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The Capital of this Company has been fully subscribed.

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

In 1827, the value of British and Foreign Goods exported from the United Kingdom to the

West Coast of Africa was		
In 1840,	"	£155,759
In 1850,	"	410,798
In 1860,	"	890,216
	"	1,145,434

The total actual value of imports from Africa into the United Kingdom for the six years, 1856 to 1861 inclusive (being the latest Official return), amounted to £9,804,356

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The African Company's screw steamer *Ethiopia*, Captain G. Corbett, arrived at Liverpool about one p.m. on the 15th, with mails from the West Coast of Africa. At Benin palm oil was in mails from the West Coast of Africa. The health of the river was good. The bark *Alumina*, and the ship *Sunshine*, of the river were in port. Advices from Cameroons state trade of Liverpool, were in port. Although prices of oil continued high; the port was healthy. The British ships *H. M. Beth* and *Caboceer* were in port, and the ship *Sardinia* had sailed on the 12th of May for Quebec.

At Old Calabar trade was pretty brisk, and the river healthy. The ships *Majestic*, *Irene*, *Elizabeth*, *Golden Age*, *St. George*, *Estremadura*, and *Moulton* were in the river.

At Fernando Po the health of the island was very fair, yet there was a general dulness in trade. Her Majesty's ship *Dart* was cruising off the island.

At Bonny the rainy season had commenced, but on account of the healthy condition of the place, business was brisk. The ships *Sparkling Wave*, *Clara*, *Star of Hope*, *Faith*, and *Belle* of the Ocean, were in port. The *Manners Sutton* was in port ready for sea. The *Grand Bonny* sailed for Liverpool on the 27th of May.

At Brass trade was rather dull, and sickness prevailed in the river. The British ships *St. George*, *Selina*, *Orient*, *Devonshire*, *Florence Nightingale*, and *Hound* were in port.

At Lagos a considerable improvement in trade had taken place since the departure of the last mail, and produce was coming forward pretty freely to *Jebu* and *Porto Novo* markets. The health of the Europeans was good. It was believed that the disputes so long pending between the Government at Lagos and the chiefs of *Abeokuta* were on the eve of being finally adjusted. The *Ethiopia* on her homeward voyage conveyed from Lagos to Cape Coast Castle 50 men of the 5th West India Regiment* for trial by court-martial at the latter station, for mutiny and desertion to the enemy whilst employed in active operations against the *Egba* tribes in March last. The steamer *Thomas Bazley*, of Liverpool; the schooner *Medina*, of London; and the schooner *Emilie*, of Genoa, were in port.

At Accra there was a fair business doing, and the health of the place was good. The barque *Francois et Marie* was in the river.

At Cape Coast Castle the health was pretty good, but trade was dull. All communication with the Ashantee country continues closed. The rainy season had set in very heavily. His Excellency Major Jones, Lieutenant-Governor, died at Cape Coast Castle on the 3rd of June. The schooner *Edward Caleston*, of Bristol, was in port.

At Cape Palmas the health was good, and trade tolerably steady. The Royal mail steamer *Macgregor Laird* arrived on the 16th June, and left for the Leewards same day.

Intestine wars had broken out amongst the natives in the Mellicourie country, near Sierra Leone, and several European factories had been destroyed and plundered. The authorities at Sierra Leone were adopting measures to punish the marauders and obtain reparation for the losses sustained by British subjects during the disturbance. Trade was very inactive, and in consequence of heavy rains sickness was rather prevalent amongst Europeans. The ships *Advance*, *Day Spring*, and *Ellerslie* were in port.

At Bathurst the health was very good, but the trade was dull. The barque *Le Grace*, of Marseilles, was in port.

COLONEL D'ARCY, GOVERNOR OF THE GAMBIA, AND REFUGEE SLAVES.

We are rather glad that a little misconception on the part of one of our Gambia correspondents as to the exact date of the present Governor's arrival in the colony, should have led to the production of the evidence we gave last month, to the effect that Colonel D'Arcy had always refused to surrender any escaped slave who might have taken refuge in the colony. The following correspondence, forwarded to us by Mr. Symon Gay, Superintendent of Police at Bathurst, is confirmatory of what we inserted last month, and places Colonel D'Arcy's praiseworthy conduct in uniformly maintaining the sacredness of the right of asylum for refugee slaves in a British colony clearly before us.

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,
November, 1862.

Sir,—In answer to your question, what am I to do with runaway slaves? I cannot do better than refer you to a letter lately sent to the officer commanding the troops. (Letter annexed marked A.)

On reporting themselves at the station house, you will be pleased distinctly to inform the slaves that they are free—as free as the birds in the air—now they have arrived on British soil; but they must find employment, otherwise they will be taken up

as vagabonds, and made to work on the roads for the public benefit.—I have, &c.,
G. D'ARCY, Col. and Governor.
P.S.—It gives me great satisfaction to address so old, faithful, and brave a soldier as the Superintendent of Police.

(A.)

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia, July 27, 1862.
Honourable Sir,—Some doubts having arisen as to the proper course to be adopted in the event of slaves running into the Fort and out-stations, I have the honour to draw up a few plain instructions for the guidance of the officers under your command, who may be embarrassed by the sudden arrival of slaves. In the Senegambia the slavery is solely of a domestic character, unaccompanied with the severity which disfigures the more southern part of the Coast, and when we come to reflect how time-honoured is the institution of slavery, to the manifest prevention of poverty, and how necessary it is to keep on friendly terms with the native population, to whose industry we are so beholden for the ground-nuts trade, is it not surprising that my predecessors have been in the habit of preventing the runaways from receiving any assistance from the Government even in an indirect manner; yet if they succeed in reaching British territory, they are, of course, free, and their liberty cannot be restrained except by the legal warrant of the Courts.

The proper course to adopt is, on slaves running into the fort, to be told that they are free to reside in Berwick Town, or to pass over to Bathurst, provided they have money to pay their passage, but not in any boat directly or indirectly connected with the Government.

Alas! at Cape Saint Mary's the refugees had better not be allowed to remain in the fort. However, they may be informed that if their liberty is threatened, to appeal to the constable on the spot for protection.—I have, &c., G. D'ARCY, Governor.

To the Hon. Captain Ivey, 4th W.I. Regt.,

Officer Commanding the Troops.

Between March, 1864, and June, 1865, about fourteen runaway slaves came to the station-house for protection, stating that they understood that whoever, being a slave, escaped to British ground was declared free. My reply has always been, "Yes; but you can only claim British protection as long as you continue within our jurisdiction."

A few days ago the wife of the King of Farrabah Banta (not the one named before) made her escape to British Combo, in consequence of bad treatment received from the King, who soon came with his men, and was about to carry the woman away by force; but the manager of that district rode off immediately to the spot, and ordered all parties concerned in the affair to repair to the Government House, in order that the Governor may decide the case. The Governor, after hearing both sides, promised to do all he could to effect peace, as it appeared to him to be only a matrimonial dispute, and he hoped the woman would, of her own free will, return with the King, her husband. Meanwhile, the woman was placed under the protection of the police, and until further orders from the Governor, both wife and husband were maintained at the public expense. The Governor of his liberal disposition occasionally sent the King, through my hands, money to buy colas or anything he desired. A few days afterward the Governor asked me to speak with the woman; but as she could not be prevailed on to go or return with her husband, she was then told she can go wherever she likes, but must bear in mind that she could only be protected whilst she remains on British grounds, and not elsewhere.

Mr. Editor, if I do not trespass on your time and columns, you will do me a great favour by inserting this in your journal, and subscribe my name,
SYMON GAY,
Superintendent of Police.
(An old Gambian.)

SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

June 22, 1865.

