are purely selfish, from that moment a great national decline would begin, only to end with the transfer of our privileges and power into other hands. It is no answer to this to say that there is much to be done among the uncivilised within five miles of Westminster. Even if we were fully doing our duty by them, the performance of that duty would be no excuse for the neglect of the duty in Africa; and we expect it would be found on inquiry, that those who were most earnest, not in pointing out, but in performing the home duty, were those who interest themselves also about the foreign one; and that those who make the home duty an argument against fulfilling the other, are neglecting both.

We join issue further with Lord Stanley on the question of debt and duty to Africa. He says that we owe none; we say that we owe both—that we owe them not only as Christians, but as Britons. The Christian claim his lordship coolly dismisses; he cannot, or he will not, understand or admit it. It is not, therefore, the less mighty and real; but we will pass it by, and come to the national one. Do we, as a nation, owe anything to Africa? Lord Stanley says we might have been under this delusion thirty years ago, but that we are wiser now, and not to be so gulled. The slave-trade was not created by England, or by any Europeans, he says; England found and used it, and no doubt aggravated the evil; but sixty years have passed since we made any money in that way, and therefore, whatever debt was owing to the people of Africa on this score, had certainly been by this time paid off. The statute of limitations, we presume—a creditable plea, no doubt, for a so-called Christian people! But Lord Stanley had not studied his facts. We did not find in Africa that foreign slave-trade which has wrought such incalculable evil in Africa. We found domestic slavery and abominations innumerable, but no foreign slave-trade. When European ships first went down the West Coast in search of slaves, they found it

difficult to obtain any. There were none offering for sale. The shipmasters were obliged to have recourse to kidnapping—pan-arying those who came off to their ships to trade in produce. But the Europeans got possession of points on the Coast—they built forts—they tempted with articles and goods that were greedily sought after. Slaves, slaves, slaves, was their great demand. We have no space here to trace the progress and tell the horrors of the *new foreign slave-trade* thus inaugurated. But, as has been already stated, we and other Europeans reduced the population of those very Gold Coast territories, now so Pharissically complained of, from five millions to about two hundred thousand, having ourselves shipped from thence—only from that Gold Coast to one—a single one of our West India islands, Jamaica, above 950,000 slaves within a period of one hundred and ten years, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; while millions were shipped during the same period from other parts of the doomed coast to other colonies. And this, Lord Stanley says, has been amply atoned for, if there really was anything to be atoned for, by a sixty-years' discontinuance of the infamous practice! For all efforts on our part to suppress the slave-trade, Lord Stanley treats as a work of supererogation. It has been, he says, a waste of money and of valuable lives, some one of which latter was more valuable than the whole existence of our African colonies. We have reduced that horrid slave export trade from Africa from two or three hundred thousand victims a-year to perhaps five or ten thousand (from the West Coast); but all this was not worth one of the lives expended in the work!

Again, we must express our deep regret at but too much of what Lord Stanley thought and uttered. The vindication of the work performed at Sierra Leone, which we admit might have been much more perfect than it has been, would require more space than we can now afford. We must therefore postpone it, merely for the present, entering our earnest protest against such sweepingly injurious assertions—very telling, no doubt, in debate, but untenable in argument. To others, if not to Lord Stanley, it may be considered worth something that there are now some twenty thousand communicants of the different Christian churches down the West African Coast. But of this by and bye. With regard to trade, those who have read the *African Times* will have had no difficulty in accounting for the stagnation at Cape Coast. We have thus far expressed freely our dissent from the supposed facts and the expressed sentiments which we find in Lord Stanley's speech, and it is, therefore, pleasant to us to find him at its close speaking really like a statesman. The liability to expensive wars—the very inferior Government agents employed—the absence of any healthy controlling public opinion which might act as a check upon the vices and general conduct of officials and other Europeans—are indeed serious matters, and well deserving the attentive consideration of the House of Commons.

THE (COLONY OF THE) GOLD COAST.

THE more we examine the question, the more we are convinced that the conversion of the Protected Territories into a colony would be incalculably advantageous to the people of that part of Africa, and at the same time to this country. That the former should not have a just appreciation of the great benefits they would thus obtain, does not in any way surprise us. We have published in another column, under the head of "Cape Coast," a letter from "An African Chief," in which he gives his reasons, or some of his reasons, for dissenting from our views on this important question. We have inserted this letter, because we have no desire to misrepresent feelings and opinions on the Coast in favour of our own views, as to what we consider to be best for those whose cause we espouse. But the writer of that letter seems to have no idea of the privileges attending British citizenship—to know nothing of the advantages conferred by the title of "a British subject." Late events have created a feeling of antagonism between the Europeans (mostly officials) and the natives at Cape Coast, which blinds the eyes of the latter to any perception of the incontestable benefits they have derived from the British Protectorate, notwithstanding the shortcomings and irregularities

of those who have represented (or misrepresented) Great Britain there. We beg of them, however, to bear in mind that the position at present occupied by the British Government in the so-called Protected Territories is one of very serious difficulty, unattended with any counterbalancing material advantage; that the British Government can scarcely be expected voluntarily to continue to expose themselves to such difficulties under such conditions; and that even should they consent for a short time longer to do so, the alternative must soon present itself of retirement from all but a mere retention of one or two fortified posts on the Coast, to be held for slave-trade suppression, and commercial security only, or the creation of a colony, with all the advantages for the people of British laws among them, and the shield of British power effectually over them, and the security to the Government of being able to command at all times the obedience and services of its subjects for their own security and the general good. In the event of those territories being erected into a colony, it would be the fault of the chiefs themselves if they did not become much more opulent and respected than they have ever yet been, or can ever become, under any other conditions; while to the whole body of the people such a change would be like the gift of a new life. CIVIS BRITANNICUS SUM are words of power, and the African who has a right to use them claims in them his part in a civilization such as the world has never before known.

