

1865.

Cr.

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Registered for]

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The African Times.

JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

VOL. IV., No. 46.]

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COTTON GINS AND COTTON PICKING OR HUSKING MACHINES.

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

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

This long-desired object has at length been attained by the North Moor Foundry Company, whose Gin turns out as much as a Saw Gin, without injury to the fibre, and is the most simple and durable machine yet invented. The Company have also perfected a “Husking Machine,” which is the *first Machine* invented for the purpose. The separation of Cotton from its husk or pod, has hitherto been done by hand. This has added enormously to the first cost, as for some kinds of Cotton it has required fifty to sixty persons to pick sufficient to supply a Gin producing 100lbs. of cleaned Cotton per hour.—(See leader in the “Engineer” of February 3, 1865.)

THE PATENT “KNIFE-ROLLER” COTTON GIN.

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

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

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

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

No. and Sizes of Gins.	Production of Cleaned Cotton per hour.	Prices.	
		£	s. d.
No. 1—40 inches wide.	50 to 150 lbs.	15	0 0
“ 2—30 “ “	38 “ 112 “	12	10 0
“ 3—20 “ “	25 “ 76 “	10	0 0
“ 4—12 “ “	12 “ 36 “	7	10 0
“ 5—8 “ “	8 “ 24 “	6	0 0

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

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

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

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

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

THE NORTH-MOOR FOUNDRY COMPANY,
OLDHAM.

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The African Company's Royal Mail steamer *Ethiopia*, Captain G. F. Smart, arrived at Liverpool Wednesday, 19th inst., from the West Coast of Africa, Teneriffe, and Madeira. Her dates are—Benin, March 3; Fernando Po, 5; Cameroons, 7; Old Calabar, 9; Brass River, 11; Nun, 11; Bonny, 10; New Calabar, 10; Lagos, 14; Accra, 16; Cape Coast Castle, 18; Cape Palmas, 21; Monrovia, 22; Sierra Leone, 27; Bathurst, April 1; Teneriffe, 8; and Madeira, 10. The *Ethiopia* brings a good cargo, 1,474 sovs., 2,159 ounces of gold-dust, 8,885 francs, and 9,101 dollars in specie, and 39 passengers. At Fernando Po trade was very dull.

Cameroons was healthy, and trade brisk. Old Calabar was healthy, but trade dull. At Bonny, trade was entirely stopped by order of Commodore Wilmot, owing to a fine, imposed on the King of Bonny some time since, not being paid. The European traders did not anticipate a renewal of business with the natives for two or three months. No trade of importance to report at Brass. The hulk *Susan* had capsized, with all the stores on board, and will be a total loss. A brisk trade was being done at Benin, and there were immense quantities of oil in the river. From Lagos we learn that Lieutenant-Governor Glover has at length succeeded in detaching the Ijebus from their alliance with the Egbas, and has entered into arrangements with the Ibadans and Ijebus for opening their countries to the Coast. The Ijebu market, at Egire, has been already opened, and cotton and oil sent down. The price of cotton from Ijebu country, after the expense of cleaning, &c., is 8d. per lb., whilst that from Abeokuta is not less than 1s. 3d. Trade is still dull, but the merchants, in anticipation of a brighter future, are employing their spare time in the erection of many substantial brick houses and stores, whilst the Government are steadily pursuing their original sanitary arrangements, by the formation of broad streets and the filling up of marsh land in the immediate vicinity of the European settlement. Health reports are still unfavourable. Three fatal cases of fever occurred among the white traders during the three months prior to the departure of the mail steamer. Mr. Eales, after two and a-half years, was obliged to come home invalided, leaving his duties as colonial surgeon to the care of a junior officer.

At Accra a good business had been done during March, oil being freely brought down from the country.

From Cape Coast Castle we learn that the Ashantees had again opened their market. The merchants were in anticipation that a good business would be carried on in the course of the present month.

At Sierra Leone a very good business had been done in ginger. Great quantities were in course of shipment.

A Spanish slaver had escaped from the Rio Pongas. After being out two days, the slaves took possession of the ship and murdered all the crew but two, who arrived at Sierra Leone. The brig *Sobraon* was reported by a Sierra Leone pilot to be lost off Cape St. Ann.

At Bathurst, April 1, trade was dull, but the health of the place satisfactory. Brigadier-General O'Connor, C.B., having completed his tour of military inspection on the West Coast, embarked in the Royal Mail steamer *Ethiopia*. The Brigadier was received at the beach by Colonel Hughes, C.B., and a guard of honour, and accompanied on board by Commodore Wilmot, C.B.

Teneriffe advices of the 8th April state that the Confederate steamer *Stonewall*, Commander Page, arrived 31st March, and was allowed twenty-four hours to take in coal and provisions. She made the run from Lisbon in three days. She carries three guns—one 300-pounder forward, and two 70-pounder (steel) aft. The Royal Mail steamer *Calabar*, Captain Croft, sailed from Teneriffe for Bathurst on the 3rd. She made the passage from Liverpool to Madeira in five days. The *Ethiopia* experienced a succession of north-easterly winds from Bathurst.

A NEW OIL SEED FOR AFRICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, St. Mary's, River Gambia, March 30, 1865.

Sir,—The following account of the *Madia Sativa*, to which I am desirous of drawing the attention of your readers and all interested in the welfare of Western Africa (where its progress mainly depends, as the Gambia does, upon its agricultural prosperity), will, I trust, be acceptable.

Madia is a genus of South American herbaceous plants, belonging to the natural order of *Compositæ*, one of the species of which, *Madia Sativa*, is of value for the oil yielded by its seeds upon pressure. It is a native of Chili, where it has long been cultivated for the sake of its oil, which is of excellent quality. It grows like the aster, the blossom is yellow, and put together in clusters, the stalk is from three to five feet high, grows compact, and requires a sandy soil. The seed is like that of the sunflower, but smaller.

In Chili the oil is used instead of olive oil; the finer quality for edible, and the grosser for illuminating purposes. It was introduced from Chili into Asia Minor with great success, thence into Algeria and the South of France, and into some warm parts of Germany, and is said to be more abundant in oil than any plant introduced into Europe. It attracted attention in Europe previously to 1839, in consequence of Mr. Bosch, the superintendent of the gardens of the King of Wurtemberg, having successfully cultivated it in Germany on a large scale. He found that, as compared with rape and poppies, the amount of oil yielded per German acre was as follows:—

Rape yields . . .	240lbs. oil per German acre.
Poppies . . .	264 " "
<i>Madia</i> . . .	442 " "

This oil does not congeal at 19 deg. below zero of Reaumur, but only becomes a little less fluid, which makes it a valuable material for keeping machines in order.

In Europe the seeds are sown in October, and from 4 to 6lbs. are required per German acre. The crop is of the easiest management, and the only precaution to be taken by the cultivator, which it is important to notice, is that the seeds must be thrashed out soon after the crop is cut, otherwise the glutinous stalks when heaped up ferment and injure the seeds.

The *Madia* is known in Germany as the *Olbigende Medikraut*, or *Olmud*, and may be had of Messrs. Booth's successors, No. 32, Grosse Reichenstrasse, Hamburg.

I have imported a small quantity of the seed; some of it has been planted; it is now growing here, and will be ready for transplanting in a few days. I shall be happy to furnish friends at the Gambia and on the Coast with some *Madia* seed gratuitously, if they will undertake to plant it in their gardens, as a commencement, until the rains, when it may be grown on a larger scale.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. MELTON,

Introducer of the cotton seed into England in 1847, for the expression of its oil, as a food for cattle and as a manure.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Gambia, March 31.

Sir,—Although time is rather precious, I would not fail to fulfil my promise relative to the gentleman's conduct alluded to in the *African Times* which has lately reached us. As your journal is intended to chronicle both the evil and the good on the West Coast of Africa, I hope you will not hesitate to record the

name of Assistant-Surgeon Usher B. Eaton (gent.), of the Army Medical Staff, among the number of those who are really endeavouring to do honour to Great Britain on behalf of the benighted tribes of Africa. Shortly after Staff Assistant-Surgeon Eaton arrived at Bathurst, in January, the prevailing cold winds (properly termed the Harmattans) set in with great force. The people soon suffered very severely from pulmonary diseases; but through the promptitude with which he performed his duties, and the assistance of Providence, he saved the lives of many who applied to him for medical aid.

The 3rd West India Regiment at this station have every reason to be satisfied with this professional gentleman's conduct; and I am glad to hear him spoken of daily with praise in all corners of the town as being of a gentleman's breed! A man of birth and of principle is easily known by his conduct.

In the twenty cases of constitutional diseases of a very serious form in Her Majesty's hospital at Bathurst in the months of January and February last, all except two escaped death through proper means being used for them by Doctor Eaton. All praise and honour to him for the interest he has taken of us; and that he may be greatly rewarded is the ardent prayer of Her Majesty's West Indian soldiers serving in the Gambia.—I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours,

MARTINET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gambia, February 11.

Sir,—On the 21st of January last a public meeting was held at the Colonial Church of the undermentioned—viz.: His Majesty the King of Bussumbulla, his Honour the Chief Justice (presiding for his Excellency the Governor, being ill), the Hon. Thomas Brown, and the Hon. W. H. Sherwood, M.D. It appears that a treaty which was signed by some of the natives, binding them to be in peace with each other, has been broken, for which cause his Excellency sent to call all the chiefs and alcaides on the territory of Combo to meet at Bathurst, in order to investigate the subject; but I am sorry to say that none of the chiefs and alcaides appeared, save only the King of Bussumbulla, who has been shamefully treated by the people of Ghunjour in November last. This treaty was made by Commodore Wilmot some time in February last (as noticed in your journal), and was voluntarily broken by Caba, the alcaide of Ghunjour.

This treaty, said the King, was broken by the Ghunjour people. His Honour the Chief Justice said to the King that it could not be proved that it was the Ghunjour's people who had broken the treaty, so therefore he must sign another treaty. But the King, whom they thought to be such a fool, taught them a better lesson, and showed that, although a heathen, he possessed that spirit which shows there is no distinction. King: "I see no reason for signing treaty which can be broken at leisure. I have signed two treaties, one under the large trees at Sabejee, and the other on board the smoke vessel, and either of them was broken by the other parties, which is proved by their refusal to attend the meeting. Why, then, should I sign another treaty, when I am not the offender? I did not break my promise; but the question is to sign treaty. With whom? The other parties are not present, and even the Governor is not here in the meeting, after sending for me." However, the honourable gentlemen urged on the King to sign, with many more promises, &c.; but after many urgings, he said, "I'll sign no more treaty; good afternoon." He then shook hands and walked away.

I hope and trust that you will see into this matter. If things are allowed to go on thus, by-and-by it will prove serious. Now regarding the state of things, instead of the native chiefs and alcaides fearing and dreading our Governor, the Governor is afraid of them, allowing repeated treaties to be broken without the least inquiry. The King has all right to refuse signing any more treaties, seeing he has sustained heavy losses in keeping the people, when he could not help himself, being bound to keep the peace. He sent for the Governor, and showed him how he was treated, and the redress he was to have in to sign another treaty, whilst the two former ones were broken by the very same parties.

Ghunjour is a small town, well fortified, in the territory of Combo, situated on the south-west of Cape St. Mary's, about fifty miles from Bathurst. Its great distance for travelling, and the roughness and shallowness of its sea, cause its inhabitants to be so savage, cruel, and wicked. Its sea communication in fine weather is about four miles, and except that town be blown up, Combo will never be peaceable.

The above will give you a strong proof of the great want of a *gunboat* in this river, that the Governor may be able to make such people respect their treaties.—Yours, &c.,

THE GAMBIA.

