

The African Times.

JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

Vol. V., No. 54.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1865.

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THE COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

CAPITAL—£400,000, in 40,000 Shares of £10 each.

WITH POWER TO INCREASE.

DIRECTORS.

WM. DENT, Esq., Chairman of the Thames and Mersey Insurance Company, London.
ARCHIBALD HAMILTON, Esq. (Messrs. SINCLAIR, HAMILTON, and Co.), London.
A. CASTELLAIN, Esq. (Messrs. FRED. HORN and Co.), Liverpool.
J. ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq. (Messrs. THOS. TOBIN and Son), Chairman of the Liverpool and London Insurance Company, Liverpool.
L. GRUNING, Esq. (Messrs. FRED. HORN and Co.), Liverpool.
R. RUMNEY, Esq., Manchester.

MANAGING DIRECTOR.

J. ASPINALL TOBIN, Esq., Walmer-buildings, Water-street, Liverpool.

BANKERS.

THE ALLIANCE BANK OF LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND MANCHESTER.

The Capital of this Company has been fully subscribed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The African Company's steamer, Macgregor Laird, Captain R. F. Lowry, arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, the 9th inst., from the West Coast of Africa. Her dates were: Benin, October 25; Cameroons, October 30; Fernando Po, November 1; Brass River, November 5; Lagos, November 8; Accra, November 10; Cape Coast Castle, November 12; Cape Palmas, November 14; Sierra Leone, November 19; Bathurst, November 23; Teneriffe, November 29; and Madeira, December 2. She brought thirty-two passengers and 2,108½ ounces of gold dust.

On the 4th inst. the Macgregor Laird passed H.M.S. Constance in lat. 37 37 N, and long. 13 30 W.

At Fernando Po, Cameroons, Old Calabar, Brass, and Benin, trade was moderate and the stations healthy.

BONNY.—Trade almost at a stand, in consequence of a dispute between the Bonny trading natives and those in the interior; it is, however, expected to resume its usual briskness in the course of a fortnight. No sickness in the river.

LAGOS.—Trade is brisk, and the health good. The steamer Thomas Bazley, which left about four months ago on an expedition up the Niger, under the direction of Mr. M'Coskry, of Lagos, arrived here on the 8th instant. She had been very successful, so far as trade was concerned. Lieutenant Bouchier, R.N., and Mr. Robins, who succeeded the late Dr. Baikie, at Lukoja, had reached here three days previously by Her Majesty's ship Investigator. They had been about fourteen months at Lukoja, having had no communication with white people during that time. Mr. John Whitford, of Liverpool, accompanied the expedition, in the Thomas Bazley, who, with Mr. M'Coskry, enjoyed first-rate health. Several of the crew of the Thomas Bazley died of African fever.

CAPE COAST.—Very healthy, no case of sickness having occurred amongst the Europeans for some time. A transport is expected daily to convey the troops at present stationed here to Sierra Leone, and those at Sierra Leone to the West Indies.

WAR BETWEEN THE FRENCH AT SENEGAL AND MASSABA.

The following has been published at Bathurst, Gambia, by the Acting Governor:—

"To the Merchants and Traders engaged in trade with the territory of Baddiboo."

"Notice is hereby given, that on the 20th instant an expedition, consisting of three thousand white troops and about seven thousand native allies, under the command of his Excellency Colonel Lapraed, Governor-General of Senegal, &c., left Goree to attack the Mohammedan chief Mahbah, in Baddiboo.

"The merchants, traders, and others engaged in trade with the aforesaid territory are hereby given notice of such invasion, in order that they may take such steps for the protection or removal of their property in that territory as they may deem necessary. (Signed) "C. B. PRIMER, Acting Governor.

"Government House, Bathurst,
"November 21, 1865."

THE GAMBIA CLUBS ORDINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

London, December 4, 1865.

Dear Sir,—Your last number contained a memorial addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and signed by the principal members of the Gambia societies, praying for the abrogation of an ordinance intended to crush the harmless and helpful societies long existing in that colony.