COLONEL ORD'S REPORT.

The report made by Colonel Ord to Her Majesty's Government, as the fruit of his late visit to the West African Settlements, has been printed for the use of the Committee of the House of Commons now sitting. This document being *at present private*, we do not feel justified in publishing or in alluding to its contents in our present number, further than by saying that it contains no facts new to those who know anything about our West African possessions, and that it might have been composed just as well by one of the officials in the Colonial-office, without troubling Colonel Ord to make his expensive flying trip along the Coast. It is only important as embodying, which it evidently does, the views of Her Majesty's Government as regards the future administration of those settlements. Should it have previously become a public document, which we suppose will be the case, we shall give it a detailed examination in our next number.

DUTCH SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLD COAST.

THE Dutch settlements on the Gold Coast "stop the way" in all plans for improvement as regards the "Protected Territories." We have, from time to time, given some account of the Dutch administration in those settlements, and a letter in page 109, received by the last mail, will throw some further light upon the subject. The Dutch Government and Chambers, as we showed twelve months ago, disliked, the one to propose, and the other to grant, the annual vote of nearly 12,000*l.* sterling for the expenses of those settlements. It is, no doubt, owing to this that so great a number of offices are now held there by one individual, the Dutch system being that the *acting official*, in the absence of any one regularly appointed, does not draw salary, receiving payment from one office only, with an occasional gratuity or small allowance in one or two other cases. This affords a striking contrast with the system that prevails in our own settlements, where an official may hold, in addition to his regular employment, half a dozen *acting* ones, drawing for each and every one of the latter one-half of the full salary, in addition to the full salary of his proper office. An official of 400*l.* a-year may be thus receiving 1,000*l.* a-year, if a pet of the Governor's. But the parsimony of the Dutch Government in the matter of its African employes, whose salaries are all ridiculously small when compared with ours, is not the worst feature of their system. The proceedings of Governor Elias, on his return from Holland, and the measures to which he has resorted for discovering the author of a representation forwarded to Holland, praying for a discontinuance of certain abuses, should be attentively considered by our readers. This is very much like the system in our own settlements before the

advent of the *African Times*, which, in the absence of a healthy public opinion on the Coast of Africa, summons the official offenders before the bar of public opinion in England, in the same way that it will now bring the conduct of their Governor before the bar of official opinion, and of the Chambers in Holland, upon evidence independent of the Governor's own report, which he may officially make to his superiors at the Hague. In view of the course pursued at Cape Coast Castle, when we denounced the infamous prison abuses there, we can conceive how gratifying it would have been to the evil doers could they have dared to act as Governor Elias has acted at St. George d'Elmina. That we have rendered such official vengeance impossible, and thus instituted some check upon official tyranny, or imbecility, or vice, fully justifies the existence of the African-Aid Society, and of its useful organ, the *African Times*, and ought to recommend these to public support in England, as well as on the West Coast of Africa.

It is impossible that the committee of the House of Commons now assembling to receive evidence can come to any decision respecting "the protected territories on the Gold Coast," without a close inquiry into the subject of the Dutch forts and settlements there. But for those forts and settlements, for which the Dutch pay tribute to the King of Ashantee—which, since our adoption of free trade regulations in our colonies and possessions abroad, as at home, are not at all necessary to Dutch commerce, and which are used for the purpose of a limited slave-trade in about 400 human beings per annum for recruiting the Dutch East India force in Java—but for these forts and settlements, England might have raised without any oppression on the people, or any impeding duty on imports, a revenue that would have supplied the means for opening roads into the interior, and making other improvements which might, and we have no doubt would, have led to the doubling of both British and Dutch legitimate trade there, and to perpetual peace with the only powerful disturber of those territories, Ashantee. And we doubt if any committee of the House of Commons will recommend a definite future policy as regards the Gold Coast, without first calling upon Her Majesty's Government to make another effort for removing that impediment to peace and progress which the Dutch settlements have hitherto offered. As already said, these settlements are a positive burthen to Holland, now unwillingly borne by her public men, and it does seem to us that if earnestly sought by our Government, some arrangement beneficial to Africa might be procured.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS ON AFRICA (WESTERN COAST).

Nominated March 3, 1865.

The Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Secretary of State for the Colonies; Mr. Chichester Portescue, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies; Sir Francis Baring; Lord Stanley; Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald; Sir John Hay; Mr. Charles Buxton; Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill; Mr. Arthur Mills; Mr. Baxter; Mr. W. E. Forster; Mr. Gregory; Mr. Cheetham; Mr. Cave; Mr. C. B. Adderley; with power to send for persons, papers, and records. Five to be the quorum. Members subsequently added to committee: The Marquis of Hartington; Mr. Henry Seymour.

SHARES OF AFRICAN COMPANIES.

Company of African Merchants, 3l. paid	Par (ex div.)
West Africa Company	No quotations.
London and Africa Trading	Ditto.

COTTON.—Fine Uplands now fetch about 17d., middling Orleans 16d., at Liverpool.