Gambia, 13th February, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—During last week the colony of Bathurst was in an unsettled state, owing to a false report to his Excellency, that the chief Mahaba was on his way to N'Yomee to war against that kingdom, because they have sent some of their men to join the Soninkees, who went across from Keyang some time in December last, to claim their late kingdom in Baddiboo, but they were again defeated by Mahaba and driven back. They also caught several parties belonging to N'Yomee, and the people of N'Yomee having heard of their fellow being taken captive by Mahaba, feared that Mahaba might declare war against them, and in order to escape, they claimed British protection, which was kindly granted them by his Excellency, although they are distant eight miles from the Fort Bollen.

If British Governors can give protection to native chiefs, situated eight miles beyond British jurisdiction, why cannot their subjects be protected when stationed only one mile from the water mark? Again, I must state my opinion that the present Governor of the Gambia cares but too little about his subjects, so little as even to hand one over to the tender mercies of native kings on demand. What? hand over British subjects to a native king to be cruelly treated and killed? Yes, I can give you an instance, with living evidences to prove the fact. In 1859, in the month of November, say two months after the arrival of the Governor D'Arcy, the King of Farraba sent a messenger, by the name of Shebu Brister, to demand a British subject, who was charged with stealing three bundles of pegs and a slave, and making his escape to Bathurst. The man was apprehended and put to prison; he was then brought before Mr. Pine (the present Governor of Cape Coast) who was then the acting Queen's Advocate here. The case was tried, but the charges fell to the ground for want of evidence to prove the theft. However, from the man's statement, the matter was decided. The man's defence was as follows:—

"Some time ago I was at Cansamansa with my wife, working. It happened that an outbreak of war took place there between the natives and French residents, in which my wife was taken captive and sold, I not knowing where. I then took upon myself to travel from place to place in search of her, and at length I found her at Farraba, sold to the king. I then said to her that I had no price in hand to redeem her, should the king require redemption price, but, however, I could do this if she agreed to, and I would try and get a canoe and escape with her to Bathurst, where all slaves are freed, which proposal she agreed to, and I brought her, as we are this day, under the British flag. What- ever may be the consequence, let me be punished according to British laws, but not be given over to the hands of heathen. I therefore claim British protection, being their subject, and more so under their flag."

The matter was then presented before his Excellency, and the decision was that the man and his wife were to be put in irons, and carried secretly into a canoe by two constables, and conveyed to the king of Farraba. This duty was performed, the man and his wife were put in irons, and carried by two constables and the police-sergeant to "Half die," where they were shipped and well tied in the canoe, which conveyed them to the king of Farraba; AND THE POOR FELLOW WAS IMMEDIATELY MURDERED ON ARRIVAL. This matter came to the knowledge of one of the despised native gentlemen, who took the trouble to make efforts that this

man should be returned, and punished by British laws, if guilty at all. But he could not succeed. He argued the matter with Mr. Pine, who reported to the Governor, but the answer was that the Governor did so in order to prevent future warring with the natives, as had happened in 1855, when Governor O'Connor sent to demand a prisoner at Sabejee, which gave rise to that war; but, however, the Governor would send to tell the king not to murder the man, but to punish him by some other means. On the return of the messenger, the king made Governor d'Arcy a present of a cow for his Excellency's kindness, which was such as had never yet been obtained from his Excellency's predecessors. *But the poor man was already murdered.*

A few days afterward Mr. Pine called on the said native gentleman, to ascertain from him whether he had given up the matter. Mr. Pine asked if he was satisfied so far with the decision. He received answer, that there was no help for it but to be satisfied, seeing it had gone so far and the man could not be obtained, but that it was not according to British principles; British Governors ought not to be so afraid of war as to cause them to hand over their subjects to native kings, &c. Mr. Pine then replied, "But do you drop the matter?" Answer, "Yes, I do;" and Mr. Pine added (after knowing that the matter was dropped), "I am very glad to hear that you have dropped this matter, because if such a thing were heard in England—I don't say anything about myself—but the Governor would not be five months holding his office, nor I five days longer."

I beg to ask you now who was the murderer in this case—whether the King of Farraba, or the Governor of the Gambia?

The above is a true and correct statement of things happening in the Gambia. There are living evidences of the truth of all this, for which reason I hope and trust that you, Mr. Editor, will not fail to insert it in your next journal, guaranteeing the truthfulness of the same by enclosing my card.—Yours, &c.,

THE GAMBIA.

SIERRA LEONE.

The great event of the month has been the opening of the Industrial Exhibition, which took place, with all due pomp and ceremony, on the 28th February. The band of the 3rd West India Regiment played the National Anthem as the Governor arrived, accompanied by General O'Connor, Commodore Wilmot, the Exhibition Committee, and all the principal persons of the settlement. Bishops Beccles and Crowther opened the proceedings by prayer and a hymn, after which his Excellency the Governor delivered the inaugural address in a firm, clear tone, and the Exhibition was declared to be opened.

The mail has reached us at so late a period, that we can only give the following extract from the address—an extract which we make in preference to others, because, although there is much in Western Africa that rejoices our heart, still there is nothing to justify that spirit of self-laudation which seems sometimes to prevail, and which is as deeply to be deplored as are the persistent endeavours of a little knot of noisy, pretentious, self-styled scientific men in England to heap degradation and insult on the African, and to deny the benefits which it is evident that religious instruction has produced:—

I will pass now, and observe very briefly on the future of Africa. I do so because this may be the last opportunity I may have of publicly addressing you; and I wish honestly to state my opinions. I have lately heard of an opinion, almost a prophecy, very decidedly given, that Africa must become a dominant nation; and this opinion was given by two individuals very different in station, much about the same time, and that time very recently. One was by a Cabinet Minister in England, at Aberdeen, the other in an essay delivered at the last distribution of prizes in the grammar school here by one of the instructors. Now, far be it from me either to deny the prophecy, or become a prophet myself; but I think that, in both instances, though the "tale has been adorned," the moral has not been pointed. There is but one way in which Africa can be advanced, and that is, by the honesty, by the industry, and by the well-directed energy of the Africans themselves. If we trace the history of any nation emerging from barbarism to civilization, we shall find that though the first move was effected through foreign conquest or occupation, the remainder has been achieved by the people themselves. The

first move has been effected as regards the Western Coast of Africa. European stations have been formed; European laws and customs have been introduced; European civilization has been witnessed; but are the Africans, as a race, emulating this example? Go outside any of the European settlements, and I fear you will still find slavery, torture, superstition, idolatry, and idleness. Until the Africans themselves shake off these vices, though we may succeed in establishing civilization in isolated parts, as in this colony, Africa as a country can never rise. It should, then, be the object of every patriotic African to stimulate his countrymen in the acquirement of those talents which have raised other countries, and not to encourage native indolence or presumption.

It is with feelings of deep regret we have to record the death of one of the most respected and influential of Sierra Leone native merchants, W. H. Pratt, Marshal of the Vice-Admiralty Court, &c., &c., who died at his residence, Palm Villas, on the night of Tuesday, the 21st February, 1865, aged sixty-two years. The late Mr. Pratt, who was very earnest in his endeavours for the advancement of Africa in industry, civilization, and Christianity, was an ardent supporter of the *African Times*, the beneficial influence of which in African affairs, and on opinions in and respecting Africa and the Africans, he warmly recognised. We beg to express our sympathy with his family and friends, by whom he seems to have been greatly beloved and appreciated. Dr. Africanus Horton, S.A.S., whose kind efforts for the African-Aid Society and *African Times* we have so often had occasion to acknowledge, has for wife a daughter of the deceased gentleman.

Another death is also greatly deplored in the colony—viz., that of Mr. James G. Hazely, who had been educated in England, and was, until lately, we believe, chief writer to the Mixed Commission in Court. He died in nearly the same hour with Mr. W. H. Pratt. Age fifty-two.

We have great pleasure in stating that the Exhibition has been so very successful, as to insure ample funds for all purposes, so that there will be no deficit, and that a larger number of prizes than was originally contemplated will be adjudged.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, March 17, 1865.

Sir,—The Dutch messenger has returned from Coomassie, and from all that I can gather, the King of Ashantee is determined to pay Mr. Pine another visit. There is no knowing what moment he may cross the Prah, but cross it he assuredly will, and that very soon.

Your correspondent is right when he says that Mr. Pine has lost his influence. It is greatly to be regretted, as the power of England for good here depends very much on the degree of esteem in which the principal British local authorities are held. When they fall into contempt it is bad for both Government and people.

The Cape Coast Castle people have crowned their king. His name is John Aggery, or Haggery; but I am sorry to say, although he is himself a good Christian, and a valued member of the *Wesleyan Society*, he is surrounded by canoe men, carpenters, and Fetish men as councillors—they have advised him to institute courts, and appoint native magistrates. This is an effort at self-government arising from their abandonment by Great Britain as regards protection against Ashantee, and from late general mal-administration, both executive and judicial. Time will show how they will act.

Small-pox is reported to be in Cape Coast this morning. God forbid that this should prove true!

We are suffering fearfully for want of water. The condensers are breaking down every day, and there is no telling how soon they will be altogether useless. We have no engineer to attend to them.

The people in the town are now paying the rum licence, though most unwillingly, and if it were not for Mr. Pine's big guns, they would certainly resist. Their talk about sending home commissioners has ended in smoke. They were not equal to so great and persistent an effort.—Yours truly,

SPEBO MELIORA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, March 16.

Sir,—There is no news of any importance to communicate to you, except that the Ashantees are now in great preparation to come down and take their sheep, the Fantees, while the shepherd, the British Government, is said to be alarmed at this, and to be wishing to get rid of the responsibility of caring for us.

A word in conclusion. Is there none of the brave spirit of their fathers any more in the Britons that would live to see their Union Jack flying among the woods to save the thousands of souls that would be daily slain. Is not this the sole object of your coming with navy and army, for the saving of human beings. The Ashantees are nothing in bravery to the Fantees. In former times the Ashantees conquered the Fantees, then few, from Cape Coast to Accra, and within fourteen miles of the sea coast. But all the Akims, Assins, and Denkeras, were then Ashantees, and there had not been any peace known among the Fantees as there has now. They only require commanders elected out of the hundred kings accord. Therefore do not let your spirits melt, ye Britons, for they that be with us, are more than they that be with them; and do not throw your ammunition into the deep.—Yours, &c.,

APOTHECARY OWOONTAH.

THE FIRST NATIVE CHRISTIAN KING OF CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, March 13.

My Dear Sir,—The following is an account of a missionary meeting here on the very day of the departure of the February mail, the 13th of February. Although your mission is African, you do not get much correspondence about missionary affairs—you would it be desirable that your paper should be taken up with missionary matters. But the present occasion is so exceptional—viz., in the advent of a Christian king—his presence at the meeting on the evening of the day of his nomination, and the very sensible speech he made, that I made notes on the spot; and I can assure you that the report of the royal speech is a correct one.—Yours obediently,

PHLOSS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 13.

Sir,—This day will long be remembered by the Christian community of Cape Coast in particular, and by that of the Gold Coast in general, as one of the most remarkable in the annals of this country, and indicative of the real and substantial progress in advancement and civilization which this benighted land has made during the last twenty years. This day, Sir, will be set apart by us Christians of the Gold Coast as a day of thankfulness, humility, and prayer to the Great Ruler of the Universe. It has been a great and glorious day for Cape Coast. The First Christian King of Cape Coast was crowned in Cape Coast this day, King Haggery II. (whose Royal father* as a youth, in days now long gone by, witnessed and assisted at human sacrifices under the very walls of Cape Coast Castle) ascended the throne of his fathers, a Christian, and an educated gentleman.