Sir,—The *Ethiopia* only arrived here last evening, being three days behind time; the mail-bag closes shortly, and, being very busy, I am consequently pressed for time. There has been fighting in the Mellicourie River amongst the *Soosoo* people. Broadhurst and Frame's factory was ransacked of all their goods, and the roofs of their stores torn off, that their produce might be spoiled, the people being unable to destroy the palm kernels, &c., in any other way. Some officials were sent up to see into the affair, as usual, when it was all over, and consequently too late to do much good. Were this a French colony, such things would never have happened. A steamer would have been up the river ere the natives could possibly have had time to entirely ruin hardware merchants, who have been years earning a few thousands, working merchants, who have been years earning a few thousands, to lose in the same number of days, because they have no protection from this colony, whence it might be given at very small expense. There has been some fighting at Cape Mount.—Yours truly,

G.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—As your paper is the *public opinion* of Western Africa, and as the remarks in the *Observer* relative to a dispute between its editor, Mr. Walcott, and Mr. Fitzjohn, our esteemed Postmaster, is intended to deceive you and the authorities in the Colonial Department in England, pray allow me to give in your columns a simple statement of the facts of the case.

On the arrival of the English mail on the evening of Saturday, the 11th inst., after the Postmaster had assorted the whole of the letters, and placed them, as usual, alphabetically; and his clerk was delivering them by calling out the names, according to the letters of the alphabet, from A to Z, it happened that Dr. Bradshaw, of the Military Department, in passing by asked the Postmaster for his letters. Now, all the Governor's, military, and missionaries' letters have generally from time immemorial been put aside, and forwarded in a parcel. Dr. Bradshaw asking for his letters, Mr. Fitzjohn took them out of the military parcel, and delivered them to him. Mr. Rainy, an advocate here, on seeing that, applied for his letters. The Postmaster requested him to wait until his name should be called, as his letters were in the general delivery, which was going on. He was rather annoyed at that, and told Mr. Fitzjohn that he was favouring Dr. Bradshaw, because he was a white man; whereupon came the editor of the *Observer*, Mr. Walcott, and his coadjutor, Mr. Belgrave, and began to make use of very offensive language to the Postmaster. The latter, therefore, took out a summons the next day against the Editor. This, Mr. Editor, is the cause of the wholesale abuse which you will find in the editorial of the *Observer*. I am neither acquainted with Mr. Fitzjohn nor with Mr. Walcott, but I express the opinion of the majority of the Europeans and respectable native population in this colony, when I say that we have not an iota of fault to find with Mr. Fitzjohn, in the performance of his duties at the Post-office.

As we possess no respectable paper in the colony but the *Observer*, you will oblige me by giving insertion of this from
NOT A BLACK MAN.

NEW ACTING GOVERNOR OF THE GOLD COAST.

PROCLAMATION

By his Excellency Major William Elliot Mockler, Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast.

Whereas, by the lamentable death of the Lieutenant-Governor, Brevet Major Rokeby Steele Wilkinson Jones, the Government of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements became vacant:

And whereas the next in succession, the Acting Colonial Secretary, being duly sworn in as Acting Governor, having appointed me, the officer commanding Her Majesty's troops on the Gold Coast and Lagos, Acting Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast aforesaid, and he having then and there resigned, I, in virtue of my office, as laid down in the Royal Charter, succeed to the Government:

And whereas I, the said William Elliot Mockler, have taken and subscribed the usual oaths of office as Acting Governor, now, therefore, I do hereby command all and singular Her Majesty's officers, ministers, and loving subjects, and all others whom it may concern, to take due notice thereof, and to give their ready obedience accordingly.

Given at Government House, Cape Coast, this 7th day of June, 1865, by his Excellency's command.

SIDNEY R. BROWN, D.A.C.G.,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

God save the Queen.

GOLD COAST ECONOMY, &c.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, June 14, 1865.

Sir,—It is true that the Gold Coast Protectorate has cost Great Britain an immense amount of money lately, and it is equally true that those who were sent out here to protect Her Majesty's interests squandered away as much of their Royal mistress's money as they possibly could; and although I may incur Mr. Blanc's absurd indignation, pray give publicity to the following startling facts:—

Some time ago fuel was required by the troops stationed at this place, and the commissary gentlemen, to supply their want, stuck up two or three notices for "Tenders." At the time these zealous officers of the Queen posted their notices, they were well aware that in Cape Coast there were not more than two or three people who could read their notices that would be likely to "tender," although there were hundreds of ignorant chiefs, head men, and captains that were able and willing to accept a tender for fuel at 11. 2s. 6d. per cord, the highest rate known on this Coast for fuel.

These aristocratic beef and pork issuers deemed it above their

position to publish their requirements in the country style, by ringing a bell through the town (as they do themselves when they want a goodly number of purchasers for their old clothes or furniture when they are about to quit the Coast). The consequence is that Her Majesty has had to pay last week, by the assistance of her loving and contented taxpayers in England, the sum of two thousand four hundred pounds sterling for eight hundreds cords of wood, instead of nine hundred pounds, which would have been the rate at the highest known price of fuel on this Coast.

One of these aristocratic gentlemen, to prevent any queries about this exorbitant and unprecedented rate for fuel, resorted the other day to the most extraordinary (not to say mean and dirty alternative) dodge to upset the *bond fide* written contract; however, the contractor (a shrewd, clever trader) was not to be humbugged, and immediately threatened him with a lawsuit, which had the desired effect of keeping him to his contract, and ultimately compelling him to pay the amount I have already stated—viz., 2,400l. for 800 cords of wood, at the rate of 3l. sterling per cord.

In consequence of the extraordinary freak of these gentlemen, about one acre of land in the middle of Cape Coast Town is now piled with large heaps of wood, that exhibit symptoms of rapid decay, and would require five thousand soldiers for ten years to consume at the present scale of rations. In fact, to gaze at this gigantic collection of wood, one cannot but conjecture that the aristocratic commissaries had some idea of building a wooden "Tower of Babel," or of dedicating one immense sacrificial bonfire in honour of their anticipated victory over their enemies, the Ashantees. In fact, in every branch of this distinguished department of the public service has the most reckless extravagance been exhibited. For arrow root that cost 3d. per lb. at Sierra Leone the same fortunate contractor for wood was allowed 2s. 6d. per lb.; for salt that cost less than a penny a lb. 6d. per lb. was allowed; for vegetables that could be bought by the cartload for 2d. per lb. 6d. per lb. was allowed. Fowls, butter, pepper, and other articles, were equally exorbitant; but, as the money did not come out of these gentlemen's pockets, what did it signify? or, as one of them expressed it in my presence not long ago, "damn the expense."

Such, Sir, is the spirit that actuates these worthy gentlemen; and I leave it to you to say whether Africa is not, in some measure, belied and wronged by the gentlemen that occupy the position of deputy-assistant commissary-generals on this Coast. Is it not time that some independent member of Parliament should ask the Government what all this extravagance means?

And then, again, for the medical department. It is nothing for a gentleman to give his prostitute a large shoe trunk full of valuable medicines out of the military chest, and sit the same day as magistrate and sentence a poor black man to prison for six months, with hard labour, for stealing a fowl worth one shilling; at the same time condemning the poor fellow's thievish propensities, in strong pathetic language.

How can Africa advance in civilization if her sons are to have examples like these before their eyes? Examples, too, practised by the very white men that are sent out to instruct and guide them in the way they should go.

But, Sir, it is not alone in the medical department that these examples are set to the natives. I could refer you to certain transactions that took place not long ago in higher quarters than the medical or commissary departments, that would make you shudder with disgust and astonishment.

One question that naturally arises is, Is there no remedy for all this? I answer none, since Mr. Cardwell has unfortunately gone in the beaten track, when complaints are sent to him, of referring the parties back to those who are complained against.* And so the matter rests.

The only alternative for those who are wronged, is to publish it to the world in your paper, and let the world know what is going on in these dark corners of the globe—those very corners that Mr. Cardwell considers should continue in their wretchedness and abuses.—Your obedient Servant,
SPERO MELIORA.

DUTCH OFFICIALS ON THE GOLD COAST.