EAST AFRICA.—Doctor Livingstone will shortly leave England to resume his labours as the great explorer of Eastern Africa. Some liberal individual has subscribed 1,000l. towards the expenses of this projected travel, the Royal Geographical Society give 500l., and we believe some further aid beyond the continuance of his consular salary will be accorded by Her Majesty's Government. It is sincerely to be hoped that ample means may be placed at the disposal for such an object of one who knows how to make so good a use of what is entrusted to him.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Mr. ADDERLEY, in moving for a select committee to inquire into the British establishments on the West Coast of Africa, said that it was a country which was unfit for occupation by the Anglo-Saxon race, and was described as a hotbed of disease. The occupation of such a country by them could only be justified by considerations of the most disinterested character. Yet in this unhealthy climate—to say nothing of their naval establishment there, which cost 1,000,000l. a-year—they maintained no less than four settlements, which were established in the first instance for the purpose of promoting the slave-trade, and kept up of late years for the purpose of suppressing it. They spent 200 years in inflicting moral and physical injury on the people, and the last fifty years they had spent in doing something like reparation to them. What he desired was to ascertain if these settlements were well ordered and well regulated, and if the objects they had in view were not rather obstructed than promoted by their maintenance. It was only last year that the House was filled with alarm and anxiety, and some of its members with grief and sorrow, because the Governor of one of these settlements had nearly run them into a third war with the Ashantees. The troops were only withdrawn in time to save them from utter destruction. They were told by the Governor that these wars occasioned a total suspension of the objects for which the settlement was made, for whenever a war took place the squadron had to be withdrawn, and that this country must be prepared to bear the whole brunt of the war in men and money, for his government was not a colony, but a protectorate. They were told the other night by the Colonial Secretary that Colonel Conran was making a military progress amongst the tribes for the purpose of a friendly intercourse with the interior. They were told that the residents of the Gold Coast considered that Colonel Conran understood their interests better than the civil governor, and that the Dutch Government of Elmina was unfriendly, and in alliance with our constant enemies, the Ashantees. The circumstances of a Government so situated could not too soon be inquired into. The settlement of Sierra Leone was the most important of all, and ought to be the centre of improvement. A very high authority said that the people here were the very pests of the neighbourhood, and were detested wherever they went. Their exports and imports were steadily declining. In the third settlement of Gambia the exports and imports were also declining. The natives were in a constant state of civil war, and it was difficult, said the Governor, to avoid being mixed up with the troubles of our neighbours. With regard to Lagos, Governor Freeman said that the state of affairs there was going from bad to worse. Such was the state of these four colonies on the West Coast of Africa. The history of these settlements was as follows: The Gold Coast was first occupied by the Portuguese, and afterwards by the Dutch. It came into our possession in 1872. It was first placed under the parliamentary power of the African Company, and it remained in their hands till 1821. The Crown then assumed the government, and it had hardly done so before we were plunged into two Ashantee wars. In 1827 the Crown handed over the government of the Gold Coast to a company of merchants, and they were subsidised by a payment of 4,000l. a-year. He ought to have mentioned that the African Company were subsidised by a payment of from 13,000l. to 20,000l. for the distinct purpose of carrying on the slave-trade. The company of merchants remained in possession of the government till 1843, when their administration was found so inadequate, that the Crown was forced to resume the government, and there it remained till the present day. Sierra Leone was ceded to this country in 1787, for the purpose of emigration of free labour. A very large territory was annexed to the settlement, and this was a feature which characterised all their settlements. The settlement of Gambia was founded in 1818, and it continued under a committee of merchants till 1810. The settlement of Lagos was made in 1852, for the suppression of the slave-trade. In addition to these settlements, he might mention that the free Republic of Liberia was established by the United States of America, and it afforded the most safe barrier against the export of slaves from Africa. (Hear.) The maintenance of the settlements not only implicated us in the quarrel of chiefs along the frontier, but inevitably tended towards extension and increase. To be at all effectual for the purpose of suppressing the slave-trade, the settlements should necessarily be extended along the coast, for how, he asked, could the export of slaves be prevented when a portion only of the coast could be acted upon. Upon the subject of extensions he would quote the opinion of an officer who, twelve years ago, was employed to take possession of the island of Lagos. His view was that settlements had an inevitable tendency to extension; and that a great mistake had been made in the acquirement of territory around

Lagos. He went on to say that, in his opinion, Lagos should be given up at once, and that of Gambia but one fort should be retained. Inquiry was now asked for, and it was true that inquiry had taken place in former days. Two royal commissions had sat with reference to this subject, but it was not necessary to refer to the report that had been made by the commissioners. In 1842 a select committee sat, presided over by Lord Stanley, now the Earl of Derby, and their inquiry arose principally from the fact that on the Gold Coast, which was then in the hands of a company, British merchants were in the habit of supplying slavers with requisites for carrying on their trade. The committee came to a conclusion, on which the House acted, that the Crown should resume the government of the settlement, but the question now was, whether the evil which then existed did not still continue; whether, in fact, the interest of resident merchants was not opposed to the object with which this country maintained the settlement. Committees of this House and of the House of Lords, with the more general view of inquiring into the best means of suppressing the slave-trade, subsequently sat—the inquiry which was now asked for would have the effect of eliciting whether in point of fact the maintenance of the four settlements was effectual, and how far it was so, for the suppression of traffic in slaves. For his part, he considered that the principle which was found to operate in ordinary commercial matters applied also to the slave-trade—namely, that the supply was regulated by the demand. (Hear, hear.) As long as there was an active demand for slaves, so long would there be a supply. A blockading squadron might add to the difficulty of carrying on the trade, but could not stop it. That was in fact beginning at the wrong end. The way to put down the trade effectually was to stop the demand for slaves. (Hear, hear.) He was happy to say that the demand was now confined solely to Cuba, and he believed that if pressure were put upon Spain to stop that demand, the slave-trade would be finally extinguished. It was a curious fact that the King of Dahomey saw that point much more clearly than Lord Russell did. The noble lord, in his instructions to Captain Burton last year, when that officer was about proceeding on a mission to Dahomey, said, "Remind the King that he himself suggested that if we wished to put a stop to the slave-trade, we should prevent white men coming to buy them—(hear, hear)—and you will state that Her Majesty's Government, having determined that the traffic shall cease, will take steps effectually to stop the export of slaves." The step suggested by the King of Dahomey will be found much more effectual in achieving that most desirable end than those adopted at great expense by this country. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Adderley) believed that before many years the Governments of America, France, and England would combine to put a pressure upon Spain that she could not resist, and that their efforts, which had been long and ineffectually made for the suppression of a nefarious system, would be followed by the adoption of a course which in one hour would crown with success. He was glad to observe that the Spanish minister at Madrid was reported to have said that stringent measures were about to be adopted for the suppression of the slave-trade. If that promise were carried out the day was not distant—a day they would all rejoice to see—when the slave-trade would for ever cease to exist. (Hear, hear.) But suppose that that day had arrived, with what object would the four settlements to which he had referred be maintained? Two objects had been assigned. One was for the promotion of legitimate commerce, and the other for the civilisation of the native races. With reference to the first, he very much doubted that the object in view would be realised by the means suggested, and he confidently appealed to the honourable member for Manchester (Mr. Bazley), and the honourable member for Salford (Mr. Cheetham), whether, representing as they did the trade associations of Manchester, they were not of opinion that the maintenance of the settlement would rather retard than promote legitimate commerce. The second was entirely a philanthropic object, and, if it could be achieved, he did not think any one in the House would complain of the keeping up of the settlement; but did the experience of the past afford encouragement for the future? In his opinion it did not. Missionary effort and voluntary action had been to some extent successful, but he was fortified by the opinion of one of the most experienced African missionaries that the existing governments planted by Great Britain on the West Coast of Africa were not any protection or assistance to missionaries. What course, then, ought the country to adopt? It was clear that we must go forward or go back; something more or less than had been heretofore done should be resolved on as the policy for the future. Either we must render our Government secure by the sending out of larger forces, the opening up of the country, the making of roads, and the extending of our power, or we must do much less than is done at present, and stand out of the way of the native chiefs, who, if we were not there,