By a fortunate coincidence, the annual district meeting was held this evening in the Wesleyan Chapel. His Excellency Governor Pine presided, and took the chair punctually at seven o'clock; a short hymn was sung, and then the Rev. W. West, the venerable superintendent of the district, made a very solemn and impressive prayer, invoking the blessing of Heaven on that and his proceedings. He prayed for the Governor, and those in authority under him; and when he mentioned the King, who was kneeling at the right hand of the Governor, a slight tremor was in the voice and the subdued tone told how the feelings of holy joy and gratitude had overcome the eloquence of the tongue. His voice then regained its wonted force in blessing the people, and when the thousand voices there assembled echoed the last

* The father of the present king born about 1760, began to reign 1814. Even in these recent times human sacrifices were not uncommon on the Gold Coast, but were, for the most part, secretly done.

amen, I am sure there was not one person present who did not feel that the words of the reverend gentleman had done him good.

The Governor, who was suffering from the effects of a recent severe indisposition, then rose and made a short speech. After which the Rev. Mr. Sykes, of Abeokuta, gave a very interesting account of the attack of Abeokuta by the Dahomans early in 1863. The Rev. Mr. Sharp next related his experiences at Porto Novo. A mission had been established two or three years since in that hotbed of slavery and the slave-trade; and it appears the effort has been crowned with singular success. After two or two other speeches, the King stood up and took a step or two in advance of his seat, and to the great delight and surprise of the assembled multitude, addressed them in his native tongue, although he reads and writes and speaks English perfectly well. He said: "It hath pleased the Lord, in the depths of His inscrutable wisdom, to call me this day to be your ruler; but my greatest glory is finding myself this night in your midst as one of yourselves—a Christian. It is now nearly twenty years ago since my late Royal father died. I was then excluded from the succession by the chiefs, because, and only because, I preferred to serve the true God, rather than make oblations to the Fetishes of my forefathers. I was a marked man, and accused of being an enemy to my country, because I took no delight in sacrifices; but the Spirit of the Lord upheld me through all my troubles, as I will now relate to you. Many, many years ago, long before any Christian minister had ever visited these parts (the missions were established in 1832), myself and my two late companions, the late Joseph de Graft and the late John Sam, used to assemble at one another's houses occasionally and dip into the mysteries of the blessed Bible. My father, the late King, had permitted me to visit during my youth the then very imperfect colonial school, the more with the view of satisfying my childish caprice than in the hope of my picking up any useful information. The little I learnt there I greatly, very greatly improved by help of my two friends. Myself and my two friends got regularly into the practice of having Scripture readings and prayers at our houses; and first one friend, then another, and another joined, until at last we began to have a goodly muster every time we met. Some of the chiefs and Fetish priests began to be alarmed at our proceedings, as subversive of all order and their time-honoured institutions, and took us before the Governor of those days, who cast us into prison. We were then enjoined to return to the Fetish worship of our fathers; and when we refused, we were publicly flogged at the castle gate. There are hundreds of persons still living who were witnesses of the indignity put upon us. After being confined some time, and scourged again and again, we were cast out of prison, as utterly unworthy the further solicitude of the chiefs and Fetishmen for our future welfare; and they said they must leave it with the Fetishes themselves to deal with us after our deserts. About the time that we were released from prison a Bristol trading vessel arrived at Cape Coast; the master, one Captain Potter, had been trading a long time on the Coast, and was well known. We visited this good Bristolian at the house he stayed at, and requested an interview with him. We related all our troubles and trials to him, and the punishments we had undergone, and desired the good captain to assist us with his friendly advice. He told us to address a letter to the Wesleyan Methodist Society in London. He said he had a friend in Bristol, a minister of that persuasion, and he felt no doubt but that he could get the letter forwarded to London, and that our petition would be favourably considered by the managing committee. The letter was written and signed by all three of us, and handed over to Captain Potter. Some few short years elapsed, and then we saw the result of our petition to the Society in London in the advent of a missionary, the first that had ever visited these parts; and now, this night, we behold the mighty glory of the Lord, His power and majesty, and His overflowing love, in the sight of which now presents itself to us. And this is only part of the fruit of that small seed we planted in those days. The time has now come when, with the blessing of God and your co-operation, the worship of idols shall triumph no more in this land. Relying

on your cordial co-operation, every effort shall be made by me that will tend to subvert superstition and build up the edifice of Christianity, that all may know the true God and bend the knee only at His altar. And we shall succeed. I know we shall succeed; for God has blessed me and blessed you to this great work."

Amidst cheering and tokens of great approbation, his Majesty resumed his seat, having spoken upwards of half-an-hour. After a few more speeches by the Hon. Francis Grant, the Rev. Messrs. Wharton, Richmond, and P. Bernasko, &c., the proceedings terminated with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman, a hymn, a prayer, and then the benediction.—Yours, &c.,

PHLOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, 18th March.

Dear Sir,—Last month I sent you some account of the doings at Elmina. Pray, shall we never get rid of that bugbear to African progress and advancement, the Dutch? Every good, every improvement, attempted at Cape Coast, or any of the English places, is counteracted by the evil influences of Elmina and other Dutch towns. The class of men that the Dutch send out as their officers, governors, &c., is of the very *scum and refuse of society*. In my letter I gave you a description of the career of one. Now, the almost principal man was fourteen years ago a swineherd; he then entered the police force, and from that volunteered for African service—a man of no education, but of indomitable impudence. — was a sign painter until he became an African officer. Another man at Elmina, an officer, was a pot-boy at the Hague within three months of his landing at Elmina in an officer's uniform—and of such stuff the Dutch African staff is composed; narrow-minded, bigoted, very immoral, and very mean. They seem to take a delight in traversing every good movement. They have but one school, and that at Elmina. They have forty other towns and villages—no school, no church, no nothing, as the saying is, anywhere else than at Elmina; while the English have nearly one hundred missionary schools in the country—in almost every village one, and one certainly in every important town. There is a species of petty oppression and tyranny going on now at Elmina, which will form subject for another letter next month. The young woman, alluded to in my former letter as having been put in prison along with her brother, is still in prison. She is a very distant poor relation of a person you know, and is threatened with the loss of everything (I enclose the young woman's own autograph letter to me) if she won't be friends with the Governor, and take a false oath—and submit to sundry indignities, too horrible to be mentioned; and this the Dutch Governor pursues publicly under cover of his authority as Governor. Could the regency of Pandemonium be more nearly imitated here on earth? The country cannot improve while such demons of disorder infest it.—Yours, faithfully,

DAHOMEY.

Whydah, March 6.

Dear Sir,—It is believed that the King is becoming really desirous of friendly relations with England. The slave-trade here has received so great a blow, by Commodore Wilmot's effective blockade, that its renunciation by the King will not be now a matter of so much difficulty or fancied pecuniary loss as heretofore. He has expressed a strong desire to send some of his chief men to England on a mission to the Queen, and has made application, through the Commodore, to know if they would be received. It is not supposed he will receive any encouragement to send them, unless he declares himself prepared to abandon the slave-trade altogether.

The King is now out with his army on some expedition. What place he has gone to attack is not yet known. You will get the news by next mail.—Yours, &c.,

P.S. Mr. Craft, the agent of the Company of African Merchants here, has opened a school, with funds supplied by Lady Huntingdon's connexion in London.

ABEOKUTA AND LAGOS.

March 6.

The River Ogun was blockaded by Governor Glover on the 17th ultimo.

The fighting at Ikorodu continues with renewed vigour. A diversion was attempted a few days ago by the people of Iperu attacking the Egbas at Makun.

The messengers of the Governor of Lagos returned from Ibadan on the 27th ultimo, Tappa's messenger remaining behind at Ibadan. Another party was expected to leave Lagos on the 2nd inst. for the same destination.

There are various reports of Dahoman movements, and the Egbas are on the alert. It is said that the Dahomans have swept away a small town.

There are various rumours from Ibadan, all showing that every effort is made to persuade them to renew the conflict by attacking the Egbas in the farms, or at Makun, so as to save Ikorodu. There is great fear they will be stirred up to make some further war attempts. But for these things we should have every prospect of peace.

A body of Ibadans have crossed the Ogun on the north, their destination is said to be Eruwa.

Our prospects of peace are thus blighted. The blockade on the river detains in Abeokuta some hundreds of bales of cotton belonging to British subjects, as permission could have been obtained from the native chiefs to pass them down as before, had not the Lagos blockade been put on.—*Ike Irohin*.

MADAGASCAR.

A letter from Réunion of the 12th of March says: "Madagascar has just passed through a crisis the issue of which permits the hope of a favourable arrangement of the pending difficulties. The former Prime Minister, who was animated with such a deep hatred of Europeans, had endeavoured to recover his position, but failed. He was degraded and removed on the 25th February to Fort Abonitouta, with ten of his slaves and one wife only. His other wives, thirty in number, all young and handsome, had been married to thirty rising officers, between whom the Minister's immense wealth was divided. Being thus deprived of his property and honours, his return to power was thought to be impossible. His successor is better disposed towards Europeans, and there are hopes of arriving at an arrangement with him."

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA. THE INTERIOR VIA LIBERIA.

Mr. Hoffman, the distinguished American missionary in Liberia, relates as follows:—

Lake Nuba.—"When in the town of Grabu, Upper Tebo country, I was informed that ten days' journey to the north was a large lake, too large to see across. It was called Nuba. On going to it one passes seven tribes or divisions of tribes, as follows: Leaving Grabu, the first is the country of Tidibo, then Graora, Gre, Trepo, Tepo, Siee, Guappo, then the Lake."

The Niger.—"During my late journey in the interior the natives at Grabu, in Tebo, on the Upper Cavalla, told me that eight days' journey to the north of their town was a river called Nickbor, by means of which the people received foreign goods from the sea; that white men came up the river and brought all foreign goods except guns. The same fact was stated to me three years ago in Webo, and a friend in Tebo learned the same fact from a man in Webo."

Can this river be the Niger?

Mr. Hoffman was about 120 miles from the Coast. Eight days' journey would be (for the natives, say thirty miles a-day) 240 miles, which, added to 120, would be 360 miles from the Coast.

Can the Niger have its course 360 miles N.E. of Cape Palmas? Is there no traveller who will take up this line of travel? Has Liberia no men to examine the country in which they themselves reside? It would be a feather in the cap of the new Republic to discover the sources of the Niger.

METALLIC COINS TO SUPERSEDE COWRIES.

Letter of the African Aid Society to the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

8, Adelphi-terrace, London, February, 1865.

Sir,—The Council of the African Aid Society have had under their consideration the necessity and advantage of finding some metallic substitute for the cowries, hitherto in use among the natives.

A currency ought to be adapted to all the wants and habits of the people for whose use it is intended. Cowries, as a circulating medium, have been for a long time in use in the countries of the Bight of Benin and the Niger territories. Since the annexation of Lagos to the British Crown, all the English coins have been introduced there. They are coming into use among the natives, but do not suffice for the general wants of that portion of the community. The lowest English coin in circulation is the farthing. The value of this is thirty cowries. But a great many articles of daily consumption are purchased much below that price. Unless, therefore, some smaller coin be introduced, cowries cannot be abolished or replaced as a circulating medium. In the interests of progress and civilization, of which Lagos is an outpost, it is desirable that the currency should be solely metallic.

The Council of the African Aid Society have had an opportunity of seeing the small coins—one mil each—now being struck at Her Majesty's Mint in London, for Hong Kong, one of which is attached to this letter. Those coins, being each one-twentieth of a penny, or one-fifth of a farthing, would be of the value of a lower sum than six cowries, those coins would respond to all the minor wants of the native Africans; while their being perforated, so as to enable them to be strung as cowries are now strung, would render them equally safe and convenient as cowries, while they would be not more than one-seventh of the average weight of the smallest cowries used in the interior trade.

The Council of the African Aid Society beg leave, therefore, to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that it would be advisable, and of great general advantage, to introduce perforated coins of a similar size and value into the currency of Lagos, Cape Coast, &c. The Council also beg leave to suggest that the perforation, in a similar manner, of other coins intended for circulation in Native Western Africa would tend greatly to facilitate their use and favour among the people.—I have the honour to remain your obedient servant,

(Signed) ALFRED S. CHURCHILL,
Chairman of the African-Aid Society.