In our number for April we inserted a letter, in which the officials sent out for some time past by the Dutch Government to their Gold Coast possessions were mentioned in very uncomplimentary terms. We have since been reminded by more than one of our subscribers in those parts of the merits of one Dutch official (personally known to ourselves), who presents a striking contrast to the vile herd whose evil conduct our correspondent had most justly stigmatised. We did not think it necessary at the time to state that this gentleman, Commandant Weytingh, at Accra, was a most honourable exception, because Commandant

* In the correspondence, p. 11, it will be seen how beautifully this admirable system works among the officials on the Coast also.—[Ed. A. T.]

Weytingh, who is universally esteemed both in British and Dutch Accra, has been on the Coast for six-and-twenty years, and seems to belong to an otherwise extinct race of Dutch African officials. We have the very greatest pleasure in thus calling attention to the great merits of that gentleman, who will be found mentioned also in the following letter.—Ed. A. T.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, June 9, 1865.

Sir,—In the month of March Captain Carvalho, an old and much respected Brazilian trader, arrived at Dutch Accra. He stayed during his visit, and traded according to his custom, at the house of one Ankra, who lets out lodgings for the accommodation of travellers and trailers. One unlucky forenoon, on his return to his lodgings from his matutinal trading peregrinations, he discovered that the repository in which he kept the accumulated results of his trading operations had been tampered with. After some investigations as to who and what had entered his apartments during his absence, he laid the onus of the charge on one Pedro Ankra, son of the landlord. This individual, with the most Spartan disgust, indignantly denied the soft impeachment, and, like the Damos of Japan, when their honour is assailed, went out and destroyed himself. The natives of Dutch Accra hereupon assailed Ankra's house, vowing vengeance and retribution on poor Carvalho, the man who had lost his money. But Carvalho, being fortunately warned of the approaching storm, had had time to apprise the Commandant, Mr. Weytingh, of the real state of things, and Mr. Weytingh at once proceeded to Ankra's house, accompanied by a couple of soldiers, and not only delivered Carvalho out of his tribulation, but, by his great good sense, coupled with the very profound esteem which the Dutch Accra people entertain for their venerable Commandant (Mr. Weytingh has lived amongst the natives for more than twenty-five years), succeeded in sending the infuriated mob to their homes, if not contented, at least subdued by the "majesty of moral influence."

This last phrase, Mr. Editor, "the majesty of moral influence," I use advisedly, for our Commandant, Mr. Weytingh, has for the last seven or eight years managed to keep a turbulent population, of some sixty thousand savages in perfect order and subjection, with the aid of only six soldiers and a sergeant!!! and half a dozen pieces of antiquated honey-combed cannon, through whose touchholes you might shoot marbles.

Mr. Weytingh sent a report of the state of matters in his district to the seat of the Dutch Government at Elmina; he reported also that there was still some little disturbance at Dutch Accra. The Dutch Governor at once sent Captain Magnin and a handful of soldiers to put matters to rights. Magnin came out in full uniform, with the order of the Legion of Honour (which the French Government had granted him in his quality as post-master for the safe transmission of French letters from Elmina to the French settlement at Grand Bassam during a period of three or four years) dangling on his belly, from nearly a yard of ribbon, instead of hanging at his breast; but Magnin is a man of different stuff, I suppose, from any other *Légionnaire*, and consequently wears the order differently. He made a great noise, deposed the king of the country at the beat of the drum for permitting their irregularities above named, and for which act the foolish people very ungraciously named, and for which their king was popular and beloved, and hooted him; because their king was popular and moderately respected by the populace; and, but for the prudence and moderation of the Commandant Weytingh and Mr. W. A. Lutterodt, the principal resident merchant, matters would have been very seriously complicated by Mr. Magnin. He bawled and brayed, and talked of blowing down the town (these Dutchmen always talk of blowing down towns, although they have hardly one serviceable piece of ordnance on the Coast) and sending all the people to a different place from heaven under cover of the smoke.

He now boasts at Elmina of having been hemmed in at one time by two hundred loaded muskets, and rescued himself and punished the turbulent people by his own intrepidity and courage; but these acts of daring could only have existed in his own imagination, for they are not supported by facts to which any living soul was witness. But the facts are these, and general report down here confirms the same: That feeling very brave, Captain Magnin ordered the antiquated guns in the fort to be scaled previous to further operations. A soldier procured a wisp of lighted straw, and thrust it down the touchhole of one of the biggest and most useless guns. Magnin stood on the battery smoking a bad cigar, and looking every inch a soldier. No sooner, however, had the smell of the burning straw pervaded the interior of the cannon than there rushed out a perfect herd of rats, that bolted through his legs and over his boots, down a gutter near which he was standing. The brave man, nothing daunted, wiped the cold perspiration from his marble forehead, and without loss of time started off for Elmina by the mail-steamer, Macgregor Laird, which happened to be in the Roads, with steam up, ready to start for Cape Coast. *Nat justitia, ruat cælum.*—Yours &c., C. B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, June 1, 1865.

Sir,—It is rumoured that England intends to abandon her settlements on this Coast. I hope such is not the case, because it will be giving advantage to others to reap the fruits of their labour; besides, it will not look well, in the sight of God, after having taught a great many Africans to know the true God, to abandon them to fall back again to their old custom of superstition and human sacrifices, which, I fear, would be resumed as soon as the people were left to themselves. A little more perseverance and encouragement on the part of the Home Government will soon, with God's blessing, bring about the object we are all aiming at. That the English have all the advantage and influence on this Coast, is a fact which no one can deny; Dutch, French, and Portuguese are also on this Coast, but the English rule both land and sea. Go where you will on the Coast, the English language is the principal talk. A Dutch captain or supercargo, unless he has an English education, is entirely useless after leaving Elmina. With the exception of Elmina, the Dutch language is not cared for; the natives will not take the trouble to learn it, because they obtain no benefit by it; and I may as well mention that at Dutch Accra the interpreter translates the native language in English to the Dutch Commandant; so that unless a Dutch officer has an English education, he is of no use at one of their own out-stations. I shall give you another instance. There are some Dutch money in circulation here; they are taken at their full value at Elmina; but in the English settlements, and even at the Dutch out-stations, a Dutch dollar is taken at sixpence sterling less than its value at Elmina; whereas an English shilling is one shilling sterling from Cape Palmas right down to the Bight of Benin. "English language, English education, English commerce, English money, and English religion, command the Gold Coast." I might give you many more instances, but the above will be enough for the present. The only obstacle, I think, that stands in the way is the DUTCH. Pray, can we never get rid of them from this Coast? They have done literally nothing for Christianity or civilization here. Every corner of the town of Elmina is crowded with Fetiches. The Dutch delight to see the natives follow no other religion than Fetish-worshipping; and you need not be surprised when I tell you that they encourage it in the natives. At the annual festival of the Fetish-worshipping, the Dutch distribute presents of cloths, handkerchiefs, wines, and spirits, for the occasion; and even honour the dance or ceremony with their presence. If this is not an encouragement, I know of no other name to give it. In a town like Elmina there is no church belonging to the inhabitants; hence the half-educated part of the community, headed by a "pompous idiot," spend their time on Sundays either in scandalising or mischief-making against such of their own countrymen as Providence has put in better circumstances, and in carrying false reports to their earthly gods (the Dutch). From these and other petty private ill feelings on the part of the Dutch, people are thrown into prison without trial, and treated like felons; besides other treatment, too horrible to mention. Could these proceedings be in accordance with his Majesty the King of the Netherlands' instructions to his representatives on this part of the Coast? I doubt it.

I am sure the Gold Coast would, in a short time, yield revenues equally as Sierra Leone and other places; but to effect this, the whole Coast (say from Apollonia to Accra) must be under one government. Then raise duties, taxes, &c. For my part, should the English abandon this Coast, I would rather make friends with the King of Ashantee, than live under the Dutch, as they exercise rule at present on this Coast.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, June, 1865.