would have full control over their own subjects. The committee of 1842 led to the formation of four insignificant Governments, so small, that it might have been anticipated that they would have been jealous of each other, and instead of co-operating to effect the great object in view, were inclined rather to counteract each the operation of the other. It was, he thought, worthy of inquiry whether the present state of things should longer be allowed to exist, whether the Governments should not be concentrated, and our engagements and responsibilities contracted. On these grounds, therefore, he asked the House to grant the inquiry for which he sought, for the sake of the more effectual carrying out of the three great objects to which he had alluded—namely, the suppression of the slave-trade, the promotion of legitimate commerce, and the civilisation of the natives; be called on them to inquire whether the present system of government on the West Coast of Africa was working satisfactorily. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CAVE, in seconding the resolution, said he did not wish to be understood as concurring in all the observations of the right hon. gentleman. If, however, he had urged no other reason in support of his motion than the length of time that had elapsed since inquiry had taken place, he thought he was entitled to carry it. The investigation which took place in 1842 was held with a different object from that now on view, when the idea was all but universally entertained that no amount of money was too great to expend for the civilisation of the African. A feeling, however, now prevailed that to tax this country heavily for such a purpose was rather going beyond the proper duty of the House. He quite agreed with the right hon. gentleman that the question of the slave trade was one of supply and demand. At the same time, an important element which had not been alluded to entered into the question—namely, that of price. The present price of slaves was the only obstacle to the demand for them, being ten times as great as formerly. (Hear, hear.) He believed that if the blockading squadron were removed, if the settlements were suddenly taken away, the price of slaves would fall to such an extent, that the demand would enormously increase, and the supply follow; and that the Government of Spain, which he hoped was contemplating a different policy, would find the temptation to allow a continuance of the trade too strong for them to resist. (Hear, hear.) There could be no doubt that the settlements were in an unsatisfactory state, and he believed they had been conducted upon false principles from the beginning. Under the recommendation of the committee of 1842, crowds of recaptured Africans were maintained in idleness at the public expense, at a time when labourers in this country were only able to obtain precarious, and in many cases insufficient, means of livelihood. He agreed with his right hon. friend, that the suppression of the slave-trade was to be accomplished rather by concentration of means than by spreading them over a large surface. There was no reason to believe that the slave-trade was not going on along the West Coast of Africa, but there were no captures, because the fastest vessels on the coast were the slavers. The greatest speed of Her Majesty's cruisers was eight knots, while the slavers could make perhaps sixteen knots. (Hear, hear.) He could not go so far as to say that these settlements should be done away with; it might have been wrong to place them there in the first instance, and they might have been badly administered, but it would be impossible suddenly to suppress them. If they were suppressed the loss would be very great; other nations would probably take them up, and it would not be wise, he thought, to give to France a greater share of power on the West Coast of Africa. All these settlements had a considerable revenue, and he did not see why with better administration they might not be self-supporting. Sierra Leone had a revenue of 30,000l. a-year, but the expenditure was very great, the salaries alone having risen from 17,000l. in 1860 to 20,000l. in 1862. There was a mixed commission there, it was true, but it was a bad place for a mixed commission; vessels had to beat up to it; and few cases, therefore, had been taken there for adjudication. One of the subjects which the committee would have to investigate was the reason that while the imports and exports from the whole of the Coast had increased from 3,000,000l. to 4,000,000l., the commerce of the British settlements had decreased. It had been asked, what would be the use of the occupation of these stations, if the slave trade was at an end? But they were useful for the prevention of piracy, and for the protection of British vessels in other parts of the Coast. The committee of 1842, which was founded upon a commission, examined a great many witnesses—Dr. Madden, who was the principal, and a number of naval and military officers who had been out on the Coast in question; and it would be a great pity if this inquiry should be conducted without sufficient witnesses of the best kind, and should fail in consequence of obtaining only speculative evidence. (Hear, hear.) He gladly seconded the motion for the committee.