THE GOLD COAST INQUIRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—You are right when you imply that Colonel Ord's first mission to the Gold Coast produced no good—nay, that it was positively mischievous; and that his second mission, tinged with the spirit of gubernatorial hob-nobbing, will be equally bare of results useful to the settlements. Colonel Ord is not the sort of commissioner whom the forlorn straits of the settlements need as an interpreter and as a reporter. The settlements need a man who is versed in the customs of the people, and who has watched, during years of actual residence on the Gold Coast, the development of the magnificent scheme, which the genius of George Maclean first kneaded into shape. The settlements do not also only seek for a man practically versed in the object which suggested a Protectorate on the Gold Coast; but they seek for a man who is interested in the African for the sake of the African himself.

In the little day of some of us, three gentlemen of the Royal Engineers have gone three several times to Cape Coast, to report on the report of each other, and to arrange between themselves what constituted the wants of the British settlements upon that desperate sea-board; and it may be safely affirmed that the three reports made by those three gallant officers are not worth the foolscap upon which they are written, and are not certainly

worth the immense trouble which the ingenuity and diversity of the reports themselves must have demanded of their brains.

How is it probable that Colonel Ord, who has been phantasmagorizing between the Island of Dominica and the Island of Bermuda for the last seven blessed years, should comprehend and should compress into a report of two months' digestion the vast mental changes which have been occurring in the settlements of late, and should clasp his finger on the peculiar requirements of the most peculiar local government and of the most peculiar people under the shadow of the British Crown? The value of the military reports which have been transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies may be truly estimated by the fact that the latest Military Commissioner to the Gold Coast, preceding Colonel Ord, coolly and dogmatically urges that the settlements shall be abandoned! If ever an error could be committed by England towards Africa, that error would be consummated in the complete abandonment of the settlements on the Gold Coast. The Protectorate set up on that Coast is the brightest spot in the whole dark history of England in respect of the African; for in the motive for the establishment of the Protectorate was involved a resolution, fairly and successfully directed, to suppress the slave-trade, and a resolution contritely adopted to render a meed of tardy justice to a race which she had grossly wronged since the hour when, in 1580, Sir John Hawkins began to transfer the slave from his home in Africa to the mahogany forests in Jamaica. Within a twelvemonth after the Union Jack had been hauled down from the flagstaff upon the batteries of Cape Coast Castle, the slave-trade would be rampant along the entire sea-line whence the diabolical traffic has been absolutely driven. This assertion can be proved by simple reference to an event of most recent standing. A certain Governor of the Gold Coast took it into his administrative head to recommend to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the small batch of troops quartered in the little fort at Quittah should be withdrawn, and that the fort itself should be quietly put beyond the pale of English jurisdiction. Relying on the good sense and judgment of his lieutenant, as in a measure he must rely, the Secretary of State assented. What was the issue? Why, that Quittah was instantly converted—and is still being converted, I believe, notwithstanding all your earnest, praiseworthy efforts to procure its reoccupation—into a pleasant resort for the most unscrupulous members of the slave-dealing family.

Where are the reasons for abandoning the settlements? The inexhaustible natural resources of the Gold Coast—the anxiety of the inhabitants to partake of the benefits of our civilization—the tokens of friendship which the chiefs show to the missionary body—the docility and the quickness of apprehension of the tribes living in the confines of the Protectorate—their seemingly instinctive confidence in the bare word of an Englishman, and their zest for trade—may be given as the salient incentives to the foundation and elaboration of a commercial policy which no wise Government should overlook. What a prospect is opened to the gaze of judicious enterprise! How clearly the finger of Providence itself traces the road of Christian triumph!

There are plenty of persons now in England, who are able to furnish the Secretary of State with all the information which he may want for the improvement of the Gold Coast. The intelligence of Colonel Ord may be unquestionable; but Colonel Ord cannot obtain, by virtue of a fugitive visit, a precise acquaintance with details of native character, feeling, and law—a preciseness of acquaintance indispensable to the solution of the problem about to be handled by Parliament. Such familiarity with the condition of the African of the Protectorate is not to be gathered otherwise than by the tedious lessons of observation and comparison, and by the ordeal of a long and constant intercourse with a type of the human race which has not been described in the same terms by two travellers together.

That you will understand how far it is from my wish to say aught in depreciation of the personal merits of Colonel Ord, or in depreciation of the solicitude of the Colonial Minister to see humanity vindicated, and the rights of the African brought to light, I am sure; and I am equally sure that no one is more disposed than I am to admire the industry displayed in the work

which Colonel Ord has done, and to testify to the earnestness of the Colonial Minister, in the mastery of the difficulties which beset his office. As the King of Dahomey observed to Commodore Wilnot, in reference to the suppression of human sacrifice, "softly, softly—little by little—by and bye;" so may be remarked in reference to what is socially and politically needed by the Fantee, for everything should be sought with care, and nothing accepted by FITS AND STARTS.

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

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The African Times.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1865.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

We have received information that the King of Dahomey is very desirous of sending some of his principal men as ambassadors to Her Majesty, if he can be assured of their favourable reception. There can be no doubt that they would be favourably received, if the King would undertake to prohibit the foreign slave-trade henceforth and for ever in his dominions. We believe that other Dahoman horrors would soon be got rid of, and civilization progress rapidly in Dahomey, if an end were put to the slave-trade.

A public meeting has been held in Madrid, for the suppression of the slave-trade between Africa and Cuba.

A petition from Cuba, numerous and influentially signed, has been lately forwarded to the Spanish Government at Madrid.

The Industrial Exhibition at Sierra Leone was opened on the 28th February. Our friends will be glad to hear that it will prove a pecuniary success. The French, from Senegal, seem to have carried off the highest honours of the Exhibition.

Another invasion of the Protected Territories by the King of Ashantee is considered imminent.

Letters from Abeokuta state that they are expecting to be attacked both by the Dahomans and the Ibadans.

General O'Connor has returned to England from his visit of military inspection to the various British colonies and settlements of the West Coast of Africa.

We beg especially to refer our readers to the account of the election of the first native Christian king at Cape Coast.

DEATH OF THE GOVERNOR OF LAGOS.—On the 7th April, Mr. Henry Stanhope Freeman, the Governor of Lagos, died at Tunis.

The deceased gentleman was only in his thirtieth year, and in consequence of ill health he had been on leave of absence for some months past.

IMPENDING INVASION OF THE PROTECTED TERRITORIES BY THE ASHANTEES.

ALL our information from Cape Coast tends to the belief of another Ashantee invasion. The Ashantees have received abundant supplies of ammunition and other articles by way of the Volta, Elmina, and Grand Bassam, and are reported to be quite ready to take the field. Our only hope is that the season is so far advanced, they may be deterred by the fear of the rains, which usually commence at the latest in May, and which were much earlier last year, causing the great sickness in our camp on the Prah.

It is as well, before this calamity arrives to a country no longer, we presume, under British protection against invasion, that we should remind our readers that these wars originated in the action of the British authorities, and not of the natives in the Protected Territories. The refugee Ashantees would undoubtedly have been given up to their sad fate by the Fantees rather than that their country should be invaded. But the British authorities then, at least, directing the foreign relations of the Protectorate, refused to give them up, and hence the pretext of the Ashantee raid. Surely it was but a matter of strict justice that we should have settled this dispute with the Ashantees, before officially announcing, for the encouragement of the King of Ashantee, that we should no more take the field against him; and we cannot wonder that our change of conduct as regards them is attributed to all other than creditable motives, as is insinuated in the local native letter we have inserted under the head of Cape Coast.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMITTEE ON WEST AFRICA.

THE Committee has already sat seven times. The last meeting was held on the 6th inst., when the Committee adjourned to the 27th inst., after the Easter Holidays. One of the above sittings was occupied by the production of documentary evidence from the Colonial-office, five by the examination of Colonel Ord, and one by that of Mr. McCorsky, of Lagos. We have not been able so to follow these examinations as to allow of our stating the peculiarities of the evidence adduced on all points; but may briefly state that Colonel Ord's examination has been directed principally to the substantiation and elucidation of his report to the Colonial-office, alluded to in our last, and now given in *extenso* for the perusal and consideration of our readers. *Ex nihilo nihil fit*; and although part of Colonel Ord's evidence, like his report, may have been very instructive to those who entered upon the consideration of West African affairs with but little previous knowledge of them, we cannot say that it has been of a nature to throw any new light upon the condition and prospects of those settlements whose future may be so materially affected by the decisions of the Committee. Colonel Ord's evidence has been very honestly given, so far as his knowledge extended; but from what we have heard during the several examinations to which he was subjected, we cannot help expressing the belief that these were very unnecessarily protracted by his being pressed for inferences from the facts, or supposed facts, which he had presented. A flying visit down the Coast in one of Her Majesty's steamships, with five or six days given to each settlement, might suffice for collecting the most salient official facts, but could not give, even to so clever an observer as Colonel Ord, any intimate acquaintance with the great and varied interests involved at various points of the Coast, and along the Coast as a whole, by the preservation or extension of British influence there. We have been glad, however, to see strong indications of official conviction that the administrative and protective presence of Great Britain has been of incalculable benefit to Africa, and is essential to her future progress in civilization. Nor has this great truth been seriously called in question by any member of the Committee in any other case than that of Lagos. The British occupation of Lagos—the transfer of Lagos from native to British authority—had been

violently attacked and stigmatised here, not only when these events took place, but on many occasions since that time, when what we must persist in thinking the injudicious and irritating conduct of the local Colonial Executive contributed to, if it did not wholly produce, effects very injurious to the trade of the island, while at the same time the merchants became subject to fiscal exactions far more onerous than those to which they had been exposed while Lagos was under native rule. Colonel Ord has in consequence been very hardly pressed on this Lagos annexation question—a question, too, respecting which, with its results, he knew even less than he did about other West Coast questions—which is saying a great deal. We were not therefore surprised to hear him state, if we correctly understood him, that thirteen days (about double the time he gave to any other settlement) being all the time he could afford for Lagos, were not sufficient for enabling him to coach himself up for examination upon the many intricate points involved in the past and present relations of Lagos with the Egba and Yoruba countries. Our readers will not be surprised at this. When we first noticed Colonel Ord's visit to the Coast we said it must necessarily be—what it really has turned out to have been—too hurried for any really useful purpose that could not have been effected by the Colonial-office with the information previously at its command. We cannot pretend to say what Mr. McCorsky, who was so much more intimately acquainted with all the ins and outs of the Lagos annexation question and its results, may have added to the information given to the Committee, as his replies to questions were in so low a tone, that we soon despaired of obtaining any benefit from them until the evidence taken before the Committee shall be printed and published. We presume, however, that he will have been able to fill up some of the grievous gaps which disfigured the Colonel's evidence.

From the number of witnesses yet to be examined, we very much doubt whether the Committee will be able to report to the House of Commons, now supposed to be in its last session, in time for any practical results. The question of our West African Settlements as a whole is a great question; it must be weighed in another balance beside that little one of mere pounds, shillings, and pence, to which there was an evident intention in some quarters that it should be confined; and we hope that the Coast will yet furnish, and that the Committee will listen to, an array of non-official evidence, which will show that Her Majesty's Government are not wrong in their evident desire to extend, as far as it may be prudently done, the sphere of civilizing British influence in Western Africa.

THE (COLONY OF THE) GOLD COAST.