Sir,—Do you not think it is a pity that Captain Hill, who superseded Captain Maclean in this government, could not have been sent here as Commissioner instead of Colonel Ord? I say this because, with the single exception of Sir Benjamin Pine, Captain Hill has been the only governor we have had since 1843 who showed a disposition to govern the country with any regard to the governed. Captain Hill would have been able to tell England in what state he left it, in what condition it was, and whether we mistate facts (or, to borrow an expression from our governors, "talk rot," whatever language that may be), when we say this country has been thrown back at least thirty years. That gentleman would have ascertained how the men of the Gold Coast Artillery Corps were driven into mutiny by their officers robbing them of their pay to gamble with, giving them sums while on parade to quiet them, and prevent them from asking for their money, and submitting to thrashings from the exasperated men, and a few etceteras, which are not nothing. That Lord Stanley should say all Africa is not to be put into the balance with the life of one Englishman is not in the least

surprising: he deserves credit for plain speaking—it is the common idea of Europe. We cannot, however, find it anywhere that it was the *white* man whom God made "in his own image." That Lord Shaftesbury's opinion (without due inquiry into the nature of our connexion with England) should be the abandoning us in the midst of difficulties, quarrels, and confusion, which we had nothing to do with originating, was totally unlooked for. One may, perhaps, be allowed to hope (we have nothing, Sir, but *hope*) that we shall not, for the future, be told we are unfit to have a voice in our own affairs, that we are incapable of anything but obeying and paying money. It may be permissible to hope that we shall not again be taxed to augment officers' salaries; nor hear of any more fines of 360*l.* for alleged contempt of Court. Why, Sir, a pair of stocks at Cape Coast, and a couple of open sheds at Cape Coast for market-houses, are all there ever was to show for the *Poll Tax*!

Africa is hell, and Africans are devils: be it so. If people will march in the midst of heavy rains, from encampments on the banks of a river under a primeval forest, can sickness be fairly any matter of astonishment? Perhaps somebody will say where it is usual to open campaigns under such circumstances, and where men would not have sickened and died. If people get into their heads that Ashantee is full of gold; that they have nothing to do but march to the capital and seize it; and in the haste of their cupidity lose sight of all prudence—it is difficult to see how Africa, in such case, can deserve the curses hurled upon her since last year. Of course, Sir, I am aware I am a marked man, and for fear of missing me, half a dozen will be marked. It cannot be helped—it is time you heard a little of the truth.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

A NIGGER.

COLONEL ORD'S REPORT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, June 12.

Sir,—I have had a hasty glance at a copy of Colonel Ord's report, which has arrived here. The map given with it is extremely erroneous. *Denkera*, for instance, is there placed immediately behind *Apollonia*, while its true position is behind *Comendah*, due north. It is therefore placed sixty or seventy miles further west than its true position. Again, he represents a district or tribe, named *Inkrans*, as being situate about the neighbourhood of Prampran, while there is no such people or tract of country there. *Inkrans* is a general term given by the Fantees and other members of the Accra race inhabiting the forest regions, to denote the Accras, who are inhabitants of the great plain of the Volta.

It was a lamentable oversight of Colonel Ord in not scrutinizing the state of the eastern district; and I cannot understand what he can mean about the non-importance of public roads in this country. Most richly does he deserve the handling you have given him in your last *African Times*.

Colonel Ord seems to be particularly unfortunate in his novelties. He recommended employing "Houssas" here and elsewhere, because they answered so admirably at Lagos; and now, behold, the Lagos ones are brought here in custody to be tried by court-martial for mutiny, while others have gone over to the Egbas with arms and accoutrements.

We learn that the eastern part of the eastern district is in a terribly disordered condition. The Addahs and Awonahs are at war with each other, and the Aquamboes are expected to join in league with the Awonahs in this *mélée*. As a national consequence, the paths in these districts are becoming unsafe. The Accra merchants are hastily removing their property from Addah. Kporng, on the Volta, is no longer a safe emporium for palm oil and cotton, and the passage of the Volta through the Aquamboe district to Kporng, and Addah from Krepee, is rendered highly unsafe for traders.

There has been some desperate fighting. The troubles were caused by a Portuguese of the name of Geraldo seizing unlawfully a lot of palm oil from some of the Anglos. Captain Richards, of Her Majesty's ship *Dart*, has been very badly treated, and in consequence has entered the Volta in cutters, and killed some of the culprits—some say 70, others 28. Poor young Rothman, the son of one of the Basle or Bremen missionaries who was labouring so zealously there, has had his throat cut; and this place is in the so-called Protectorate.

In the midst of these troubles poor Major Jones, our esteemed Acting Governor has succumbed to cancer in the stomach, and a young inexperienced military officer succeeds for a time to the administration of the Government. All here lament Major Jones' early death. He made an excellent beginning.

You must not forget that these troubles I have been writing of are really owing to the abandonment of the *Quillah Fort*. Had this fort been retained or re-occupied, as you have so often urged, there would have been none of this war of the Addahs.—Yours, W.

DAHOMEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Whydah, June 2.

Sir,—Having the true welfare of this people and country at heart, I am sure you will be glad to hear that there is now a very reasonable hope that the King will shortly consent to give up the foreign slave-trade altogether, and will prohibit it in his dominions. But even then every possible effort ought to be made by England to close the Cuba market for ever—because if people came from there to tempt him, it might lead to shipments of slaves being made from these parts again.

The King has, it seems, been very successful indeed in his late expedition. Five unfortunate towns have been pillaged and destroyed, all the inhabitants having been slain or brought away captive. The towns destroyed were *Rozing*, *Milifing*, *Mu-ogi*, *Alafah*, and *Yeku*. The message sent down here by the King on his return was as follows: "The expedition has been a very good one; these five towns knew nothing of my approach; I had to wake them up myself, so that no one escaped. Some of their people who had been sleeping in their plantations came to see what was the matter when they heard the reports of the guns, and they were all caught, and I have brought them every one to Abomey."

Soon after his return, he issued an order, that all his troops might go at once to their respective towns and villages, and go on with the cultivation of their lands, as he is now satisfied, having done all that his father told him before he died.

Henceforward, he will only go out to war once every year, it is said; and if this be correct, the kingdom will improve very much. All the interference of the authorities and chiefs here with the trade that I wrote you about last mail is now at an end. It led to so great a scarcity of merchandise in the town, that a meeting of the merchants was called yesterday, and all were told that, as was the case before, every one could now again sell at his own price.

The King having been so successful in his expedition, the last great horrible custom is about to be performed—that is, the Gie-hole, or "Beadhouse," is to be erected on the grave of the King's deceased father. It will be a sort of monument to the father—a circular wall about six feet high, covered in with a grass roof, on the top of which will be placed a large silver bird, or lion, or imitation of some other animal. There is a similar "Beadhouse" over the graves of all the former Kings of Dahomey. Every King of Dahomey, after finishing the funeral customs of the deceased king, must build one of these houses—a monument of great value—over his grave. This is what the King is now about to do, and shows that the funeral customs are all ended except this last horrible one. You will see how horrible, when I tell you that the mud for building the wall must be mingled with human blood as well as water; and a great many precious beads are thrown into the mud. The King and some specially-selected persons must mingle this mud and build this wall. It is supposed that all the residents here will be called up to see the thing done. It is mostly the blood of the bitterest enemies that is used for this mud wall, but the Abeokutans have escaped from paying this terrible tribute of blood. The King would, no doubt, have built his wall last year with their blood, if he had taken Abeokuta, as he hoped to do.

Mr. Craft, of the Company of African Merchants here, has been sent for up to Abomey by the King on business matters.

The intention to send ambassadors to England is still entertained, and I do hope the slave-trade and many other abominable things will soon be no longer heard of any more here.

Yours, V.

SHERBRO.

The rainy season has fairly set in, and heavy drenching rains are of the order of the day. There has been little dry season; and at no time since the last rains has it been too dry for some kinds of farming. Sugar-cane has been growing remarkably well.