Lord A. CHURCHILL said the right hon. gentleman had amply shown the necessity for inquiry into the state of affairs on the West Coast of Africa, and he felt, as he was sure the House must feel, great satisfaction that the right hon. gentleman had redeemed so early in the session the pledge he gave last year. (Hear, hear.) The unfortunate Ashantee war, which last year was the cause of so much pain in the House, was of itself sufficient ground for a committee, but there were other reasons why an inquiry should be now undertaken. The state of affairs on the West Coast of Africa was now, and had been for a considerable period, most unsatisfactory. Without any intention to prejudice the present occupiers of the Colonial office, he must say that Africa had been the *bête noir* of the department. The unhealthiness of the climate and various other causes of that nature had militated in a great measure against the full development of the resources of the country immediately bordering upon the British settlements. Cape Coast Castle was one of the oldest, if not the oldest British settlement. It was instituted about 150 years ago, when England was a slaveholding power, for the purpose of enabling us to procure slaves to send to our settlements in America. It had been computed that before the slave-trade was done away with, we exported 960,000 slaves from the African coast to America, and we had thus incurred an enormous responsibility, which, as a Christian country, we were bound to make good in some way to that unfortunate people. Therefore the idea of giving up any of the settlements on the Coast would not, he thought, find favour in England, and he did not understand the mover of the committee to make any such suggestion. All he understood the right hon. gentleman to say was, that the present method of Government required inquiry, and that we must either increase our responsibilities by occupying and forming a colony of the protected territory, or we must reduce our responsibilities by limiting the area over which we now professed to exercise protection. The climate, the right hon. gentleman had stated, was notoriously unfit for the Anglo-Saxon race, and that was the reason why more had not been done there. It had been difficult to get men of a superior class to undertake the charge of government on that Coast, but he believed it would be quite possible to locate the Government officers on higher grounds. The same objection was made to Jamaica and our West Indian colonies till it was found out by going to the top of the hills the amount of sickness was very much reduced, and on the West Coast of Africa there were very high hills indeed, where a climate might be found in which the health of Englishmen would not suffer at all. We had been at a charge of 1,000,000*l.* to support the slave squadron; but he concurred with the right hon. gentleman that where there was a demand there would always eventually be found a supply. He thought it quite possible that England might be induced to make the protected territory into a colony which would be self-supporting, whereas at present we exercised little or no control over the native chiefs, and had done nothing by education beyond the voluntary efforts of missionaries, or by making roads for their cultivation. He did not mean to say that he was prepared to adopt that view at once, but inquiry might be made in that direction. There were others who thought it much better that we should give up the whole of the protected territories, and simply retain the forts as places where there might be stationed small executive governments and a few soldiers; but he did not think if we simply did that we should be exercising the same control over the slave-trade that we did now; whereas, if we made a colony of the protected territory, he believed the development of cotton, the growth of coffee and other things, would be brought into competition with the slave-grown produce of other countries, and would tend to reduce the value of slave labour. (Hear, hear.) So fully alive were the natives of Cape Coast Castle to the inquiry about to be instituted, that they had subscribed large sums for the purpose of sending over here witnesses of their own to place their case clearly before the committee. They would also have evidence from the Basle Missionary Society, whose exertions in behalf of the Africans he was glad to bear testimony to, especially in instruction in useful occupations, by means of which they were leading the natives much more willingly than societies which confined their operations to religious instruction would be able to do. It was unfortunate that in Gambia trade had been falling off. While the number of English vessels had considerably diminished, there had been a corresponding increase among the French. He thought it was a fit subject of inquiry as to whether our system of government had or had not in any way suppressed the energy of our merchants in trading to that country. There was no doubt we had on the Coast of Africa enormous resources, capable of supplying this country with raw material for our manufactures. He believed that last year we imported to England from Cape Coast Castle fifty tons of cotton of a superior kind. Therefore, by giving fair and proper encouragement to the trade, we should no doubt enable them to produce this superior

article to enter into competition with slave-grown cotton. He could only further express a hope that the inquiry would lead to great results for the moral improvement of that part of Africa. (Hear, hear.)

Lord STANLEY said that the noble lord opposite had improved on the occasion for the purpose of advertising his missionary friends. He certainly did not object to that course. He thought his right hon. friend (Mr. Adderley) had done good service in bringing this subject before the House, and he did not regret that the other and larger question of the African squadron was not to form part of the inquiry. He did not believe it possible to leave that altogether out of consideration, but it was quite large enough for a separate investigation. (Hear, hear.) For his own part, he did not wish to conceal his opinion that if the people of this country knew what had been, and was, the waste, he would not say of money, but of valuable lives, that the African squadron would very shortly be numbered with the things of the past. (Hear, hear.) Not a year or month passed in which service on that Coast did not put an end to some life which, measured by any rational standard of comparison, was worth more than the whole existence of our African colonies. (Hear, hear.) If we were merely to go into questions of civil and military expenditure, if we were merely to inquire whether it was possible to keep up establishments there less expensively than at present, that would be altogether an insignificant matter. The real question was, whether there were not some among the settlements which involved us in cost and risk, and the maintenance of which served no useful purpose. As to political or military influence, nobody imagined we increased our power in that respect by retaining the squadron. As for the other point raised by the noble lord who last spoke, he thought we were acting to some extent under a delusion. There was a constant assumption, when this matter had been discussed, that in some way or another we were responsible for the fortune and destiny of the African. That was not in any way the case. (Hear, hear.) He could understand that thirty years ago a feeling of that kind should exist, but after all we must look at the matter as it really was. The slave-trade was not created by England or any European country, but had existed in Africa anterior to any recorded history. England found, and used it, and no doubt greatly aggravated the evil, but they only took what they found already existing; and now, sixty years after the extinction of the slave-trade, whatever debt was owed to the people of Africa, had certainly been, by this time, paid off. (Hear, hear.) If he were to talk about civilising the African, he was afraid he had better look at home first. (Hear, hear.) They need not go five miles from that House to find plenty of persons who needed as much civilising as the African. (Hear, hear.) Well, then, the question was very much narrowed, and they had only to consider whether the trade carried on at these different points was increasing or diminishing, or whether there was reason to suppose the trade would be less if our occupation were to cease. He found from the statistical returns that, while there was an increase of trade in Sierra Leone and Gambia, in Cape Coast Castle there was a very considerable falling off. They would have to inquire whether that falling off was temporary or permanent. He was afraid there was existing evidence to show that at Sierra Leone, as the oldest occupiers, we had produced a race the most worthless of any in the world, and that we had done nothing to benefit the country. It might be said that, so far as the civil government went, the settlements cost very little, and that even the military expenses were not very considerable. As to the civil government, with the exception of the Imperial forces, they were the only British colonies which imposed any charge for their civil government, unless there might be an exception in the case of one or two of the smaller West India Islands. But the military expenditure was not to be measured in that manner. In the first place, the cost of military defence was not to be measured by the extent of the force we kept up there in time of peace. The force being mainly naval, it was difficult to estimate what it amounted to. But the real burden on this country was the responsibility we undertook, and the limit of which we did not know. (Hear, hear.) Recollect how the matter stood. We could not afford in any sense to send out as governors or persons in authority our best men. No man would go to Africa who could find employment elsewhere. (Hear, hear.) They must take therefore what they could get. Communication was not frequent, and the distance was considerable, and there was no influence such as a large European population could bring to bear on a governor. We were compelled, therefore, to leave the question of peace or war pretty much in their hands, and we might be involved at any moment in the loss of many valuable lives and a large expenditure. He did not wish it to be concluded that he was prepared to commit himself to any of the proposals for the abandonment of the settlements, but he did think there was a *prima facie* case made out for inquiry. Holding that