COLONEL ORD has spoken. We were wrong. Home authorities and Cape Coast officials were right. Roads in the Protected Territories are not needed—would be useless—would not tend in any way to security, or to increased production and commerce! Yes—this is the trash produced with all the pomp of delegated official authority before a committee of the House of Commons. Evidence taken before committees is not published until they report to the House. We had therefore intended to reserve our comment on what we might hear from day to day, until the entire evidence should be before us in a printed form, and with the official stamp upon it. But we have been driven from this reserve. When such great interests are at stake, we should be accomplices in error and wrong if we remained silent. It might have been thought that the air of profound meditation and wisdom with which nothings and absurdities may be uttered, had imposed upon us—that we had been converted from our convictions—that we had unlearned the alphabet of civilization—and were prepared to adopt the carriage of tropical produce, for export, on human heads, under tropical heats, for scores or hundreds of miles, as the *ne plus ultra* of internal facilities for commerce in countries devoid of river highways. This would have been unjust to ourselves. Not having yet attained to that summit of official enlightenment of which Colonel Ord has been made the exponent, we are strong as ever in the obstinacy of our unofficial ignorance—ready as ever to do battle for Roads—Roads,

Roads—as among the earliest and most indispensable means for obtaining increased production and promoting industrial development and civilization in Africa, as elsewhere.

Having, for so long a time, exposed and denounced official neglect in the matter of roads through the Protected Territories, we should not have been surprised at some decent effort on the part of the impeached authorities to whitewash themselves before the country by means of obsequious evidence. It was natural, too, to suppose that those who sent out Colonel Ord on his flying and expensive mission along the West Coast knew they could depend upon their instrument; and a perusal of the Colonial-office instructions to the Colonel, with the Colonel's report in fulfilment of those instructions, proved the fact of their being *wise in their generation*. But we must confess that we were not prepared for such championship à l'outrance. We thought the whitewash brush would have been delicately applied—and we venture still to think that a smooth surface would have been better than an unseemly daub. We should not have been surprised, for instance, if a member of the Corps of Royal Engineers had said that the question of roads in such a country as the Gold Coast, where we are not really territorial possessors, was one involving great official difficulties; that the necessary organizations for making them would have had to be created; that it would be a matter of some difficulty and expense to maintain them when made; and that it would take some little time to procure and accustom the natives to the employment of such means of transport on the roads as would make them really beneficial to the people and the country, and influential to the development of productive resources and of commerce. We could have imagined all this—we thought we saw an official giant of this family creating in the distance, for the mere purpose of being subsequently knocked down and demolished by ourselves or others, after he had served his purpose in justifying the past. But, roads unnecessary—roads useless in the development of a country's resources—roads to the frontiers of a hostile country not an element of strength, or a facility for defence—roads not advances of industrial civilization into the interior—roads not for this we were not prepared; and must further be allowed to express the doubt whether another Engineer could be found who would endorse Colonel Ord's opinions—unless, indeed, he, too, were sent out expressly in a ship of war to obtain the peculiar enlightenment indispensable for the formation of such opinions, and were also well paid, both in money and in prospect, for becoming the apostle of so renegade a faith.

But though hundreds of so-called eminent men should endorse such opinions, their verdict would have no weight with us against traditions and history—against the experience of all peoples who have climbed or have been assisted up the difficult hill from barbarism to civilization. The production, however, of such evidence by Government before a committee of the House of Commons, causing to be said by another mouth what they would not have dared to say with their own, is ominous. As in the matter of roads through the Protected Territories (which, also, it seems to have been determined must be made to appear, are not and never were intended to be PROTECTED) the past is without history, so the future is becoming without hope, so far as the British Government is concerned. We know, however, that if those territories were made a colony, there would be that if those territories were made a colony, there would be that another summit of enlightenment, differing from that which Colonel Ord had been instructed to mount, would then be reached—that the absolute necessity of roads would then be as strongly advocated by obsequious talent, as any such necessity is at present denied by it, or by its caricature.

We are quite sure that whenever Colonel Ord's evidence is published we shall be declared justified in having stated (as we now do) that there is an impertinence in such evidence serving of the most unsparing condemnation. If our ears have not deceived us, Colonel Ord has, like other of our modern lights, volunteered to put his small extinguisher upon the Christian missionary efforts that have been working in Africa, by phrasing the rapid and absolute triumph of Mohammedanism over the whole continent. We say prophesy, for beyond hearsay

and retailed opinions he had not a particle of evidence to justify such a conclusion. It is true that the Moslem military propaganda is advancing in many parts, displacing and absorbing a more effete heathenism; but that it will prevail over the efforts of Christian missions, wherever these latter may be planted and supported, even though aided by an organised military Mohammedan force—the proposed *Houssa soldiers or police*—he can have no ground for asserting. But this impertinence of evidence which we denounce is not confined to such prophetic visions of the triumph of Mecca over Bethlehem and Calvary. The Colonel made a five or six hours' visit to Accra, which like the Volta, the only navigable river in those parts, is in the Eastern Territories of the Golden Coast, although at a considerable distance from that stream. He pronounces, we suppose on the faith of that visit, the Volta unimportant for commerce! He feasts, and reviews, and hobnobs with governor and officials during five or six days at Cape Coast, and he pronounces, in defiance of all history and experience, that roads would be of no utility! Colonel Ord seems to have been a great and favourite Government card—we hope he is nearly played out.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS AT CAPE COAST FOR THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

We understand that our friends at Cape Coast have, at the instance of one of our valued correspondents, put down their names as donors to the African-Aid Society for sums amounting in all to 46l. 1s. 3d.; but that, although earnestly pressed for payment of these their voluntary subscriptions, only 4l. 17s. 3d. of the amount had been collected up to the departure of the mail on the 17th March.

The African-Aid Society and the *African Times* are certainly entitled to all the money aid that Africans can give. Although we labour for their protection, good government, and advancement, not only without receiving a penny for so doing, but necessarily, also, with some considerable personal sacrifices, there are expenses to be provided for which somebody must pay, if the work we have taken in hand for Africa is to be continued. And we call earnestly, therefore, upon all Africans especially who desire the prosperity and advancement of their country, and an increase of respect for themselves, to pay where they have promised us assistance, and both to promise and pay where they have not yet done so. People who will not help for their own good do really sin against themselves.

PURPOSED EXPLORATION OF EQUATORIAL AFRICA BY R. B. N. WALKER, ESQ., F.R.G.S.

We understand that Mr. R. B. N. Walker, formerly of Gaboon and Lagos, will start this month, accompanied by a friend, to undertake an exploration of Equatorial Africa. The chief object of the expedition will be to discover and ascertain the position of a great central Lake, reported lately by Van Heughie, but the existence of which Mr. Walker had been informed of so early as 1859, by some of the Fen tribe. Mr. Walker will make Gaboon, or its immediate neighbourhood, his point of departure; and from his long residence on that part of the coast, his thorough acclimatisation, his knowledge of the inhabitants and their languages, there is every reason to hope that his expedition will be successful. Should circumstances favour the attempt, Mr. Walker will proceed farther to the eastward than the Lakes, which he expects to find about 700 miles from Gaboon; but should he encounter such obstacles to his progress in an easterly direction as shall compel him to deviate from it, he will endeavour to follow the course of any large river which may flow from the Lake. In all probability, the Congo rises in the locality in which the Lake is said to be situated, and, should Mr. Walker be blessed with health and strength, he may be enabled to solve a problem of great interest to geographical science, which no one has attempted since Capt. Tuckey's unfortunate expedition.

We do sincerely hope that this enterprise will meet with that support and encouragement which it deserves at the hands of scientific men. The Royal Geographical Society have made a

grant, the Anthropological Society also; and in Liverpool a subscription has been commenced under the auspices of Henry Duckworth, Esq., F.R.G.S., 5, Cook-street, who acts as treasurer to the fund, which has reached a respectable amount already, but which will, we hope, be largely increased. Funds ought not to be asked in vain when qualified individuals like Mr. Walker are ready, for the advancement of national objects, to incur the great labour and peril of such an expedition. As, however, the proper period for commencing the journey is fast approaching, Mr. Walker will set out at once for Gaboon, trusting that his friends, and the friends of science, will neither forget him or the great object which he has in view, in undertaking an exploration, extending over probably two years or more, in that part of Africa which has hitherto been considered so impenetrable and deadly.

POLYGAMY—MOHAMMEDANISM—CAPTAIN BURTON AND THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

We give the following extracts from a very able article in the *Morning Star*: Polygamy is the natural state of man. The primary effect of Christianity is to corrupt, and there is no hope for the human race save in the spread of Islamism. Such is the tenor of the new gospel according to Captain Burton. It is true that he propounds this creed with reference only to Africa; but religion and morality are not local, but universal, and that which is true of one people applies with equal force to the rest of the family of mankind. Some people may wonder where this apostle of the Crescent found an audience of Englishmen willing to listen patiently to his preaching. But there exists in London an association, young in years, and younger still in wisdom, by whose members these doctrines were not only tolerated, but received with a large measure of approval. The Anthropological Society is the fussiest and most pretentious of self-styled learned bodies, and it is also beyond all question the shallowest. It aims at showing its superiority to common prejudices, and every now and then gives clear proof that it can be independent of common sense. Captain Burton could not well have chosen a more congenial audience before which to extol the virtue and the bliss which spring from having many wives and believing in no Redeemer. He declared that "as to polygamy, he could only say of the statement that it was unnatural, that the force of ignorance could no further go." We beg Captain Burton's pardon: even in that lowest deep there is a deeper still, and he has penetrated to the bottom of the abyss. Never was there a more striking combination of consummate ignorance and colossal impudence than in this assertion which he made before the Anthropological Society. He averred that "the Christian missions were the curse of Western Africa, and the only antidote to it was the spread of Islamism," which profession of faith was cheered by sundry members of the Anthropological Society. The regenerating influence of the Mohammedan religion is certainly a novel thesis for an English speaker, and whoever dilates upon it should be gifted with a lively imagination, since he will have to draw upon it for all his facts. But, according to Captain Burton, these wicked preachers of the Gospel have not been content with corrupting African natives by weaning them from that noble paganism under whose benign influence they were wont to wallow in blood and debauchery; they have also degraded African literature. This would appear to be a tough job, but he assures us that they have done the deed, and points out the manner of its accomplishment. "No doubt," he said, "the Protestant missionaries had had their Scriptures translated into the African tongues, but what an ignoble literature it was!" We confess that this fairly takes our breath away and totally incapacitates us from following Captain Burton any further. Will it be believed that this arrant rubbish was not only patiently listened to by the Anthropological Society, but frequently applauded, and, moreover, cordially endorsed by some of its members? Our readers will, no doubt, be aghast to find that there are Englishmen capable of talking such nonsense, and others who will listen to and applaud them, and they will be able to form an estimate of the services likely to be rendered to the world by the Anthropological Society.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

COPY OF THE REPORT OF COL. ORD, THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE CONDITION OF THE BRITISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA. Copy of the Instructions addressed by the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., to Colonel Ord, R.E., Commissioner of Inquiry on the West Coast of Africa.

Downing-street, October 25, 1864.

Sir,—You are aware that you have been selected to visit the four Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, in order to obtain information for Her Majesty's Government how far the objects which the country has in view in maintaining those settlements are now satisfactorily attained, and how far they may be more completely attained by any improved arrangements.

I will briefly indicate to you some of the more important points to which your attention should be directed, with a view to guide you in the general scope and purpose of your inquiry, but not with a view of limiting its extent.

These possessions, it need scarcely be said, have not been contemplated as places of European settlement in the ordinary meaning of that term. The climate absolutely prohibits any such idea. What has been intended has been to encourage, by the occupation of detached posts, the legitimate commerce of British merchants, not only for its own sake, but with the object of providing for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade and other inhuman practices unhappily too common among the native tribes.

In pursuing your inquiry you will examine the present state of the public establishments in the several colonies, and ascertain how far they efficiently discharge the duties for which they are designed; and you will consider whether any alteration or retrenchment can be judiciously introduced without impairing their efficiency. You will investigate the financial condition of these settlements, and their systems of taxation. You will review the revenue and expenditure of each, and will report how far it seems possible to establish such a proportion between them as may afford a reasonable prospect that the settlement can be made self-supporting.