There has been an unusually large amount of shipping in the river for the last two months, and the amount of trade is doubtless much larger than ever before.

The Company of African Merchants have established a factory at Bendoo, and Messrs. Loyenthal Brothers have some time since commenced business at Bonthe.

There has been considerable sickness among Europeans and others, but generally it has not been of a very grave character.

SLAVERS CAPTURED.—There were captured by Her Majesty's ships of war, during the years 1860 to 1864, ninety-six slave vessels; of these ninety-one were condemned in the several vice-admiralty and mixed commission courts, and five were, after such trials, released.

BARLICK, 6, paddle sloop, master in charge William G. Atkinson, at Sheerness, will, it is reported, shortly be placed in commission for service on the West Coast of Africa.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s. STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 6s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance. AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY, 8, Adelphi-terrace, Strand, W.C., London.

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

The African Times.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1865.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Samuel Gurney, Esq., M.P. (annual)	£21	0	0
J. B. Elliott, Esq., Sierra Leone (annual)	1	1	0
T. B. Freeman, Esq., Accra (annual)	1	0	0

** We have received imperfect subscription lists from Sierra Leone and from Cape Coast. The full lists will no doubt arrive next month, and from the promised remittances, when all will be inserted. We thank our friends with all our heart, but are indeed sorry to learn from Cape Coast that some who had volunteered to subscribe and had their names entered, have omitted the very essential addition of paying the amounts. We hope it has been only an oversight, and that we shall have a remittance of the whole sum specified in the original list, which reached us last month. We are doing a great work for Africa, and our hands ought to be strengthened by Africans as much as possible. In giving to the African-Aid Society, they are indeed lending to themselves.

OUR FIFTH VOLUME.

In changing the form of our Journal, and adopting that in which it now appears, we have deferred to the oft-expressed wishes of many of our earliest and most constant friends. The *African Times* now occupies an acknowledged position as the registrar and exponent of native wants and progress, and the advocate of native interests, more especially on the West Coast. Our aim in the future will ever be, as it has been in the past, to make it practically useful; and we again solicit the support of all who have at heart the real welfare of native Africa and its people, both for this Journal and for the Society by which it was founded, and to whose efforts with Government and individuals so much of its power for good may be attributed. And more especially do we commend the *African Times* and the African-Aid Society to the warm and earnest support of the educated Africans of the West Coast. The *African Times* brings them, as well as their rulers, face to face with British public opinion, by which they have much to gain in the work to which we hope they all feel themselves pledged—viz., that of the Christian civilization of the whole African people, and the industrial development of those great natural resources with which Africa has been so liberally endowed.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The lamented death of Major Jones, Acting Governor of Cape Coast, although no doubt hastened by his Kroboe expedition, must not be set down against the African climate. Major Jones died of cancer in the stomach.

The natives in the Quiah country, near Sierra Leone, have been committing outrages on the property of British traders there, which will render necessary the interposition of the colonial authorities.

We believe that we are correct in stating that the Parliamentary Committee on Western Africa did not make any report to the House, beyond reporting the seven resolutions which appear below.

The Company of African Merchants (Limited) have paid this month an interim dividend, at the rate of eight per cent. on their shares, for the half year ending 30th June, preferring, we are informed, to pay the larger dividends which their successful trading will enable them to pay, after the annual meeting, to be held in future in January each year, when the accounts for the year accompany the declaration of dividend. The shareholders may therefore look for a much higher dividend in January next.

We believe that the Governor-Generalship of the West African Settlements has been offered to his Excellency Major Blackall, now Governor of Sierra Leone.

A meeting of the Trustees of the Hussey Slave Fund has at last been summoned, with a view to their commencing the application of the Fund to the proposed objects at St. Helena and Lagos.

The West African Company's steam vessel destined for the Niger has safely arrived at Lagos, and it is understood will go up the river when the water rises—i.e., in August or September.

It will be remembered that Colonel Ord recommended the employment of Mohammedan Houssas as "police force at all the settlements," &c., on the West Coast. Those at Lagos who had been enlisted in the 5th West India Regiment have mutinied. Some have deserted to the Egbas, and fifty have been sent to Cape Coast to be tried by court-martial.

Some of the Assins (Cape Coast Protectorate) went over the Prah during the month of May, *shot an Ashantee, and stole away a boy who was with him*. If such outrages as these are committed, we shall soon hear of another Ashantee invasion of the Fantee countries, and no one will pity those who have provoked it by such abominable acts.

The rains are very heavy this year at Cape Coast. It will be seen by some papers we now publish that the Spanish Government have been urging on that of England that the British slave-trade suppression squadron on the West Coast of Africa shall show increased vigilance in preventing slaves being embarked for Cuba. Earl Russell very properly replies that if the Spanish authorities will punish the great slave-traders and importers in Cuba, the trade will soon come to an end.

The King of Dahomey, it is believed, will now undertake to prevent the shipment of any more slaves from Dahomey, and there is an intention of sending some half-dozen of his principal chiefs to England as an embassy to assure Her Majesty of his having put an end to the slave-trade in his dominions.

There is a war going on in the Volta districts of the Protected Territories (Gold Coast), and a son of one of the Basle or Bremen missionaries, Mr. Rothman, has been cruelly murdered.

Trade has become very brisk at Lagos since the road to Ibadan has been opened.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMITTEE ON WESTERN AFRICA.

1. That it is not possible to withdraw the British Government wholly or immediately from any settlements or engagements on the West African Coast.

2. That the settlement on the Gambia may be reduced by McCarthy's Island, which is 150 miles up the river, being no longer occupied; and that the settlement should be confined as much as possible to the mouth of the river.

3. That all further extension of territory or assumption of Government, or new treaties offering any protection to native tribes, would be inexpedient. And that the object of our policy should be to encourage in the natives the exercise of those qualities which may render it possible for us more and more to transfer to them the administration of all the Governments, with a view to our ultimate withdrawal from all, except, probably, Sierra Leone.

4. That this policy of non-extension admits of no exception, as regards new settlements, but cannot amount to an absolute prohibition of measures which in peculiar cases may be necessary for the more efficient and economical administration of the settlements we already possess.

5. That the reasons for the separation of West African Governments in 1842 having ceased to exist, it is desirable that a Central Government over all the four settlements should be re-established at Sierra Leone, with steam communication with each Lieutenant-Government.

6. That the evidence leads to the hope that such a central control may be established, with considerable retrenchment of expenditure, and at the same time with a general increase of efficiency.

7. That in the newly-acquired territory of Lagos the native practice of domestic slavery exists still to a certain degree, although it is at variance with British law; and that it appears to your committee that this state of things, surrounded as it is by many local difficulties, demands the serious attention of the Government, with a view to its termination as soon as possible.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMITTEE.

The mountain was a huge one—its cries were piercing—it has in its turn brought forth its mouse—and a very small mouse indeed it is. We give, in another column, the resolutions adopted by the Committee—adopted unanimously, if we are correctly informed; and, like all resolutions similarly adopted by a body of men known to differ widely in opinions, bearing evident marks of a compromise. The opening resolution contains a justification of the views which we, in common with Her Majesty's Government, and with all who know anything really about Africa, have never ceased to express; and is, consequently, a direct condemnation of those which Lord Stanley, acting under a very evil "Anthropological" advice, so forcibly enunciated in the debate which preceded the selection of the now defunct committee. But, as if to mollify this very adverse decision pronounced against so great an authority, the Committee, in Resolution 2, make his lordship a present of McCarthy's Island; removing thus, from the whole course of the Gambia beyond the immediate

vicinity of the Coast, every Christianizing civilizing influence that might struggle against and impede the progress of that superior Mohammedan faith which is to regenerate Africa!