opinion to some extent with regard to all, he thought it more particularly applied to Cape Coast. There we were surrounded on all sides by savage and warlike tribes, and we had constituted ourselves, so to speak, the head of a confederacy over which we had very little material power. He thought the matter deserved the utmost consideration. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CARDWELL said he had much pleasure in acceding to the motion. He thought there was a fair subject for inquiry, but he trusted he might be permitted, without offence to the noble lord, to say that he heard with much regret the expressions which fell from him as to the efforts of the missionaries and others for the suppression of the slave-trade. He held that those persons who left the comforts of home to go to foreign parts to spread the knowledge of that doctrine in which they believed were deserving of all praise.

Lord STANLEY: I said nothing against them.

Mr. CARDWELL was glad to accept that statement, but the speech of the noble lord certainly left that impression on his mind.

Lord STANLEY: I expressed no opinion on the matter whatever.

Mr. CARDWELL said he alluded to the statement that the noble lord (Lord A. Churchill) had improved the occasion by advertising his missionary friends. With regard to the efforts which they had made for the suppression of the slave-trade, he did not know a brighter page in the history of this country, following truly on a darker page, than that which began with the abolition of the slave-trade which was consummated by Lord Derby's Government in 1833, by the total extinction of slavery in the British dominions, and which was now being continued in what this country was doing on the African coast. He did not agree that the slave-trade could be traced back to a period anterior to history. He rather believed it did not commence until the European era; but he did agree with the right hon. gentleman in quoting the words of the King of Dahomey, that had the white man not been to buy the slave, the trade could never have been carried to the extent it had been. Fully agreeing in the propriety, and not wishing to limit the extent of the inquiry, he regretted to hear one part of the right hon. gentleman's speech. He did not think it was necessary to refer in terms of reproach to those now holding the Government offices on the Coast. They had better go into the inquiry in a dispassionate spirit, not having previously condemned those who were to be brought before them. He much regretted the remarks that had been made with reference to Mr. Pine, the Governor of the Gold Coast. When the hon. baronet brought forward this motion last year, he disclaimed any intention of making an attack personally on the Governor. Mr. Pine had expressed his anxiety to be examined and to have the charges fully inquired into, and had obtained leave of absence for that purpose, so that the noble lord could examine him before the committee. On Mr. Pine's part, he wished to take this opportunity of explaining a matter which at this time last year he was not in a position to explain, and which had given Governor Pine much pain. There was an impression last year that the Governor went away in the Rattlesnake for the benefit of his health without making arrangements with Colonel Conran for the security of the troops. He had since been assured that the Governor had made such arrangements with Colonel Conran as were necessary for the welfare of the troops before he left the Coast. (Hear, hear.) He would refer briefly to what he conceived to be the object of these settlements, and on this point he was glad to find that in the main he agreed with the noble lord. Certainly it was not colonisation. To that climate no man living would wish to see the Anglo-Saxon race emigrate, and colonisation was never attempted there. The purpose of the settlements was merely to be ancillary to our other efforts for the extinction of the slave-trade, and to prevent the recurrence of the horrors that had been perpetrated in that part of the world. How far the four settlements answered this purpose it would be for the committee to inquire. Whereas in 1700 the whole of the Coast was subject to the slave-trade, now it was limited by the squadron to a few places; and now one of the steamers of which they had heard was lying at one of those places ready to start, but was prevented by the vigilance of the squadron. Our policy being the object in view, it was a question whether it was desirable to have four separate governors, and whether four different settlements did not encourage four different policies; whether the expense might not be diminished by having one government, and whether four separate military forces had not to be kept up, as each governor would naturally wish to acquire the maximum force, to be prepared for any difficulty which might arise, and whether having four governors was not likely to encourage the occurrence of four difficulties at one time, whereas under one governor he would temporise and dispose of one before he got into another. For these reasons he thought there was a legitimate subject for inquiry, particularly as he found a considerable increase in the number of troops kept on the Coast, and that an increase of force