The third paragraph of the memorial states, "That these societies have been standing uninterrupted for several years, and have been the means of producing good effects on the conduct of most of their outlawed and troublesome members, &c." The right honourable gentleman and yourself may not fully comprehend the meaning of this important point in the memorial, and be led to inquire what are the good effects which have been produced by those societies. I will explain. Between 1837 and 1841 the sitting magistrates at the Gambia were wearied with one complaint and one plea throughout the rainy seasons, when business is half closed, and no employment can be found for the lower class of workmen, such as labourers, &c. These men must live, and when they could not obtain their living honestly, they procured it by dishonesty, going about stealing from the merchants' stores, &c., and when taken before the magistrates they pleaded not guilty, giving as their poor, groundless reason, "that they were in want, and, having nothing to live upon, as there was no work to do in the rains, and no merchant willing to give them credit, they were obliged to rob." The magistrates then saw the real wants of the people, and consulted a Wesleyan missionary (now in England) to see if he could manage some means of restraining those lawless characters. The rev. gentleman then

called on one of his local brethren to see what could be done. They concluded to form a "Workmen's Club" for assisting each other throughout the rains. The local brother mastered the whole of his tribe and explained to them in their own language the shame and disgrace some had brought on themselves, &c. He then showed them the necessity for a Workmen's Club, for assisting each other in time of need. The proposal was unanimously voted; and thus the first Ebbo society started in the year 1842. It consisted of both males and females, and up to this day a male member pays 1s., and a female 6d. per month. At the close of every meeting the members were warned to be honest, and informed that should they require any necessary assistance the club will be ready to meet their wants. In the course of two years the practices complained of were totally forgotten. People became honest and respectful, other tribes following their example, until all the various tribes in the Gambia formed themselves into similar societies with similar objects. It succeeded so well that the magistrates and merchants returned their thanks to the rev. gentleman for his kind suggestion to the people. The people are also, to this day, grateful to him and to his local brother, their own countryman, whose son is now in London, sent by his countrymen to study for their further welfare.

The good effects produced by those clubs are highly commended by all who know anything about the Gambia, and it is the common talk among the European merchants that Bathurst people are the most honest on the Coast. His Honour the Chief Justice, at the Bathurst quarter session, in December last (in addressing the public at large), said, "I am glad to say that this is my fourteenth year as a judge in this colony, and I was never once troubled by the Bathurst people in a similar case, &c." But it was not so some twenty-five years back. What, then, brought the change? Surely it came through those clubs, against which an inveterate hatred now exists, breeding an ordinance for crushing them.

Those honourable gentlemen who sought and obtained the approval of that ordinance do not see the evil which may follow the destruction of those harmless and helpful clubs. But let me appeal to what gave rise to their formation, and say that their destruction will again dissolve society; the poorer class will not be able to provide for futurity; thieves will increase in the small island, breaking into stores, and carrying away valuable property; losses begin to be complained of, which will ultimately end with worse crimes. Perhaps some will say, "Oh, we have a gaol, and we will increase punishments." But remember, your gaol has been proved not to be a place of safe custody for those who have stolen largely. If, in the year 1853, a Spanish captain and mate, who were convicted as slavers, could escape the gaol of Bathurst and be safely conveyed in a boat to Goree unmolested—if, in the year 1855, a barrel of rum could be converted into water in the gaol of Bathurst, by which a prisoner escaped punishment—if, in the year 1864, two prisoners, who had stolen about 2,000l. (cash), could make a first and second escape from the well-fortified gaol of Bathurst with six keys in their possession—surely every one will agree with me in saying that the gaol is not a place of safe custody. And if the gaol of Bathurst is not safe, what must be expected when those clubs for mutual help are destroyed?

I place confidence only in you, Mr. Editor, to bring these important points more strongly before Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, if happily he may grant the prayer of his memorialists by *abrogating that ordinance*, which is only intended to impede the growth of civilization in that colony.—Yours, &c.,

JOSEPH WM. FOX REFFLE.

SIERRA LEONE.

The heat is at present very great. Trade reviving. Much dissatisfaction is expressed at the treatment received by the Chamber of Commerce in the matter of the supplementary estimates of 1865 and the estimates for 1866. It is alleged that the Chamber had an unusually limited time to consider this subject; that the members had scarcely twenty-four hours to read the estimates and to make suggestions respecting them, as they were to be forwarded by the leeward mail that arrived on the 16th October. The Chamber expressed their regret to the Council, through their nominee, as to the very short time allowed them, which made it impossible properly to consider the estimates referred to. Regardless of the attempts and entreaties of the Chamber's nominee, the Hon. J. Ezzidio, supported by the Hon. C. W. Heddle, in the next meeting of the Council, to defer the estimates, so as to give time for consideration, they were passed, and sent per the mail. This is felt to be an unfair mode of proceeding, showing a want of respect on the part of the Council for a body composed of men on whom depend, for the most part, the pecuniary interests of the colony, and denying the people a voice as regards the expenditure of their money.