Having so recently denounced the retrograde and dishonourable policy of an abandonment of that advanced post of Christian effort in the Gambia countries—the, we suppose, now doomed McCarthy's Island—we shall leave that question for the present; and more especially because under Resolution 3, notwithstanding its subsequent emasculation by Resolution 4, the Government would seem to be prohibited from obtaining any valuable exchange for the Gambia, should they abandon it altogether. But Resolution 3, if it means anything, has in it much more than this; and we hope will be considered by the Colonial Minister (whose anxiety for African progress we have reason to believe is great and sincere) to justify the granting to the educated Africans of Sierra Leone some of those important ameliorations which, by resolutions of their Chamber of Commerce, they have stated to be necessary for the increased prosperity of the colony, and for—in the words of the Parliamentary Committee—"encouraging in them the exercise of those qualities" which gradually lead to the power of self-government. The permanent retention of Sierra Leone for imperial purposes is so evidently shadowed forth (as might have been expected) in these resolutions, that we shall be justified in considering it henceforward to be an established fact. Indeed, we do not believe that in any future inquiry the question of retention or abandonment of Sierra Leone will again be mooted. It becomes, therefore, from this moment, of greater importance than ever that Great Britain should by all possible means stimulate the advancement and material prosperity of this colony; and if the colony will consent to tax itself sufficiently for guaranteeing the interest and redemption of a loan for the more rapidly carrying into execution certain projected improvements essential to its health and to its industrial development, there is surely reason to hope that the Imperial Government will give the necessary security to enable the raising of the money upon very advantageous terms.

So far as Sierra Leone, therefore, is concerned, we see no reason to quarrel with the resolutions of the Committee. No. 4 gives all latitude that may be required by the Government for accepting the cession of those territories south of Sierra Leone and north of the at present recognized boundaries of Liberia, so that the colony may obtain that necessary extension which its prosperity requires; and that the two Christian Governments—the independent Republic of Liberia and the British colony of Sierra Leone—may guarantee between them the predominance of Christian civilizing influences along an extended coast line without any intervening territory groaning under the horrors of unmitigated barbarism.

The Committee, in their last resolution, have also declared against the continuance of domestic slavery within the "newly-acquired territory of Lagos." But in this, as in all else, the remedy is left in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, the Committee not having condescended to point out how the desirable termination is to be effected.

But when it is remembered that this Committee was called into existence by the disasters of the Ashantee war—that it was ushered in with a flourish of trumpets which promised nothing less than a full and complete victory over the *mistaken policy* under which efforts have been making by Great Britain for the suppression of the slave-trade—for mitigating the evils to which our former slave-trade practices had contributed—for the Christian civilization of the unhappy people, who groan under the unmitigated dominion of moral evil—and for stimulating the development of the rich natural resources of Western Africa—the friends of Africa may well consider that these small mouse resolutions are in effect a great victory for the cause of humanity and progress. This does not, however, justify the Committee. It sat through the whole session—its blue-book will be one of the largest of the year—yet what has it done, that the Colonial Office could not have done just as well or better without its assistance or advice? Where is its solemn decision on the vexed Cape Coast and Ashantee question, the question out of which it sprang? What course are the British authorities to pursue in the event of another invasion of the *Protected Territories* by the forces of Ashantee? Where is the definite decision for which we looked, as to whether those territories are really under the protection of Great Britain or not, and how far that protection might be considered to extend? Not one word has the Committee deemed to place on record for the guidance of Her Majesty's Government in any future emergency. How are we to account for this? Eighteen picked gentlemen assemble twice a week, month after month; they receive a great amount of so-called evidence; their especial function and duty is to set the Government house in order on the West Coast of Africa; it is understood that they are determined to prevent at least any more Ashantee wars; and when the end of the session arrives they seem merely to endorse

some preformed Government conclusion, with a little sop thrown in to wounded vanities, ignoring those very questions which were made a reason for entering upon such important functions. What are we to imagine or believe? Can it be that among the "engagements" from which "it is not possible to withdraw the British Government" is this of armed protection of the Cape Coast territories against the Ashantee power? We can only say that if the Committee have really found this country tied by engagements to such defence of the Cape Coast territories, they ought to have gone much further, and have established at least such an effective rule over them as should ensure their rapid advancement to a degree of civilization and power which would enable us to leave them to defend and rule themselves, with the certainty that they could do this so as to be secure from those evils against which they have now been looking to us for aid. According to our view—and we cannot doubt that of all competent men will agree with ours—the Committee have left this and other matters in a most unsatisfactory position, and given another proof that Parliamentary committees are not always the very best tribunal that can be formed for the examination of important public questions.

THE FUTURE OF THE BRITISH WEST AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

It is well for the people of the West Coast—and God has, no doubt, in the exercise of his good providence overruled events to this end—that we have at this time at the head of the Colonial Office such a man as Mr. Cardwell, Her Majesty's now Principal Secretary of State for that department. On the occasion of the late Committee being moved for in the House of Commons, he defended in clear and emphatic language the past policy of this country, and the past efforts of our missionaries with regard to the African countries and their people. Had any doubt previously existed in our mind that he would not lightly, or capriciously, or to escape from a temporary difficulty, abandon or imperil the great work that has been going on there and among them, such doubt must then necessarily have been removed. We had, however, previously had occasion to observe how patiently he endeavoured to make himself acquainted with the real wants and interests of those countries and people. We saw clearly that in him we had a sincere upholder of the holy policy of restitution as far as possible for the past wrongs which we as a nation had inflicted. We were confident, therefore, that he would not voluntarily withdraw from the efforts this country has been making for mitigating the sway of intensified evil in Africa, for the development of industrial resources, and the spread of Christian civilization there. And now that the late Committee have left these important matters in his hands, with little, if any, abridgment of his former powers, we have again the hope that a new impetus will be given to what is good, and new restraints be placed on what is evil. Great Britain can have but one object in view in those African countries. The thirst of colonial dominion has passed away from among us. There is nothing that Great Britain now more desires than to see her magnificent colonies attain one by one to a position of wealth and power such as may justify their entire severance from her rule and protection. It is her ambition to be a mother of nations, not of dependant colonies; it is her desire to have independent nations, once her feeble offspring, associated with her in the great work of the world's material development, and the spread of Christian civilization. Yes—Christian civilization; for although there are, no doubt, many other men among us having minds of extraordinary elevation similar to that of the newly-elected member for Westminster, who believes "that other ethics than any which can be evolved from exclusively Christian sources must exist side by side with Christian ethics to produce the moral regeneration of the world," we do as a people happily believe that in *Christianity alone* is the world's real hope and joy and peace. As a people, we do not conceive that the farthing rushlights of independent human intellect can add anything to the Divine glory that emanates from Bethlehem, Galilee, and Calvary; we do not believe that man is wiser than God; and until Mr. Mill can create for us out of any material he may choose a new physical and reasoning man, superior to the race which God has placed in this world, we must be excused from believing in any other *regenerating ethics* than those "which can be evolved from exclusively Christian sources."

Such being the feeling in Great Britain with regard to our colonies generally, Africa is not likely to be made an exception. The colonization of the West Coast by Europeans is not a very probable event. The colonies formed there must consequently be colonies of the African race, and for the most part natives of the lands constituting or bordering on those of the colony. To raise these natives from the debased and degraded state into which they have fallen, both morally and physically—to free them from the bloody and demoralizing influence of beastly superstitions, from polygamy, from domestic slavery, from the paralyz-

commander of the British cruiser that made the capture to the Spanish authorities at the Canary Islands, to be dealt with in accordance with the Spanish laws.

The Government of her Catholic Majesty will, therefore, have the means, if they have the will to do so, of ascertaining the true nature of the voyage on which the Ciceron has been lately engaged.

Her Majesty's Government are convinced that nothing would tend more to discourage the Cuban slave-dealers, and to put a stop to the traffic, than the prosecution to conviction of some of the wealthy individuals who are well known to be deeply implicated in the Cuban slave-trade, and who are notoriously interested in the slave-steamer Ciceron; and Her Majesty's Government earnestly trust that the Government of her Catholic Majesty will avail themselves of the opportunity that will now be afforded them of prosecuting the owners, and others interested in the slave-trading adventures of this vessel.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) RUSSELL.