did not satisfy the demand, because that demand was still increasing. He found, also, that the buildings in the colony were not sufficient for the troops, and that it would be necessary to come to the House for a vote, but he was unwilling to do so pending the inquiry which he knew would take place upon that point, and also because he knew that the force at the Gold Coast must be removed before the commencement of the next rainy season. The conclusion, therefore, which the Government came to was not to ask the House for an increased vote of money for buildings, though he would have been prepared to deal with the question but for the intended inquiry. All the surrounding circumstances of the case led him to think that there should be a committee of inquiry, and another strong reason for wishing for the assistance of a parliamentary committee was that this was not a new question, but it was one which rested upon high and great authority—viz., that of a committee on which sat Lord Derby, who was at the time Colonial Secretary; Earl Russell, who had since been Colonial Secretary; and Mr. Speaker, and many other members of influence; and it was upon their express recommendation that a governor was appointed for Sierra Leone. He said, therefore, that it would be most right to have the authority of a fresh committee and further evidence, in order that they might decide the question as to what should be done in the future. The right hon. gentleman having given notice of inquiry, he had prepared for it during the recess, and to that end he had requested General Ord, the Governor of Bermuda, who was at home upon leave, to visit the Coast of Africa, and he had done so, and had since returned; and when the committee met, the instructions which were given him and his report, which had not yet been presented, would be laid before them. General Ord believed that these settlements were important auxiliaries for the purposes for which they were instituted; that many alterations might be made for increasing the efficiency and diminishing the expenses of those establishments; and it was in accordance with his general recommendations that the Secretary at War and himself had taken the step of reducing the force employed upon the Coast. He had thus shown the views which the Government entertained as to its being safe and expedient to diminish the military force. He would enter into the inquiry with the greatest pleasure, and he sincerely trusted that the result of the inquiries would be not only increased efficiency and economy in the settlements which they might think it expedient to maintain upon the Coast of Africa, but he also earnestly trusted that the committee would go into the inquiry in the spirit which the right hon. gentleman had predicated, though not in a spirit to withdraw their noble efforts for the suppression of the slave-trade, but that those efforts should be made still more efficient for the purposes for which they were instituted, for he knew of no efforts more noble in which this country had ever engaged. Now, looking round at what was passing in other nations, he thought that this was not the time for flinching from the task they had undertaken; but that the sense of universal detestation and determination to abolish this infamous traffic, should induce them to continue those efforts, and thus bring about a result not less glorious than that which was accomplished on the day when this country abolished slavery in our own colonies.

The motion was then agreed to.

THE SPANISH SENATE AND THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Mr. CAVE asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of Her Majesty's Government had been drawn to the debate in the Spanish Senate on the 23rd of last month, on the question of declaring the slave-trade piracy, and whether any instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Minister in Madrid on the subject?

Mr. LAYARD said the attention of Her Majesty's Government had been called to the debate, and they rejoiced to find that there were Spanish statesmen of eminence who were alive to the enormous evils which resulted from the continuance of the slave-trade in Cuba, and that those statesmen were discussing means to put an end to the system, and to check the connivance of the Spanish authorities in that island. Her Majesty's Government were in communication with the Spanish Government on the subject.

SUBSIDY TO AFRICAN MERCHANTS COMPANY.

In reply to Mr. WHITE,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that after the recommendations of Lord Russell, the Government considered the question of granting a subsidy to the African Merchants Company, and they thought it right to give all the parties an opportunity of being heard, and also to give Parliament the power of considering the matter. The Government therefore produced all the papers in their possession last session. Since that time he was not aware that the project had been revived. So far as the Treasury were concerned, the subject was not now before them; nor was it their intention to proceed unless grounds were shown to satisfy them that they ought to do so.

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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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Is an agreeable effervescing remedy, of great efficacy in all kinds of Fever and Blood diseases, especially those occurring during hot weather. Dr. Gibbon, Staff-Surgeon in the Crimean war, states that European residents in hot countries find that the use of this refreshing beverage prevents exhausting perspiration and its alternative deadly fever.

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Orders for the West Coast of Africa promptly executed per return of mail by the Sole Manufacturer, 113, Holborn-hill, London, W.C., or by M. L. Levin, Shipping Agent, Bevis-marks, he having special correspondents at Bathurst, Cape Coast, Anamabo, Accra, Lagos, Cameroons, Bonny, and Old Calabar. Agent for Sierra Leone, J. B. Elliot, Esq.; Messrs. Biden and Gardner, Cape Town, who are appointed also for the sale of the

CONCENTRATED ESSENCE OF PERUVIAN BARK.

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Printed by WILLIAM JOHN JOHNSON, at 121, Fleet-street, in the City of London; and Published by him, for the African-Aid Society, at 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, London.—MARCH 23, 1865.

MARCH 23, 1865.]

SUPPLEMENT TO THE AFRICAN TIMES.

1

COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

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

DIRECTORS.

WM. DENT, Esq., Chairman of the Thames and Mersey Insurance Company, London.
ARCHIBALD HAMILTON, Esq. (Messrs. SINCLAIR, HAMILTON, and Co.), London.
J. ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq., Chairman of the Liverpool and London Insurance Company, Liverpool.

ALFRED CASTELLAIN, Esq. (Messrs. FRED. HUTH and Co.), Liverpool.
LOUIS GRUNING, Esq. (Messrs. FRED. HUTH and Co.), Liverpool.
LEWIS LANGWORTHY, Esq., Manchester.
ROBERT RUMNEY, Esq., Manchester.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.

J. ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq., Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool.

BANKERS.

THE ALLIANCE BANK AT LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND MANCHESTER.