SHERBRO'.

SUGAR CULTIVATION.—We believe that we shall soon see the Sherbro' taking a prominent place in the production of sugar. Mr. M. P. Horton, after spending much time and money in the cultivation of cotton, in which he has not succeeded, has turned his attention to sugar-cane, in which he has succeeded. We should judge that he has some twenty or thirty acres of cane now fit to work up, and perhaps fifty more that will be ready to work some months hence. We learn that he has boilers and a mill nearly constructed. We think he has deserved success, and have no doubt that he will attain it.

COMMERCE.—There are at present four barques and three schooners receiving freight in the Sherbro'. This gives some idea of the large amount of business that is being done.—*Early Dawn.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, West Africa, November 12, 1865.

Dear Sir,—I hasten to inform you that it is rumoured in this town that the Parliamentary Blue-Book is all "bosh," and that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has given instructions to Governor Conran to dethrone King Aggery, and make a new "king" here; and we understand that his Excellency, on the 9th instant, made a clean breast of the matter, when one of the "chiefs" went to pay him a visit in the Government House. We hardly believe the report, but hope next mail to be able to give an account of the affair.—I am, yours in haste,

ONE OF KING AGGERY'S FRIENDS.

NATIVE COURTS.—SUGGESTIONS FROM A PERSON OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 11, 1865.

Sir,—Thought engenders thought, and so the suggestions thrown out in your issue of last September have called for what I would otherwise have left untold.

It has been already suggested that the Governor should be instructed to assist the native authorities in amending such portions of the laws and customs of the country as are repugnant to Christianity and natural justice, in order that the native courts may be henceforth saved from the many indignities that are cast upon them in cases of appeal, and that the British magistrate's appeal court be guided by the laws and customs, as reduced to the principles of Christianity and natural justice. But I beg leave to make an addition:—

First,—It is also necessary that in the event of the verdict of the native court *not* being *erroneous*, the British magistrate, after a new trial or hearing, should strengthen the hands of the native authorities by giving full force and effect to the decrees of the native court, and that in any case of capital punishment the sentence should be executed by the native authorities.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ASHANTEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 10, 1865.

My dear Sir,—As I have been down with fever to-day, and not knowing whether I shall be able to write you this mail, I have strained a point to lay before you a copy of a letter received to-day from the Honourable George Blankson, who is at present on the banks of the River Prah, in direct communication with Quaco Duah, the King of Ashantee.

There is an almost certainty that peace will be proclaimed in less than a month, through the praiseworthy conduct of the Honourable Mr. Blankson.

If he succeeds, surely Her Majesty's Government will not allow him to go unrewarded. Some signal mark of Royal favour would do an infinity of good to Africa, and would act as a powerful stimulant to other native gentlemen like Mr. Blankson to assist Her Majesty's representatives in difficult and intricate questions, such as the present one. In fact, British rule would soon cease on this Coast were it not for such men as Mr. Blankson.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

SEPTIMUS.

(Copy of Letter.)

Prahu, November 4, 1865.

Gentlemen,—Again I have the pleasure to give you the following information relative to the Ashantee question: On the afternoon of the 2nd inst., the "Okrah," or confidential servant, and others, arrived here, having been sent by the King of Ashantee "to thank me very much for the efforts I had been making, and was now making, to secure peace between the two nations, to hasten the time of my departure from this, and to bid me welcome to Kummassi." On the next day I explained the circumstances under which I came up, the object thereof, and at once told them I had made no arrangement for proceeding further, and that the King had been misinformed if he laboured under the impression that I was bound for his capital.

It appears that on the arrival of our messengers at Fommunah, the chief Obbui immediately dispatched a messenger to the King, informing him that I was repairing to Kummassi; the King being pleased thereat, sent on these messengers to see me, and convey his respects before he had received the letters directed to him from his Excellency the Governor and myself. At the request of the King's messengers, I instructed two of my people to accompany them to Kummassi, to witness the delivery of the message.—I remain, &c. (Signed) GEORGE BLANKSON.

To the Merchants, Cape Coast.

MRS. MOSELEY'S CAPE COAST SCHOOL.

24, Upper Berkeley Street, Portman Square,
December 8, 1865.