You will find that these settlements, established for a common object, are yet without any sufficient means of intercourse; and you are aware that the want of steam communication has been repeatedly brought under the notice of this department by the several Governors. You will consider whether the establishment of this mode of communication might not be a measure promoting at once efficiency and economy; efficiency by creating a greater community of purpose and of action than is at present possible, and economy as tending to diminish the necessity for large separate establishments, whether military or civil. You will not hold yourself precluded from entering into the question whether the creation of such an increased facility of intercourse might not render useful some consolidation of the Governments.

Your inquiry is not of a military or of a naval character, but it necessarily implies that you should consider, as the foundation of some of your conclusions, matters military or naval.

In regard to these you will receive from the commanding officers of the troops at the several stations, and from the commodore and other naval officers acting under instructions, which will be given to them for the purpose from the proper departments, all the information and assistance which you may find that you require.

You will turn your attention to the moral influence which our occupation exercises on the neighbouring tribes. Our relations with them will form one of the most important subjects of your report. The taxation of natives, the exercise over them of British protection, the practice of entering into negotiations and engagements with them are topics which will demand your careful consideration.

Your previous missions to the Coast of Africa have given you much acquaintance already with the circumstances of these Colonies, and you are familiar with the various Parliamentary papers connected with this subject, from the date of the instructions issued by Lord Russell to Dr. Madden in 1840 down to the present time.

I should wish you to return to England, so as to report the result of your visit before the usual time of the meeting of Parliament. I rely upon your making the best and most judicious use of the time which is thus afforded you. It may very well happen that you may find it too short for a detailed examination of some of the many questions which may come under your consideration. In that case you will devote your principal attention to those which are the most important; and, with regard to the others, will be prepared to impart to Her Majesty's Government the sources from which further information, if judged necessary, can be most advantageously obtained.—I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD CARDWELL.

Report of the Commissioner appointed to Inquire into the Condition of the British Settlements on the West Coast of Africa. London, March 9, 1865.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that, in pursuance of your instructions, I have visited the four British settlements on the West Coast of Africa, and have made the best and most diligent inquiry in my power into the various subjects to which you have directed my attention.

I propose in the following pages, first, to lay before you the information which I have collected on the origin, extent, trade, finance, and other principal circumstances of each of these colonies, and afterwards to submit such general conclusions as I have been able to form on their usefulness, and on the question of any improvements which can be effected in their management.

It may be well to premise that the four settlements on the West Coast vary from each other in so many important particulars, that no statement or information, nor even the possession of local knowledge, respecting one of them will enable correct conclusions to be drawn as to the condition of any other.

For example, the character of the natives in the neighbourhood of the Gambia and the northern settlements is altogether different from that of the tribes in, and adjacent to, the Gold Coast and Lagos; and there is, consequently, a corresponding difference in our relations and mode of dealing with each of them respectively.

In respect to trade, the four settlements vary still more; the commerce of each, and the mode in which it is conducted, being entirely dissimilar to that of the others.

Again, in some quarters slavery prevails more extensively than in others; and where this is the case, the difficulties of the local Government are largely increased, and the danger of collision with the natives becomes much greater than in settlements where, from longer occupation, or from other causes, the institution has not so strong a hold amongst the people.

Many other points of difference might be instanced, but probably enough have been adduced to show that every question that may arise respecting one of the settlements must be considered with reference to the particular circumstances of that colony alone, and not that of the settlements generally.

THE GAMBIA.

The British possessions forming the settlement of the Gambia consist of the Island of St. Mary, on the left bank and at the mouth of the river, obtained by purchase, and first occupied by settlers in 1806; on this is situated the town of Bathurst. The Island of McCarthy, about 150 miles up the river, was also purchased about the year 1820. In 1826 a strip of land on the right bank of the river, opposite to St. Mary's Island, and one mile in width, was ceded by the King of Barra; and in the year 1840 a small elevated spot, about seven miles to the south of Bathurst, called Cape St. Mary, was obtained by purchase from the King of Combo. Lastly, in 1855, a considerable tract of country adjoining Cape St. Mary, was ceded by the king and chiefs of Combo, and is known as British Combo.

The settlement was at first placed under the jurisdiction of Sierra Leone, but in 1813 it was created an independent colony, with a Governor and Executive and Legislative Councils for the administration of its affairs, an arrangement which is still in force.

There is no protected territory, nor has the Government any particular influence over, or intimate relations with any tribe or country.

Ground-nuts, hides, and wax form the principal articles of export from the colony (Return No. 1, Appendix), but six-sevenths of the whole export consist of ground-nuts. These are cultivated not only by the people of the settlement, but also by the natives from the interior, Serawoolies, Tilliebunkas, and other nomadic tribes who occupy or hire from the owners land on the banks of the creeks and rivers, and in some instances to a distance of forty miles inland, with the assistance of their domestic slaves, plant the nut about the end of June and reap it at Christmas. It is calculated that one man can work an acre of land which should produce about 300 bushels, worth about 30l.

The trade is comparatively of recent origin, having only commenced in 1815, in which year the value of the export was but 109l.; in 1859, it had reached 188,000l.; of late years, owing principally to the war amongst the native tribes, it has somewhat fallen off, and in 1861 the value of the crop was only 78,000l. The greater part of these nuts, probably three-fourths, are exported to France, where they are converted into an oil which is sold as olive oil, and is largely used for domestic purposes.

The recent falling off in the ground-nut crop has led the merchants to direct their attention to cotton, and steps are being taken to induce the natives to adopt its cultivation, fifteen tons and a half having been exported in 1864.

The policy of this measure appears doubtful: there is no diminution in the demand for ground-nuts, nor any reason to suppose that they will cease to be in request, so long as oil continues so extensively an article of continental consumption; it is difficult to prevail on the natives to change their habits or customs, and, even if successful in the present instance, it must be a long time before the cotton crop can rival in value even the ground-nut crop of the past year. It is also to be feared that the cultivation of cotton, requiring attention during a considerable portion of the year, and being necessarily carried on in the same spot, will be unsuited to the habits of the wandering tribes engaged in growing the ground-nut, a cultivation which only requires their absence from home during four months of the year, and which they can carry on wherever they please on paying a percentage for the use of the land.

Moreover, a cotton plantation is liable to destruction at any time when war may break out in its neighbourhood, whilst ground-nuts are exposed to this very common danger during only one-third of the year.

If, however, prices do not soon fall to their original level, there is no doubt but that cotton will be cultivated successfully at the Gambia, though it is to be hoped not to the exclusion of the ground-nut.

The export of hides has not varied much in the ten years previous to 1864, and the value of wax exported remains much what it has been of late years.

The principal articles of import are (Return No. 2, Appendix) cotton goods, rice, and tobacco; a large proportion of the population being Mohammedan, the consumption of spirits is not as great as in the other settlements. In cotton goods, there is but little variation during the last ten years, and the same may be said of tobacco. Rice, owing to the famine caused by the recent wars amongst the natives, has become a large article of consumption, and, as it can be procured at a reasonable rate, it will very likely continue to form a considerable portion of the food of the people, who will devote more land to the cultivation of produce and less to that of corn, &c.

In the Appendix is given a Return (No. 3) of the imports and exports for the last eleven years. The imports of 1863 were the highest ever known, and next in amount to them come those of 1864: it is alleged in the colony, that this does not arise from the importation of a larger quantity of goods in these two years, but from the circumstance that in 1863 there came into operation a law by which all import duties, except upon wine, spirits, and tobacco, were abolished, and an export duty on ground-nuts substituted in lieu thereof. The result of this law has been to remove all motive on the part of the importer for concealing the value of his goods, and the returns made since then represent the true value of the imports of the colony. It is impossible to ascertain how far this statement is correct, but no other explanation of the fact was offered by any one.

The exports for the last eleven years show considerable variation, and in each of the last six years are below the average of the whole period. This is unquestionably due to the wars and disturbances which have prevailed among the natives during this time, and until peace is re-established, and confidence in its continuance restored, any improvement can hardly be looked for.

The capabilities of the country to produce oil nuts and seeds, are limited only by the extent of the population, of whom only a fraction at present employ themselves in cultivation; but a growing disposition to avail themselves of the advantages which it offers is being manifested by the natives, even at a considerable distance from the settlement, and it may be hoped that this feeling will not be without its effect in checking those local disturbances which have of late proved so injurious to the prosperity of the colony.

The revenue of the colony up to the year 1863 (Return No. 4, Appendix) was derived from an *ad valorem* duty of four per cent. on imports, with certain heavier specific rates on tobacco, spirits, &c., but (as has been already stated) in 1863 there was substituted for this an export duty of three farthings a bushel on ground-nuts and twopence on hides.

The grounds on which this alteration has been effected are said to be, that the ground-nuts being chiefly exported to France, and a prohibitory duty preventing their being carried in any but French vessels, the trade has, to a great extent, fallen into the hands of French merchants, who introduced a system of purchasing their nuts with spice, and thus evaded contributing anything to the revenue either on their import or export trade: as the trade conducted by British merchants was carried on by bartering for the nuts goods from England on which an import duty had been paid, they were evidently placed under a disadvantage as compared with the French trader. One result is said to have been (as has been already observed) that the return of the value of the imports was much below their actual worth, and this seems to have been an additional motive

with the Legislature for substituting an export duty on the two chief articles of export, and thus compelling the whole trade of the country to share the burden. At the same time, it is not clear why, in the face of the fact that the cultivation of the ground-nut has lately diminished to such an extent as to induce the merchants to turn their attention to cotton, they should have concurred (as they did) in a plan which makes their revenue almost entirely dependent upon this nut. Although the results of the change have been so far favourable that the revenue of 1863 and 1864 was in excess of that of the former six years, it has been too short a time in operation to allow an opinion to be formed of the prospect which it affords for the future.

The Return No. 4 (Appendix) shows the principal sources from which the public revenue has been derived in each of the last five years: it will be seen that the Customs contribute the greater part of the whole amount, the Parliamentary grant, which is usually about 4,000*l.* a year, being divided between the maintenance of the steamer *Dover*, and the payment of certain salaries, the balance being made up of small sums derived from fines, &c. There can be no doubt but that at the Gambia, as in all the other West Coast settlements, the revenue can only be safely and conveniently raised from duties levied on its trade, and it will be well to watch carefully the operation of the present system, and be prepared to modify it, should the necessity at any time present itself.

The expenditure of the settlement for each of the last eleven years is given in gross in Return 4 (Appendix) and in detail No. 6. The civil establishments form the principal charge on the funds of the Colony: public works, the colonial hospital, transport, and other expenses consequent on the recent disturbances, both in the neighbourhood of the settlements and on other parts of the coast where the Colony has been called upon to contribute aid, with the usual demands for police, gaoles, aborigines, &c., make up the annual expenditure, which, unfortunately, the year's revenue is rarely able to meet—the result is, as shown in the Return No. 7 (Appendix), that on the 1st January in the present year the colony had incurred liabilities beyond its power to defray, to the amount of 5,630*l.*

There is no chance that this state of things will be remedied until the Colony learns to appreciate the necessity of regulating its expenditure by its power of raising revenue, nor need this be a very difficult task. The revenue derived from customs in 1862 was 8,314*l.*; in the following year, an export duty having been substituted for the import duty, the revenue raised was 10,125*l.*; but, had the import duty been continued, and those precautions taken to protect the Colony against fraud which it should be in the power of every Government to adopt, the duty, at the previous import rates, which would have been payable on imports to the value of 175,956*l.* would have been 14,634*l.*, giving a clear gain of revenue of upwards of 4,500*l.* in that one year, which would have gone some considerable way towards paying off the liabilities of the Colony. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the present mode of raising the revenue has much to recommend it on the score of fairness, and that it has as yet been attended with some success.