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

	Tons Register.		Tons Register.
"FEROZEPORE"	882	"ALBRO"	206
"FAITH"	619	"COMMODORE"	189
"ELIZABETH"	436	"WILLIAM DENT"	160
"ELLERSLIE"	413	"MARGARET"	97
"MOSQUITO"	353	"COCKATOO"	436
"GARTSHERRIE"	319	"WINIFRED"	533
"SOBRAON"	212		
"FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE"	220		
		TOTAL	5,045

THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, London, on the 10th March, 1865, WILLIAM DENT, Esq., in the chair.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

OF THE

COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1864.

The Directors have satisfaction in stating that the anticipations held out in their Report made to the Shareholders, at the General Meeting, in London, in July last, have been fully realised.

The Trade of this Company on the Coast only commenced in the Spring of 1864. The Stock Accounts on the Coast were made up in November, 1864. The expenses of Salaries, Staff, Office Rent, &c., &c., have been charged to 31st December, 1864. These expenses, of course, commenced at the formation of the Company, in July, 1863, but several months necessarily elapsed before all the arrangements for transferring the Stocks on the Coast could be carried into effect; consequently, while there has been less than twelve months' trading, the expenses of eighteen months have been incurred and charged. This is, of course, exceptional, and cannot occur again, but it makes a very considerable difference in the amount charged against the profit of the past year. The whole of the

preliminary expenses have been written off against the profits of the year, instead of, as is customary, being spread over several.

As it is the intention of the Directors that the value of the Vessels in the books of the Company shall correspond with their actual value, they purpose writing off annually a sum sufficient to carry into effect this object; they have, accordingly, written off in the present account the sum of £1,500. Several of the Vessels have been only recently purchased, and now on their first voyage, and all having been put into first-rate order, this sum is considered sufficient for the past year to write off for Depreciation Account.

The Company have now ten Trading Establishments on the Coast.

During the past year they have despatched seventeen Vessels to Africa (four others have sailed since 31st December last, and three are about to sail).

Seven cargoes of Palm Oil and two of Ivory, Gum, Beeswax, Copper Ore, &c., have been received during the past year, five more have arrived since the 31st December, and four Vessels, with valuable cargoes, are expected shortly.

The various Establishments of the Company on the Coast are now in full and satisfactory operation, and the Directors expect a considerable increase in their Trade during the present year; but they calculate that, with their present Capital, they will be enabled to carry on that increased Trade without making a further Call upon the Shareholders.

The Directors have from the first been deeply impressed with the necessity of having gentlemen of tried ability and integrity to represent them on the Coast. The experience of the past year confirms them in the belief that their Agents are in all respects second to none in the Trade, and that they are zealously prosecuting the interests of the Company, and it is due to these gentlemen that the satisfaction of the Directors should be recorded.

The number of Native Correspondents is considerable. The Directors have been desirous of encouraging these Traders to make consignments of their produce, and they are glad to report that the amount of such consignments has been slowly but steadily increasing, and this increase would have been greater had the African Steamship Company's Vessels been able to bring the Cotton that was waiting for shipment.

The Directors continue their exertions in developing new fields of African industry, and they have every reason to believe that by the arrangements they have already made, a large trade in products, hitherto neglected, will be established, and become a source of considerable profit to the Company.

In accordance with the wish of many influential Shareholders, the Directors have made proposals to Her Majesty's Government with the object of carrying out the views of the late Mr. Macgregor Laird for developing the resources of the Niger; to do this, it will be necessary that a regular steam communication with the interior of Africa should be established, by means of which Missionaries, Native and European Traders and Travellers, could be readily conveyed for several hundred miles up the rivers Niger and Chadda, whilst a regular Postal Service could be maintained with the *Sea Coast*; but inasmuch as during the first few years a very considerable loss would necessarily be sustained, and as all the risk and expense would fall upon the Company, while the benefits to be derived would be open to all, the Directors felt that in this, which has always been recognised as a work of national importance, they could not feel justified in expending the money of the Shareholders unless Her Majesty's Government were willing to co-operate with them. This project is, however, viewed with jealousy by some of the English Traders on the *Sea Coast*. The Directors can only repeat here what they have already stated to Her Majesty's Government, that if these gentlemen, or any others, are prepared to undertake the enterprise upon a comprehensive and well-devised plan, and to embark in it a Capital adequate for the purpose, they will not only give way to them, but aid

them in endeavouring to obtain from Government that assistance which they feel is essential for success. It therefore now rests with Her Majesty's Government to say whether any effort shall be made to utilise those past exertions, which have for so long a time been preparing the way for the establishment of commerce and civilization in Central Africa.

The Directors have already paid a Dividend of 6 per cent. to the 30th June last, and they now propose to pay one at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, or 3s. per Share for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1864.

In conformity with the Articles of Association, Mr. Gruning and Mr. Langworthy retire from the Direction. It is only proposed at present to fill up the vacancy caused by the retirement of the former, who offers himself for re-election.

WM. DENT, CHAIRMAN.

The above Report was presented to the Meeting, and, being read, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by W. DENT, Esq., seconded by G. GLADSTONE, Esq.,—

1. That the Report now read and the Financial Statement presented be received and adopted, and that 3s. per Share, free of Income-tax, being a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the capital of the Company, be paid for the half-year ending December 31, 1864.

Moved by GURNEY HOARE, Esq., seconded by Sir FOWELL BUXTON, and supported by Lord ALFRED S. CHURCHILL, M.P., and Professor DONALDSON—

2. That the development of the resources of Central Africa by the establishment of steam navigation on the River Niger being essentially a national object, the Directors be again requested to bring before Her Majesty's Government the necessity of their prompt co-operation with them in carrying out the views of the late Mr. M'Gregor Laird.
3. That Louis Gruning, Esq., one of the Directors, who retires by rotation, be re-elected.
4. That Mr. Harmood W. Banner be re-elected Auditor of the Company, and be paid £100 per annum for his services.

The Meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors.