My dear Mr. Fitzgerald,—Feeling that just at this juncture in my efforts for my dear African friends in Cape Coast some assistance from you would prove very valuable, will you kindly bestow upon my proposed work a little further co-operation, and say a few words on its behalf in the columns of the *African Times*; and manifesting as you have long done, and are still doing, such cordial and true interest in the improvement and amelioration of the poor benighted African natives, and earnest desire for their advancement in Christian and industrial civilization, I feel that in your hands and kind pleading I am leaving the cause with some real hope, under God's blessing, of ultimate success. I would just briefly state that in addition to Scriptural instruction in the truths of God's Holy Word, I am so anxious to secure for the poor African women and children instruction also in different branches of industrial knowledge, to render them in time better wives and mothers, and to create in them that legitimate ambition for home and domestic improvement and industry, which would go hand in hand with their moral and social elevation, and render them, I trust, please God, a truly happy, Christian, and prosperous population. Having for a short time sojourned amongst them, I have witnessed their great need in this respect; and have long mourned over my own individual inability in not being able to have sent them ere this the efficient means for establishing an institution of the character I have described to meet this great necessity. However, I do now trust, by the joint kindly and liberal help of English Christian hearts, we shall accomplish this important object, please God, for these poor African women and their little ones; as I cannot but feel that the aid and sympathy already elicited for this desired work is an earnest of greater and more effectual means to accomplish it ultimately. A Christian lady has promised me articles in fancy and useful work to the amount of 100l. if I can dispose of them, and which I trust to do in the spring; and any further contributions to increase this collection will be, too, of great help to our fund, if any persons who are not able to give money would kindly send us a little assistance in this form. Leaving your more powerful pen to plead all the rest for my Cape Coast friends, and with grateful thanks for your valuable co-operation, believe me, dear Mr. Fitzgerald, yours truly obliged,

S. C. MOSELEY.

ANAMABOE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Dear Sir,—C. W. Bentill, Esq., Providence Salt Pond, Munford, merchant, has been appointed Field-Marshal by His Majesty Otobell, King Gournoch.

King Coffee Affarey, of this town, died, I am very sorry to say, on the 25th October last, and was buried on the 28th. The King of Cape Coast sent down his volunteers with their band, and some of his councillors to attend the funeral. It was very grand. Salutes were fired from Anamaboe Fort and Cape Coast Castle. Chief Solomon of Domasie is here with his 500 troops, and Chief Inow Attah of Domasie, also making Custom for the late King. R. J. G.

GOLD COAST.

PRACTICAL REPLIES TO ANTHROPOLOGISTS.

Abokobi, November 8, 1865.

Sir,—Considering the controversy that has been going on in England about the Africans, it is well worth mentioning to you how our brethren at Quittah were treated by the natives of Aungla during this quarrel with the Adah people. There were several friendly chiefs, especially the Chief of Anyako, where they have a station. The young people spoke about robbing the missionaries and the factory of Messrs. Victor and Sons, but the chiefs put them right by showing them how their country derives nothing but good from them; how they have come to them and trusted themselves to their protection, and how they educate their people, &c. Thus all the property of the mission, the full stores of the factory, and, before all, eight or ten valuable lives of our brethren, were spared. Here we can see the good hand of the Lord, and the beneficial influence which the mission

has on these "savages," who, however, are entitled to hear and receive the Gospel, and civilization in its train as well as Old England. What would these gentlemen—who say that Mohammedanism and polygamy is the only form of religion which could benefit the nigger—be if their forefathers had not embraced Christianity? They would be as savage as these despised people are now, and perhaps more degraded still, considering the energy by which the Saxon race is known to act in good and in evil.

Also at Addah the factory of Victor and Sons was quite safe under the protection of the chief of Addah, and not a pin's-worth was stolen, because this chief is on very friendly terms with the missionaries at Kroboe, who visit the town from time to time. A near relation of the chief has been baptized, and he assured our missionaries that all would be safe, and so it was. This shows, certainly, no inferiority of the negro.