British law is administered in the Colony through the agency of a supreme court, which sits periodically at Bathurst, and is presided over by the chief justice; of a court of requests; and a police magistrate's court. There is a Queen's advocate, who is also a police magistrate, a sheriff, and coroner, with the usual officers of the courts and justices of the peace.

The judicial establishments are quite sufficient for the due administration of justice, and they appear to fulfil their functions satisfactorily.

Although the charge for the civil establishments absorbs so large a proportion of the whole revenue, it does not appear that they are on an excessive scale.

The number of appointments is undoubtedly large, but none of them have extravagant, and some have very small salaries. The unhealthiness of the climate necessitates here, as everywhere else on the coast, such an apportionment of the duties of the officers as will enable a substitute to be found for any appointment, whenever the necessity arises.

The military force assigned for the occupation of the Gambia consists of three companies of black troops, two companies of which are intended to be stationed at Bathurst, and the remaining company divided between McCarthy's Island and the outposts of Fort Bullen and St. Mary's. Neither the number nor disposition of this force seems open to objection so long as the present outposts are retained, but if these can be reduced, no doubt a corresponding diminution can be effected in the military force.

There was formerly a small, but very effective militia, which has more than once done good service against the natives, but the local

act under which it was embodied expired last session, and the financial difficulties of the Colony, with certain local jealousies to which it had given rise, were found serious impediments to its continuance, and it has, consequently, not been re-enacted.

The Ecclesiastical Establishment consists of a colonial chaplain, who also officiates for the troops. There is a Roman Catholic church, and a small conventual establishment in connexion with it; the Wesleyans have a chapel at Bathurst and another at McCarthy's Island. An allowance of 100*l.* per annum is made to the Wesleyan Mission, and the same to the Roman Catholic, in aid of general education, and a further grant of 30*l.* to each for charitable purposes. The Government maintains a small school for the education of the children of the pensioners and liberated Africans in British Combo.

There is a public hospital, in the charge of a colonial surgeon, with the requisite staff of attendants. This establishment, which is maintained at a total cost of about 1,200*l.* per annum, has proved of inestimable benefit, both to the inhabitants and to the large number of sailors and others whom trade brings to the colony.

The tribes in the immediate neighbourhood of the settlement are chiefly Mandingos, who are divided into two classes—Marabouts, or strict observers of the law of Mahomet, and Soninkees, who are only nominal Moslems, and are, indeed, usually termed Pagans.

Between these two classes there is an unfortunate animosity, which is constantly bringing them into collision with one another, and which is mainly caused by the efforts of the Marabouts to compel the Soninkees to conform to Mohammedism.

For two years past a fanatic of the name of Maba has been preaching a crusade against the unbelievers of his race, and after desolating a large tract of country on the right bank of the river, burning the towns, and carrying into captivity their inhabitants, he was finally checked, by the influence of the Governor, when about to invade the British part of the territory of Barra, and induced to retire into the interior.

This, and similar disturbances, arising either from the same cause, or from quarrels among the natives of adjoining tribes, have produced an unsettled feeling, which has interrupted agriculture and very much depressed the trade of the settlements.

The Mandingos, who are the chief owners of the soil, are indisposed to labour, but they employ their slaves to some extent in cultivation. They have the character of being crafty, intriguing, and not very brave, but they are strictly sober, and in this respect they possess an advantage over their Soninkee brethren, in dealing with the traders, of which the latter are not slow to complain, and which has, perhaps, tended in some measure to give them a more unfavourable character than they deserve.

There can, however, be no doubt that their fanaticism, their consequent readiness to quarrel with all who do not hold their tenets, and the little they contribute to the revenue of the settlement, either by consuming such of its imports as are still taxed, or by producing anything for export, to a certain extent justify the colonists in their general objection to them as neighbours.

The Soninkees and other Pagan tribes are more docile, they labour on the soil, especially the latter, some of whom come from great distances in the interior—it is said as far as the Niger; they leave their wives at home, and, after hiring land and raising two crops of ground-nuts, they return to their own country with the proceeds.

It has been alleged that the English power in the River Gambia has imperceptibly been enlisted on the side of the Pagans in endeavours to check the progress of Moslem faith and conquest on this part of Africa, but for this there appears no foundation whatever. The local Government has carefully abstained from any interference in the civil and religious wars which the tribes in the neighbourhood periodically wage against each other, and whenever it has come into collision with them it has been for the vindication of its rights against their aggression; indeed, inquiry shows that in the greater number of instances in which interference has been called for of late years, the Pagans, and not the Moslems, have been the subject of it. There is no doubt but that Mohammedism is slowly but steadily making its way south, and that it will probably eventually exercise its sway over the whole of the countries in which we have established ourselves; but, although it is impossible not to hope that the day may be far distant, any attempt on our part to impede its progress would be as useless as it would be unjust.

We have numerous treaties, to cessions of territory, and always they relate, in some instances, to the abolition of slave trade, and the preservation of peace. They are not entered into by the natives without great consideration, and as they are rarely, if

ever, broken, they are decidedly beneficial to the colony. Moreover, they afford us the plea for proffering our intervention when they show a disposition to quarrel amongst themselves, and in some recent instances our interference has been attended with very good results. The practice which has been long and successfully followed at Sierra Leone, of paying the chiefs small stipends to encourage them in observing these engagements, might advantageously be introduced at the Gambia.

As the trade, the revenue, and the general prosperity of the Colony depend entirely on the preservation of peace throughout the country, it is natural that the authorities should desire to extend as far and as widely as possible their influence over the people. By the acquisition which was forced upon us in 1853 of the native territory south of the Island of St. Mary, known as British Combo, and which has since been settled by military pensioners and captured Africans, we have interposed a barrier between the colony and a warlike and troublesome race, and have thus not only diminished the chances of future collisions, but have done much to ensure the peaceful cultivation of a large and valuable tract of country. On the northern side of the river, although we have long been the nominal possessors of a considerable portion of the Barra country, we have never ventured to exercise over it the slightest jurisdiction, and it has now been largely built on by the Marabouts, fanatics with whom it would be impossible to interfere; all thought of obtaining any influence over a country which they inhabit must therefore be abandoned. There is, how- ever, one Soninke town, Essow, situated within the ceded mile of Barra, and just opposite St. Mary's Island, which, at the intercession of Governor d'Arcy, was spared by Maba when he burnt all the Pagan towns in the neighbourhood. Conscious of their weakness, the chiefs and people have expressed to the Governor a desire to live under the British rule, the simplest mode of effecting which would be by the cession of their country, but this is impracticable, from the fact that they are slaveholders. There are also strong objections to their being made a protectorate, in the sense in which this word is understood in England. It would, however, be a subject of much regret if this small, harmless, and useful community should thus be abandoned to destruction through the fear of our becoming involved in unnecessary responsibilities, and it is to be hoped that the local Government may, without risk to itself, find some means of extending to them the protection they seek. Such a step would further our obtaining that influence on the northern side of the river of which, as has been stated, we are reaping the benefits on the south.

The natives not being British subjects, with the exception of the few residing permanently in the colony, are not, of course, liable to direct taxation, but the principal part of the revenue being derived from an export duty on ground-nuts, the produce of their labour, they do contribute largely, though indirectly, their share of taxation.

The export of slaves has been unknown at the Gambia for many years. In the wars which are constantly taking place between the natives, the prisoners are made slaves, and are either retained to work for their masters, or are sold to other parts of the country for the same purpose.

All labour is performed by the domestic slaves of the family, who, as a rule, are kindly treated, and are not often parted with, except under circumstances of necessity.

There is some reason to suppose that coloured traders and trading agents, when following their avocations at a distance from the settlements, occasionally engage in slave-dealing transactions with the natives; but these operations are conducted beyond British jurisdiction, and as yet it has been found impossible to bring any case home to an offender.

In point of unhealthiness the climate of the Gambia probably varies little from that of the other settlements. There is considerable sickness during and after the rains; but many of the merchants, finding that their business makes but light demands upon them during that season, are in the habit of passing in England the worst months of the year. Military officers who suffer in health to any considerable extent are at once invalided, and civil officers are afforded every facility for obtaining the advantages of a change of climate: thus not only are very few Europeans compelled to remain in the colony for any length of time without a change, but there is also a consequent diminution in the number of deaths from the effects of the climate.

It has often been urged that the unhealthiness of the Gambia is largely due to the unfavourable situation of Bathurst, the capital and seat of trade, on the low-lying and swampy Island of St. Mary, and it has been suggested that a great improvement would be effected and it has been suggested that a seat of government to the more airy and elevated situation of Cape St. Mary.

There can be no question of the superior healthiness of the Cape, and on this account alone the transfer would be very desirable; but

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although the government offices might be removed there, it is certain that the merchants would not on this account alone consent to incur the heavy expense of moving their store-houses and long-established places of business from the safe anchorage and convenient landing-places of the river to the exposed situation of St. Mary, which is in no respect so well adapted for the purposes of trade. So long, therefore, as Bathurst remains the seat of trade, it is necessary for its convenience that the custom-house and other public offices connected with it should not be removed from its neighbourhood.

One cause of the unhealthiness of Bathurst is the existence in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of an offensive and pestilent swamp; but from a recent report of Major Clarke, R.E., it appears that, for the sum of about 7,000*l.*, the whole space, covering nearly 1,000 acres, could be closely and efficiently drained. Unfortunately, the circumstances of the colony forbid the hope that it will for a considerable time to come be in a position to afford this outlay, even for a work of such paramount importance to its interests.

The Island of McCarthy, about 150 miles up the river, is occupied as an advanced post for the protection of trade in its neighbourhood; its establishment usually consists of a commandant, who acts as magistrate, and is generally the military officer in command, of two assistant-surgeons and about thirty men. It is certainly of advantage to the trade of the upper river that there should be such a post, but the climate is so unfavourable to the European constitution, and the expense involved in the maintenance of even this small establishment is so large, that it becomes worthy of consideration whether it could not be placed upon a smaller and more economical footing without seriously imperilling the interest for the protection of which it was established.

For the purpose of keeping up its communication with McCarthy's Island, and for the general navigation of the river in connection with the protection of its trade, the Government has the services of a small paddle-wheel steamer, which discharges this duty very effectually. As it appears this vessel is only under steam during part of the year, it is open to question whether her more frequent employment on the river would not more than compensate for any danger or inconvenience which may be expected to result from the reduction of the military force at McCarthy's Island.

SIERRA LEONE.

The Colony of Sierra Leone consists of the peninsula on which is situated Freetown, and which was settled towards the close of the last century. From 1819 to 1824 portions of land on the Bullom shore, on the opposite side of the river, and a tract of country along the Rokel river, were also obtained from the natives, but these cessions have never been turned to any practical account. The Isles de Los, to the north of the peninsula, are also British territory, but have not been occupied of late years. The Island of Bulama was ceded to us in 1799, and has been occupied since 1860; the Portuguese have, however, put in a claim to this territory, which is now under the consideration of Her Majesty's and the Portuguese Governments. The cession of Sherbro Island and a portion of the mainland opposite was accepted in 1861, at the desire of the inhabitants, who were anxious for the security which British protection would afford them. In 1861, the people of Quiah, inhabiting the mainland adjoining the peninsula, having become very troublesome to the traders, an expedition was sent against them, and after their defeat a treaty was signed, by which they ceded a small portion of their territory as a security for peace. In the following year further disturbances took place, and a similar expedition sent against them resulted in their complete defeat and submission. It was then considered necessary, in order to secure the colony against the chance of further annoyance, to annex that portion of their territory adjoining Sierra Leone, and from which the more refractory of the inhabitants being driven, it might interpose a barrier between the colony and their troublesome neighbours. This policy has hitherto been attended with perfect success, and effectually secured the colony from any further aggression in this quarter.