His Excellency Sir J. Crampton.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. ADDERLEY, Chairman of the Select Committee on West African Settlements, brought up the resolutions of the committee.

HOUSE OF LORDS. ABYSSINIA.

Lord CHELMSFORD, in drawing attention to the papers that had been laid on the table relating to the imprisonment of British subjects in Abyssinia, said that the circumstances of the case had been so jumbled together in another place, that it was very difficult for the public to obtain any clear or distinct idea of what had really taken place. His lordship then entered into an account of the entire Abyssinian affair, pointing out numerous misstatements in Mr. Layard's explanations on the subject the other night, and showing that the charges of disobedience to orders brought against the late Mr. Plowden and Captain Cameron were quite unfounded and unjustifiable. He also condemned the Government for not having availed themselves of the volunteered services of Dr. Beke, Sir W. Coghlan, and others, to obtain the release of the prisoners.

Earl RUSSELL, who, as usual, was very indistinctly heard in the gallery, was understood to say that the noble and learned lord opposite was pleased to impute blame to Her Majesty's Government for the course they had taken on this occasion. The noble and learned lord had shown himself, as he had done on a former occasion, utterly regardless of what might happen to British subjects within the territory of the Emperor of Abyssinia, in his solicitude to cast censure upon Her Majesty's Government. The noble earl then reviewed the state of things in Abyssinia from 1849, and went on to point out the impossibility of influencing the king of the country by means of an armed force. He (Earl Russell) was persuaded that the Government had taken the wiser and the safer course. At all events, they were not going to undertake a war on behalf of the King of Abyssinia. As the subject was a difficult one, he should abstain at present from saying what course the Government intended to take in the matter.

Lord HOUGHTON spoke highly of the services which Dr. Beke could render.

The Earl of MALMESBURY also urged the employment of Dr. Beke at the head of a mission to obtain the release of the prisoners. He referred to a letter he had received from the doctor as an indication of his willingness at the present time to undertake such a dangerous service.

The subject then dropped.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

London, July 3, 1865.

Sir,—My attention has been called to a letter inserted in the *African Times* signed "V.," in which one or two mistakes exist, which I shall be glad if you will correct in your next number. The letter, referring to Major Jones' proceedings in Krobbos, states that "he began by making the merchants reduce very considerably those exorbitant claims which have hitherto always stood in the way of a compromise." This statement is incorrect—Major Jones demanded of the Krobbos payment of the amounts judicially decreed to the contractors during Mr. Andrews' administration of the Government. No "compromise" was made by Major Jones, but two alterations in the original contract had been made, one to receive payments at Kpong, on the River Volta, instead of at Pram Pram, on the seaboard; thereby saving the Krobbos a journey of some twenty miles; and to receive both cowries and palm oil at the convenience of the Krobbos, instead of only palm oil, as originally stipulated.

Whatever good may ultimately result from the measures having been taken, the credit, no doubt, is due to Governor Pine, as the

alterations have been made by him when he visited the Krobbos in the early part of 1863, and Major Jones is consequently following up Governor Pine's plans with energy and tact, for which the contractors feel greatly obliged to him.—Your obedient servant,
GRANT N. EDWARDS,
One of the Krobbos Contractors.

LABOUR-SAVING MACHINES.

ALTHOUGH civilization, with those wants in its train which impel man to exertion, may and would lead in Africa and in other tropical countries to sustained voluntary labour, we always look with especial interest at the progress of invention in labour-saving machines, because we feel convinced that they must play an important part in the organization of a real productive agricultural industry in Africa. Mechanical ingenuity will be soon heavily tasked in the United States for machines to perform much of the cotton, sugar, and corn plantation labour that formerly fell to the lot of the now emancipated slaves. The agricultural labour of the North consequent on the withdrawal of so many of the male population from the farms for the army during the late war, have already given a greatly-increased stimulus to the production of labour-saving machines there; and the slavery abolition journals of the North are calling attention to the fact. Thus, an instance is cited where a corn-field of 160 acres was ploughed, planted, and cultivated, no man walking a step to achieve all this. "A rotary spader, drawn by four horses, and driven by a man upon the box, ploughed the field to a uniform depth of eight inches, and gave such thorough tilth, that it was not necessary to use a harrow at all. A corn-planter, drawn by two horses, and driven by a man upon the box, next planted the seed. A cultivator drawn by two mules, one walking on each side of the knee-high corn, and driven by a man upon the box, completed the culture of a row at a single operation; and in the tool-house lay another machine, also to be drawn by horses, which will cut down the corn when it is ripe and lay it in regular rows, to be finally gathered by hand. But it is expected that by next year this machine will be so improved as to gather up the corn also."

The same farm had in one field seven hundred acres of timothy,* of course it was not expected that this would ever be cut by hand. Half-a-dozen harvesting machines did the work—patent, and horse rakes gathered up the hay, and two presses made it into bales ready for shipment. One of the leading journals also says that it is taken for granted that the next ten years will witness an immense revolution in the method of cultivating the sugar and cotton fields, which, as a result, will vastly increase the crops, and, what is more, do away in a great measure with the need of negro labour. It will at first be urged, perhaps, in reply to this, as regards Africa, that in the substitution of capital for labour which such a change implies, many requisites will be found wanting in Africa—no capital—no horses—no mules—no trained oxen, &c., &c. We know there are difficulties in the way, but we know also that there is not one that may not be overcome—and that must and will be overcome—in the industrial regeneration of Africa, under which the wants of civilized man will have to be supplied to an extent that will render it necessary to make the exuberant productiveness of the African soil available for that purpose. We do not expect that the industrial change can take place in Africa without the co-operation of European and American civilization. But we hope ere long to see some establishments formed in Western Africa, in those parts where full security for life and property may be obtained, that will give the example and instruction which the Africans require, and lead to the introduction of those other elements which are indispensable in the work.

CAPTURE OF AN ARAB DHOW.—The *Gazette* of July 21 contains a despatch from Captain Bowden, of Her Majesty's ship Wasp, reporting that on the night of May 12 an Arab dhow was captured by the pinnace and cutter of that ship, under the charge of Lieutenant Charles C. Rising, at a distance of from eight to ten miles from the port of Zanzibar, with 283 slaves on board. She had a large crew of northern Arabs, who made a desperate resistance; but, owing to the gallantry displayed by the officers and their boats' crews, the vessel was carried, the Arabs taking to the sea, and to a boat they cut from the stern, but leaving three dead and thirteen prisoners. Captain Bowden further states that John New, coxswain of the pinnace, the first to board, was killed, and three officers and eight men wounded; to board, was killed, and three officers and eight men wounded; adding, "I cannot speak too highly of the judicious way in which the attack was conducted, and the gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Rising, who has received three very severe wounds. Lieutenant Theobald received a severe wound at the onset, but, notwithstanding, boarded, and afterwards remained in charge." There were seventy Arabs on board at the time of the attack.

* A grass for making hay for cattle-feeding.—ED. A. T.

AFRICAN EXPLORATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—I have just received from Mr. Colquhoun, British Consul at Alexandria, the accompanying extract from a letter written to him by my brother, Mr. Samuel W. Baker, the African explorer, and received on the 27th of June. Although Mr. Baker's safety and discovery have been made known through the telegrams you published, these additional particulars may be interesting to the public.—I beg to remain yours faithfully,
E. H.
July 7.

Khartoum, May 10.

My dear Colquhoun,—I arrived here on the 28th of April, having discovered the second source of the Nile, second not in importance, but only in order of discovery, to the Victoria Nyanza of Speke. I reached the lake in lat. 1.14 N. on the 14th of March, 1864, which I named the Albert Nyanza. The Victoria and Albert Lakes are the parents of the river. The Albert is about 260 geographical miles in length. For thirteen days I navigated the lake in a canoe, arriving at the Nile junction in lat. 2.16 N. at Magunjo. From that point I entered the river and ascended the Nile till I arrived at the foot of a great fall, the whole river rushing over a perpendicular gap of 120 feet high. This splendid cataract I have named Murchison Falls.