Here in the Accra country our Christians enjoy the privilege of us white people. I had a case yesterday. A Christian woman passed through one of the neighbouring villages with some sugar-cane. Now there is a heathen law that nobody is to carry sugar-cane, or a brass basin, or a dead man through a village. The young men began to abuse the poor woman, and to take away her sugar-cane, and there was some pushing about, and of course also angry words, &c. We asked the headman to come with his people to afford us an opportunity to settle the dispute peaceably. I asked the headman whether they considered this law binding on Christians. He said they never thought of binding white people to their law. I told him we did not speak about white men, but about Christians from among themselves. He said that they considered every negro who was baptized to be a white man! The headman said he was very sorry that such a thing had happened, but he was on his farm, else he would have prevented the young men illtreating the woman. He apologised for what had been done, and the matter was settled in a friendly way, and, besides, the exemption of our Christians from such annoying laws was fully acknowledged and established! I have always found it best, whenever any dispute arose, to speak in friendly words to both parties, and by doing so, people who threatened us with firing at us entirely changed their opinion, and became very friendly and attached. Surely this looks not so savage-like as some people wish the public to believe the negroes to be.

It seems the anthropologists have been very busy of late at Birmingham to show the inferiority of the black man, and I was glad to see that they have been contradicted. I hope the next mail may bring me an answer from Mr. Wilson about the photographs he wishes.—I am, my dear Sir, faithfully yours,

C. W. L.

OFFICIAL: EXTRACTS FROM LAGOS ORDINANCE, REGULATING TRADE WITH ABEOKUTA.

The "Ordinance" which has been alluded to in letters and correspondence in this journal, both in the number for November and this present one, is entitled—

"An Ordinance to authorise the levy of an Export-duty of two and a-half per cent. on all goods and merchandise exported from the Settlement of Lagos to the Egba Territory."

Article No 1 states: "That it shall and may be lawful for any person resident in the Egba Territory, not being a European merchant or native trader at any time entitled to British protection, to have free access to the settlement of Lagos, for the purposes of peaceful commerce, and to export therefrom any goods or merchandise (munitions of war only excepted) on payment of the duty and subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned."

No. 2. Fixes the duty at two and a-half per cent. (which is, of course, an export duty in addition to the four per cent. import duty which the same goods pay on being imported into Lagos).

No. 3. Appoints place and mode of payment of said duty.

No. 4. Is to the effect that goods exported for which a permit is not produced are to be seized.

No. 5. That canoe or boat carrying goods without permit, will be seized, forfeited, and sold.

No. 6. That persons exporting goods without permit shall be subject to certain heavy fines or imprisonment.

No. 7. And that no goods or merchandise, the property of European merchants, or of native traders, being British subjects, or of any person resident in Lagos, shall be exported to the Egba Territory; provided, nevertheless, that the officer for the time being administering the affairs of Lagos may, as often as he shall think fit, by special permit, allow any goods or merchandise to be exported to the Egba Territory, for the personal use of any missionary or his family residing therein, if such missionary shall not be directly or indirectly engaged in trade.

No. 8. States that goods can only be exported by certain specified routes.

No. 9. That that Ordinance is in force immediately on its being published.

This Ordinance is dated 13th September, 1865, and is in the name of John Hawley Glover, Lieutenant-Governor.

SALE OF A SLAVE AT ABEOKUTA BY A BRITISH SUBJECT.

Deposition of Daniel Dopemu, a Christian Convert at Abeokuta.

I am slave to Mr. Henry Robbin at Abeokuta. I was bought by him four years ago, for fourteen bags and four heads cowries.

I was employed to bring the Reverend Mr. Moore to Lagos in a canoe belonging to my master; in returning, the canoe and cargo were seized and confiscated, in consequence of a bag of shots that was found concealed in a bag of cowries. I got Mr. Moore's friends to buy the canoe at the public auction, and returned in her to Abeokuta.

My master asked me whether it was I who put the shots in the bag of cowries. I told him no. He then said, Fortunately it is not you; for if it was you who did it, I would have killed you.

Five days afterwards, my master called me and said, I would return you to your former master; as I heard you have got a disease, and I would not lose my money.

The Christians at Abeokuta, on hearing it, came and begged him not to sell or return me to my former master; they asked the amount for which I was bought; he told them he bought me for thirty-one bags of cowries. As they all knew that he had only paid fourteen bags for me, they all returned without saying anything more.

Mr. Robbin then put me in chains, in which I remained for five days in his house; and after that he handed me over to one Lumeye, a slave-dealer, who shared my head and kept me in chains at his house for seven days, and was preparing to take me, as he said, to Okeodan. Lumeye said to me himself that, as the people had begged Mr. Robbin and failed, I should be quiet and not run away, as he would not sell me at Okeodan as he was requested by Mr. Robbin, but that he would sell me to the son of the late King of Porto Novo, who will treat me kindly.

After Mr. Robbin had handed me over to Lumeye, I am told, he went to the Reverend Mr. Townsend and informed him that my former master had claimed me from him, and had taken me away.