There is no protectorate, nor anything analogous thereto, exercised over any part of the country, the government of which is administered by a governor, with executive and legislative councils.

Return No. 8 (Appendix) shows the value of the principal articles of export from the colony during the last ten years. In this period there has been a large increase in the quantities of oil nuts and seeds; ginger also is becoming a prominent article of export. Less gold is supplied than formerly, and the introduction of iron shipbuilding has almost extinguished the timber trade. After deducting the value of the principal articles of export, there still remains a numerous class of miscellaneous articles, the total value of which, during each of the last two years, is not far short of the total value of the exports of the colony ten years since. With the exception of ginger and arrow-

root, but a small proportion of the articles exported from the colony is raised within the peninsula. The Quiah and Sherbro districts now belonging to the colony contribute a considerable share, but by far the greater quantity of exports comes from the interior, the numerous rivers by which the country is intersected affording the natives a ready means of bringing their produce in canoes to Sierra Leone.

The cultivation of cotton is attracting some attention, but the country possesses such peculiar aptitude for the production of oil seeds, and recent researches have made known so many different sources from which valuable and useful oils can be obtained, that it is hardly likely that cotton growing will, for the present, be carried on extensively, or with much vigour.

The imports of the colony (Return No. 9, Appendix) are chiefly cotton and silk goods, tobacco, wines and spirits, "miscellaneous" articles, serving to swell considerably the total value. There is nothing in the character of the imports for the last ten years to call for particular observation.

Return No. 10 (Appendix) exhibits the total value of the imports and exports of the colony for the last ten years, and shows how great has been the increase of both within this period—an increase which, from its gradual and steady growth, is evidently due to a corresponding development of the resources of the country. There is no doubt but that much of this improvement in the producing and consuming powers of the colony is due to the acquisition of the Sherbro and Quiah territories, the former of which possesses a river that affords the only access to a large extent of country, and through which, consequently, all goods intended for consumption in the interior must pass, paying us duties thereon. It is true that traders may take advantage of the Gallinas river, situated some distance to the south, to introduce their goods into the interior without the payment of duty, but there is a dangerous bar at its mouth, which must always be an impediment to its use. Besides the advantage which the possession of this highway into the interior affords, the land of Sherbro is very fertile, and promises to add materially to the agricultural wealth of the colony. The occupation of these territories and of Bulama has had the effect of preserving peace and order over a considerable extent of country hitherto liable to the disturbing influence of constant native wars, and thus enabling the people to follow their ordinary occupations in security.

Return No. 11 (Appendix) shows the revenue and expenditure of the colony for the last ten years, whilst Returns No. 12 and 13 show the principal sources from which that revenue was derived, and the principal objects upon which it was expended in each of the last five years.

The only aid which the colony receives from Imperial funds is 2,000*l.* a-year, for the payment of the Governor's salary.

The steady advance in general prosperity which the return of its imports and exports exhibits has produced a corresponding increase in the revenue of the colony. The greater part of this increase has been derived from customs, which have augmented 25 per cent. in the last five years; indeed, every other source of revenue shows an improvement within this period, and that from "Miscellaneous" has more than quadrupled.

The possession of a larger income has necessarily led to a larger expenditure, but by careful management of its finances, although the outlay in particular years has exceeded the revenue, the colony has avoided incurring any debt.

The addition of new territory has involved the augmentation of the civil establishments, as well as of that for police and gaols. The expenditure on public works has more than doubled, whilst under the head "Miscellaneous" is borne the heavy charge arising from the native differences which resulted in the acquisition of the Quiah territory, charges which, instead of being thrown, as has been too often the case, on Imperial funds, have been readily defrayed by the colonists, although entailing upon them in one year alone an outlay of 4,000*l.*

The colony has no public debt, and there was a small balance in the Treasury on the 31st December, 1864.

The taxation of the colony consists of an *ad valorem* duty of 4 per cent. on all imports, except wines, spirits, tobacco, and certain other articles, on which specific rates are charged. There is also a licence duty on the retail of spirits, on boats, canoes, and hawkers, and generally on certain articles of produce brought from the interior. There is, moreover, a tax on houses and land, and a tax for the repair of the roads.

The import duty is fixed at a reasonable rate, and it has recently been found possible to reduce the specific rates payable on wine and spirits. The bulk of the licence duty is collected in Freetown, and is to a great extent payable on produce, which, as it does not come into the colony from abroad, would otherwise be consumed without contributing anything to its revenue.

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The house tax is 5*s.* on houses of the value of 5*l.* and under, and 1*s.* in the pound on houses over the value of 5*l.*

The land tax is 6*d.* per acre on all land under cultivation.

The road tax is 1*s.* 6*d.* per head per annum.

The payment of these three last taxes has not yet been extended to Bulama, and has only been partially introduced into the Sherbro district. It is, however, in full force in the Peninsula and Quiah, and will be imposed upon the remainder of the colony as it becomes ripe for it.

The taxation of the colony does not appear to be considered by the inhabitants excessive; and although the existence of a Chamber of Commerce, having one of its members to represent it in the Legislative Council, affords a ready mode of addressing complaints or remonstrances to the Legislature, none appear to have been made on this subject. Several objections have, however, been urged by this body to the mode in which the house, land, and road taxes are levied, and to some of the charges for the civil establishments of the colony during the current year; and although no doubt these objections have been met and disposed of by the Executive before whom they were laid, yet, as they emanated from a body of such great weight and respectability, and were made public through the medium of the local press, some observations respecting them may not be out of place.

The objections to the house, land, and road taxes were, that "many defaulters are pecuniarily unable to pay, and their punishment and treatment in the common gaol are identical with the punishments inflicted on criminals who have been tried and convicted of heinous crimes." It appeared that the latter part of this complaint was not without foundation, but instructions were at once given, substituting a different and less harsh treatment. There seemed, however, to have been an error in the statement that pecuniary inability to pay necessarily subjected the defaulter to imprisonment. Under the 23rd clause of the House and Land-tax Ordinance, persons unable to pay may not on that account be imprisoned, but must be called on to give labour in place of money; and it is only after proof that such demand has been made and disobeyed, that there is any power to commit the defaulters to gaol. So in the 7th clause of the Road-tax Ordinance, a substitute for labour may be provided in lieu of the money payment, and the punishment in default of both may be fine and not imprisonment. There may, no doubt, be destitute and decrepid persons unable either to pay or work; but the managers of districts, commissioners, and clerks, have instructions to recommend all such to the Executive for exemption; and in year 1863 1,652 houses out of 5,037 were exempted from the tax. Under the Road Ordinance, power is given to any justice of the peace to exempt destitute and decrepid persons from either payment or labour. These facts sufficiently disprove the more serious part of the complaints against the working of these laws.

The objections made to the proposed civil establishments were, that the division of the office of Colonial Secretary into a Colonial Secretary's and a Treasurer's Departments, entailed an expense of 600*l.* per annum.

Under the system as it previously existed, the duties of the Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, and of the Auditor, were all carried on in the same office under the Colonial Secretary, an arrangement manifestly very objectionable, and affording no security in the management of the revenue. By a rearrangement of the different offices, and some addition to the clerks, the Colonial Secretary's and Treasurer's Departments have been entirely separated; and, considering the flourishing state of the revenue, and the important end which will be attained, it can hardly be said that 600*l.* a-year is an extravagant outlay for this purpose.

It was urged that the expenses of the Harbourmaster's Department were excessive, especially the charge for boats; but it is stated that the duties required of it are very heavy, and the reduction of 85*l.* per annum has been effected in its cost since 1862.

With respect to judicial expenses, it was suggested that the offices of Master of the Court and Registrar General might with advantage and economy be amalgamated, a proposal which has met with the Governor's concurrence, and will be carried out whenever the opportunity offers.

The charge for police, gaols, district managers, and constabulary, amounting in the whole to about 14,000*l.* per annum, is placed in unfavourable contrast with the small sum of 292*l.*, which is stated to be the entire appropriation for educational purposes.

The heavy charge for police and management is necessitated by the extensive and widely-separated territories which now comprise the settlements. The peninsula itself is settled all over with large bodies of liberated Africans, not having amongst them any white person who could be intrusted with authority, or who, from his position as a landed proprietor or manufacturer, would be able to exercise any beneficial influence over them. This condition of affairs compels the

Government to provide, at considerable expense, a comparatively large establishment of managers, police, &c., for the administration of justice and the preservation of order. Between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.* of this sum is also expended on the recently acquired territories of Bulama and Sherbro; but, short as has been the time for the development of their resources, the latter district alone is already producing a revenue in excess of this charge.

Large, therefore, as the outlay incurred under the head in question, it does not appear incommensurate with the requirements and circumstances of the colony.

The objection urged to the small amount voted for education will be considered under that head.

Exception was also taken to only 3,500*l.* being appropriated to works and buildings; but the expenditure on this account has of late been so heavy that its limitation was not unadvisable.

The Chamber was also of opinion that the sum of 1,394*l.*, stipends to native chiefs, was so much money thrown away, and should be discontinued. This point will be considered when the question of treaties with the native chiefs comes under review.

A careful examination of the proposed outlay on behalf of the judicial and other civil establishments of the colony, due consideration being at the same time given to the objections of the Chamber of Commerce, leads to the conclusion that the charges on this account are not in themselves unreasonable or extravagant, and fairly meet the requirements of the settlements.

The military force appropriated for the occupation of the colony consist of five companies of a West India regiment. At present, detachments are furnished to all the outposts, an arrangement which materially diminishes the efficiency of the force, without contributing in a corresponding degree to the security or benefit of the colony. The militia of the colony consists of one regiment of infantry, and of some cavalry and artillery.

The ecclesiastical establishment of the colony consists of a bishop, who also exercises jurisdiction over all the other settlements on the coast, of a colonial chaplain, and of an assistant chaplain, with the necessary officers for a cathedral.

For many years the Church Missionary Society bore the whole expense of the churches established in the different villages throughout the peninsula in which the liberated Africans were settled. In 1860 it was considered that the time had arrived when a great portion of this burden might be legitimately thrown on the people and of this country, the Society reserving to itself the maintenance of a single church in Freetown, and purposing to devote its efforts more especially to the higher class educational establishments.

In 1861 the native pastorates were accordingly formed by the transfer of nine native clergymen to the parochial duties of the colony, under the control of the bishop. The stipends assigned to these ministers have been fixed on a very moderate scale, and the whole cost of the arrangement has been hitherto provided for by a temporary grant from the Church Missionary Society, and the contributions of the native congregations. The system has not been in operation for any length of time, but the manner in which the people have accepted the novel and unexpected charge thrown upon them, entitles them to much praise. The Church Missionary Society having now withdrawn its grant, the colony has voted a sum in aid of the establishment, which there is no doubt will be augmented, should it be found necessary still further to supplement the efforts of the people. It is right to add that, notwithstanding the reduction which the Church Missionary Society has felt bound to make in its expenditure in the maintenance of missionaries and native clergy in Sierra Leone, it still devotes annually 3,000*l.* to this important object. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel also support their mission at a cost of about 600*l.* a-year. Churches and ministers representing all the other Christian denominations are to be found in the settlements, principally in Freetown, but no authentic information has been obtained respecting the cost of their maintenance; none, however, receive any aid from the Government.

(To be continued in our next number.)

POPULATION, &c., OF SIERRA LEONE.—The census taken in 1860 showed a population of 41,624, with 11,418 dwellings in the colony; 15,782 of the population were liberated Africans, and 22,593 had been born in the colony. Perhaps the most gratifying piece of information disclosed by the census is, that of the whole population only 3,351 remained Pagans, and only 1,734 were Mohammedans; 15,180 were Methodists, 12,954 Episcopalians, 11,016 children were taught in the schools in a year.

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