I should have returned last year, but the war in Chopi rendered any movement impossible, as the whole of my porters deserted. Thus I was a prisoner for another twelve months in that detestable country—full of fever, no quinine, my animals all dead, no supplies. However, thank God, here I am, all right, having worked hard and won.

Thank you, my dear Colquhoun, for several letters which have arrived from time to time with the welcome of a cool breeze in the desert.

I cannot dwell upon the loss of your poor sister, &c.

SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE.

In all barbarous and unchristian countries human life is held very cheap. The atrocious sacrifice of it, day by day, in all parts of native Africa is horrible to think of. We wish our African readers to attain to a due Christian conception of the enormity of wantonly depriving a fellow-creature of that life which God has given; and we therefore think it well to quote a few words spoken by the Lord Chief Baron a few days ago. A gentleman was tried for manslaughter. He had been awakened at midnight by a noise on his premises. Looking from the window, he saw a man crouching as if for concealment. He called several times to him; but receiving no answer, he discharged a pistol at the intruder. The ball from the pistol penetrated the man's head, and killed him on the spot. In summing up the case to the jury, the Lord Chief Baron said: "There are undoubtedly circumstances where the firing of a pistol would be justifiable—those, for instance, where a burglar enters a house, or is about to enter one, with all the implements of housebreaking about him, and there are no other means of preventing the loss of life or property, or both; but then, it cannot be too widely understood, that in this country, and indeed in all countries, the life of a man, whether he is a burglar or whether he is not, is the most precious possession of which we have any conception."

HOW TO MEET COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICIALS.

To His Excellency Richard Pinn, Esq., Governor, &c.

Accra, January 12, 1865.

Sir,—I regret to have to address your Excellency in complaint, and beg to assure you it is with no pleasure I now trouble you. Your Excellency will see that it is from no choice, but a duty which I owe to my people. About ten days or a fortnight since one of my men was sitting at his gate, when a young woman who had been to the bush requested him to take care of a load of sugarcane for her while she went for another load she had left on the road. Soon after the girl left him, three or four soldiers went up to the man and began pulling the sugarcane about. The man told them they did not belong to him, and were not for sale, and requested them not to pull them about, as they would break the string which tied them. This, Sir, was provocation sufficient to the soldiers to begin beating the man. Two or three boys and young men coming out to see what the noise was about, were also attacked by the soldiers. They broke the head of the man they first assaulted and of another. On the men preferring their complaint to Capt. Edmunds, he told them the soldiers had already complained of having been stoned by my people, and had produced a stone which had been thrown at them. The Commandant fined the two men who had been maltreated and wounded 17. each, and threatened to flog them besides. This being not sufficient, Capt. Edmunds refused to receive dollars at more than 4s. each, although nobody can know better than himself that he could change them for 4s. 6d. each at any shop in the town. This, your Excellency, is not the first time that these soldiers have

illused my people. On a former occasion they assaulted the same man (at the same place) whose head they have now broken; at another time a poor old sick man, with only one arm, who was conducting a blind man, was, without any protest of provocation, knocked down and badly wounded by two soldiers whom they accidentally met in the evening: the blind man was also assaulted by them. I beg to leave for your Excellency's consideration whether the West Indian soldiers are here to make war upon us—whether men are to be thus scandalously and savagely outraged, and to be fined besides—whether a man sitting at his own door is likely to be the causeless aggressor against four men armed with clubs—whether Captain Edmunds was authorised to regulate the value of money, and whether he accounts for dollars at 4s. If a man be not safe in his own house, or at his own door, where is he safe? If a man be not out of harm's way in his own house, where can he be out of harm's way? How can a man sitting at his own gate be seeking quarrels? I have every confidence in your Excellency to see justice done in the case, and that you will cause the 27. of which these men have been mulcted to be returned to them, and the sugarcane which the soldiers stole to be paid for.—I have the honour, &c., R. J. HANSEN.

To Mr. R. J. Hansen, Accra.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape Coast, January 18, 1865.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, addressed to his Excellency Governor Pine, and containing a charge against the Chief Civil Commandant and some soldiers under his command; and in reply have to inform you that by reason of there being no magistrate at present at Accra, with the exception of Captain Edmunds (interested) and his subordinate officer, his interference would be unseemly in this instance; but the first convenient opportunity the circumstances will be inquired into. In the meantime, Capt. Edmunds has been communicated with.—I am, Sir, &c.,

S. R. BROWN, D.A.C.G., Acting Colonial Secretary.

To Mr. R. J. Hansen.

James Town, Accra, January 24, 1865.

Sir,—Having been furnished by the Colonial Secretary at Cape Coast with a copy of a letter addressed by you to his Excellency Governor Pine, and dated Accra, January 12, 1865, containing complaints made by you against some soldiers under my command, relative to their having assaulted some of your people, also of my having fined two of your people 17. each, that I threatened to flog them, and that I refused to receive dollars at more than 4s. each (your complaints having been made on hearsay and ex parte statements, and which yourself know nothing of), I challenge you to prove these statements by producing witnesses in Court to-morrow (with the exception of my having fined two of your men). Further, that all allegations made by you are false, and I now give you notice that it is my intention to enter an action against you for libel in the Supreme Court.—I have, &c.,

THOMAS EDMUNDS, J.P.

Captain 4th W.I.R., Chief Civil Commandant.

To Mr. R. J. Hansen, Accra.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape Coast, January 30, 1865.

Sir,—I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to acquaint you that Captain Edmunds having been communicated with by me on the subject of your complaints against some soldiers under his command, and having given you an opportunity of proving your accusations, of which you have not availed yourself, the Governor is bound to assume that you have again ventured to prefer groundless charges against high civil authority. You will, therefore, understand that for the future your unsupported statements cannot be entertained, on the ground of public convenience.—I have, &c.,

S. R. BROWN, D.A.C.G., Acting Colonial Secretary.

To S. R. Brown, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary, Cape Coast.

Accra, February 9, 1865.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 18th January, by which his Excellency the Governor informed me "that by reason of there being no magistrate at present at Accra, with the exception of Captain Edmunds (interested), and his subordinate officer, whose interference would be unseemly in this instance; but the first convenient opportunity the circumstances will be inquired into." I have also the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 30th January, in which I am told "Captain Edmunds, having given you an opportunity of proving your accusation, of which you have not availed yourself, the Government is bound to assume that you have again ventured to prefer groundless charges against high civil authority." I am at a loss to understand how I have preferred groundless charges, when no opportunity has been given me to substantiate them. I could not glean from the expressions in your letter that his Excellency intended Captain Edmunds to sit in judgment in the case, and when he wrote me on 24th January, "I challenge you to prove these statements by producing witnesses in court to-morrow," I could not think myself

justified in attending to his "challenge," in opposition to his Excellency's expressed intention to have the case heard at the "first convenient opportunity" by some magistrate not "interested."—I have, &c.,
R. J. HANSEN.

To Mr. R. J. Hansen, Accra.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape Coast, February 13, 1865.

Sir,—In acknowledging your letter of the 9th inst., I have to inform you that I considered myself at liberty to assume that your charges were groundless, because you did not choose to accept the opportunity afforded you of producing your witnesses. Had you done so you would have found that steps would have been taken to investigate the case. The Governor, on arrival at

Accra, may possibly allow you to show cause for disturbing the original decision, although he cannot admit you have, as yet, adopted the right course.—I am, Sir, &c.,

S. R. BROWN, D.A.C.G., Acting Colonial Secretary.

DEATHS.

Of fever, after four days' illness, about midnight, on Sunday, the 21st May, G. Skelton, Esq., Judge of the Mixed Commission, Sierra Leone.

Of cancer in the stomach, at Cape Coast Castle, his Excellency Acting Governor Major Jones.

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

Monrovia, Liberia, 1864.

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