After I remained in chains at Lumeye's house for seven days, I was glad to find on the night of the seventh day that the chains fell off from me during a very strong wind that was then blowing. I then wrapped the chains in my cloth and escaped. I left the chains in an Oro bush at Illugun. I came through Oke-odba to Makolohi, and from thence to Otta in a canoe, and then to Lagos overland from Otta. This is the tenth day since I escaped from Abeokuta.

I was told by Captain Davies, a few days ago, that Mr. Robbin had written to himself and Mr. Beckley, to say that my former master had claimed me from him and taken me to Porto Novo; and if they should happen to see me, they should not believe any word I may say against him, and that he believed I was to be taken to Dahomey.

his
DANIEL M. DOPEMU.
mark.

On this 31st day of October, 1865, the foregoing deposition was sworn to by Daniel Dopemu, at Lagos.—Before me,
BENJAMIN WAX, Chief Magistrate.

STATE AND PROSPECTS OF ABEOKUTA.

Lagos, November 4, 1865.

What is to become of Abeokuta? I always had hoped that England would graciously take her under her protection, and raise her to that rank of civilization which she deserves, as one of the future great emporiums of Western Africa. But England has declared that she will rather diminish than increase her possessions on the Coast; and as history teaches us that no nation ever did get civilised through her own efforts, there is now, alas! little hope for her. But things are taking another turn. If the white man will not take Abeokuta, the black man must; and we just hear that our Sierra Leone friends are busily at work to establish a Government of their own there.

They have got up an *Egba United Board of Management*, with a director, who at the same time holds the office of secretary to the Basorun. The last ordinance from the Basorun prohibiting the export of produce from Abeokuta was quite officially worded, written on boards, and carried through the streets, and afterwards stuck up conspicuously in the public places. The Secretary-Director, in the name of the Basorun, announces imprisonment for life to any person or persons who should be found guilty of transgressing the said ordinance. The Board of Management has

appointed justices of the peace, to try all offenders. You see this sounds something like civilization! At present the Governor of Lagos does not allow any Sierra Leone immigrants to go up to Abeokuta, but I assure you they are all thoroughly tired of Lagos; and should this restriction be removed they will emigrate by thousands; they would then form a very powerful body in Abeokuta, who might have a decided influence over the present weak Government there. This ought to be welcome news for the friends of civilization; but there are a few drawbacks which I should like to point out. In the first place, they all delight in polygamy; if I say all, I do not mean the few exceptions well known here; but that as a body of people they do so. In Lagos this game will not do; but in Abeokuta they speedily add one or two wives to the one they swore in the church "to love and to cherish." Thus we may get a *Christian State "à la Joseph Smith"* in Abeokuta. The missionaries do all they can to prevent such a state of things; but men's passions are too strong, and they have no law to help them. Secondly, they all *love to keep slaves*. If you ask them why they should keep slaves, they themselves having only escaped from slavery, they plead that it is impossible to get on without slaves in this country, and that it is only domestic slavery; besides, they do not whip their slaves as the Americans did." And here I should undeceive those who want to defend this "domestic slavery." It is true the slave in Abeokuta is not ill-treated; with the exception that he can be sold, pawned, or seized for debt, he is very well off; but we always forget, *how did he become a slave?* Few people sell their own relatives; slaves are caught. Ask a little slave boy, "Where do you come from," and he will tell you the name of a distant town where he used to live. "And where is your mother?" "O, I don't know, she was caught by the ommo ogun, and carried away." "Where is your father?" "He was sold to the interior." Thus many a slave has a glorious recollection of father and mother, brothers and sisters, who once used to sit in one and the same compound, until they were kidnapped one by one. A war in this country is only got up for the sake of catching slaves; it is a great slave hunt, the warrior taking care rather to provide himself with ropes than anything else. To make prisoners does not exist in their language; they only *catch slaves*. It is a pity to see Sierra Leone people encourage and even join in such barbarous customs.—Yours,

ONE WHO WRITES TRUTH.

ABEOKUTA.

(From the *Iwa Irohin*, November 4.)

A public meeting was convened by the Basorun on Friday, the 20th October, to make arrangements to preserve the safety of the town. As the statements put forth by the chiefs are of public interest and importance, we deem it right to give a brief report.

They stated that the Governor of Lagos had warned them of an intention on the part of their neighbours, the Dahomians and the Ibadans, to attack them in the coming dry season. That having thus made a statement of his belief of coming danger to them—and that notwithstanding their compliance with his demands on them for the opening of the roads, and for general peace—he maintains an embargo on munitions of war, whilst they are informed he permits those whom he says are preparing to attack them to supply themselves freely at Lagos. Also, that he continues to lay a tax on their trade, and prevents British subjects trading in Abeokuta, to the manifest injury of their country; and therefore they feel it to be their duty to prohibit the exportation of oil, cotton, or other articles, the produce of their country, until such time as the Governor of Lagos removes the restrictions he has placed on their trade, and opens the roads freely to all. The chiefs asked the assembly whether any British subject residing in Abeokuta had a hand in the plots of Lagos against this place? to which one of the Sierra Leone people present replied, No. The people were commanded to repair the town wall, and to restrict their trading transactions in the interior, that they may be prepared to meet whatever plans their enemies may design against them.

THE GREAT MEETING AT ABEOKUTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Abeokuta, November 3, 1865.

Dear Sir,—I know that you always feel very glad to hear about the state of things here in Abeokuta, therefore I write you these few lines, which I trust will meet you in good health.

On the 21st of October last, a meeting was held at Sodeke's-street; the bellman first came to my house, to tell me that the Basorun wished me to attend the meeting, to which I went, to see and to hear what they would say. The Basorun himself was present, with many of the war-chiefs and elders also. The first speaker was Akodu, the war-chief of Oba district, who came out and saluted the Basorun, the elders, and rest of the people. He first thanked the people for the patience they bore since they were driven from Ikorodu by the Governor

of Lagos; he then asked the people whether it was not the Governor of Lagos who came to them at Iperu, to ask them to come and take Ikorodu, after they had driven the Ibadans away. The people answered, yes. He asked them again, whether it was not the same Governor of Lagos who came and drove them away, when he knew that Ikorodu was about to be taken. The people answered again as before. He asked them again, if they had heard about the Governor's proceedings by sending many presents to Ogumola, the chief of Ibadan, and the Ijebu Remos, whom they were defending, and where many of their people had died, when the Ibadans determined to destroy them, which they prevented; and how he also sent to the King of Dahomey, begging him to come again to attack Abeokuta this coming dry season, because he was no more a friend to Abeokuta; to which the people replied, yes. He then turned his face towards the Sierra Leone emigrants, and asked them, whether they were not the party that had told them that the white men, i.e. the missionaries, were very good people, they must receive them into the town. The emigrants answered, yes. He asked again, whether they prevented their children from going to church. They answered, no. He asked again, whether they ever prevented the merchants from trading in the town. They said, no. He asked them again, whether they had heard all that the Governor of Lagos is now doing. They answered, yes. He then said that the whole of the Egbas did not know the distinction between white and white; for it seems to them that the missionaries and the Governor of Lagos were both sent to this part of Africa by the Queen of England; he said, now the Governor of Lagos is trying all his best to to destroy Abeokuta, and to root out the Word of God from this place; he said that the Governor of Lagos had got some Mohammedans with him there, who were making charms for him, to enable him to carry his purposes through; he said again, that the God of Heaven, whom the Governor of Lagos wanted to deny, and about whom the missionaries here are preaching to their children, and whom they know to be so faithful and true, will surely reward the Governor for his wicked actions. He said again, that they shall have to call all the white men in this town here together, but not to-day: he then took his seat.

The second speaker was Akiwumi, the head Bada of the Gbaguras, whose words were not so loud that I could hear them fully. I only heard that he wished that the Egbas may see about repairing their walls in time, and he wished the Basorun may put a stop to the people not to go to anywhere to trade, but to see about their walls, and to prepare themselves for the coming battle; he also begged the Egbas not to be afraid of what they had heard was coming; he trusted the Lord would be with them: he then took his seat.

The third speaker was the Basorun himself, who spoke many words of encouragement to the people, and his words were almost as those of Akodu, but the principal word he said was this, that he commanded that nobody should go down to Lagos to trade now with anything whatever; if they found his own son going down to Lagos with any produce, or whatever they shall find in his hand, that son's head must be cut off; but he did not prevent any one to go down with his empty canoe. He had done all this, because he had written to the Governor of Lagos not to open the road only to the Egbas, but to the merchants and emigrants, and any who desire to come to trade in Abeokuta, and he had told the Governor that his people would not pay any duty in Lagos, because they never paid any duty in Lagos since they ever traded there, or even before he came there—but the Governor refused to listen to him, and prevented the merchants and emigrants to come up with their produce to trade in Abeokuta; and he was still taking the duty which he told him not to do; he also sent many presents to Ogumola, the Ijebu Remos, and the King of Dahomey, begging them to come once more to attack them this coming dry season, for he was no more their friend. As he prevented the merchants and emigrants to come up to trade, and insisted upon his people, the Egbas, to pay duty, therefore he commanded that nobody should go down any more until the the Governor would be removed away from Lagos. He wished the whole to see about repairing their walls, and to prepare themselves against the coming dry season. Then the meeting was over.—I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

A CREOLE.

Mr. Walker was, when the last letters left the Gaboon, almost ready to start for his exploration of the interior.

A GOOD CHANGE IN MISSISSIPPI.—Governor Humphreys, of Mississippi, has sent a message to the Legislature of that State recommending as a measure of vital importance, and as a means of relieving the state of national troops, the passage of laws admitting negro testimony in the courts, affording the freedmen protection in all their rights, giving encouragement to their industry, assisting in the education of their children, and taxing them for the support of their own vagrants and helpless persons.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

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

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FREDERICK SMART, OF ANAMABOE.—*If what you say is true, those persons ought, no doubt, to be removed from office, but we should not be justified in publishing your letter.*

MR. JOHN HAMMOND'S (ANAMABOE) four compositions do him great credit, but are not of sufficient public interest to allow of their insertion in the *AFRICAN TIMES*.

"AFRICA," Cape Coast, is not quite intelligible, and the letter purporting to be copy of one written by Captain Hay to the Chief Commandant at Apollonia cannot be genuine.

The African Times.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1865.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

SLAVE-TRADE.—A cargo of African slaves is said to have been recently landed on the north side of the island of Cuba. If this be true, we hope that cargo will be the last ever landed in the island. Spain will assuredly lose Cuba unless she entirely suppress the slave-trade there.

ROYAL AFRICAN MAIL STEAM SHIP COMPANY.—At the half-yearly meeting of the African Steamship Company, held December 6, the report of the directors was adopted unanimously, and a dividend was declared of 8s. per share, free of income tax, payable on and after Friday, the 8th December.

COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS.—We are informed that, under the able management of Mr. Tobin, the business of this company has proved to be a very profitable one, and that the fortunate shareholders may expect to see a handsome dividend declared next month or early in February. The 10% shares in this company, 3% paid, are now at $\frac{1}{2}$ premium.

ANTHROPOID APES!—A clever pamphlet by one of these will be found advertised in page 67 of this journal. We recommend all our readers to procure it.

Mr. Barnes, whose sudden death at Liverpool on the 23rd September we noticed in our October number, seems to be greatly mourned for at Cape Coast, Anamaboe, &c. He is described in communications we have received as having been "one of the best friends to man and to the cause of God" in all that part of Africa.

M. du Chaillu has arrived safely in England from his unsuccessful effort at exploration of the interior from the Fernan Vas River. His commercial speculations have, however, we believe, turned out very favourably.

The private of the 4th West India Regiment sentenced to be hung at Cape Coast has not been executed, in consequence, it is said, of great irregularities in the trial before the Acting Chief Justice.

CHRISTMAS, 1865.

THE night shadows of this year are deepening, and the dawn-light streaks of another are spreading on the horizon. One year is about to be shifted on Time's bead-roll from the present to the past—another to be brought forward from the future to the present. It is a period at which we may well ask ourselves a few questions as to the way in which we have performed our several duties, and among them those which devolve on us all with regard to Africa—that continent and those people which have yet to be brought from darkness to light, from barbarism and comparative unproductiveness to civilization and wealth, from a general pollution of blood to the comparative purity of peace and order. We entreat our friends, both English and educated Africans, to ask themselves this question, even as we ask it ourselves. When this number of our journal issues from the press, all will be in some way or other preparing to commemorate the advent of Him "who, being rich" beyond all human estimation, "for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich." Do we, any of us, feel disposed to remit our exertions because the people steeped in moral and religious darkness do not at once welcome the light which we bring to them with such a poor, sparing, grudging hand? We shall do well to remember that He who as at this time came to earth in human form on His great errand of love and mercy, came, not

to a people who desired, but to a world that had hated him, and did not abandon the work because he was despised, reviled, and rejected. Let our motto be "onward!"—through good report and through evil report—"onward!" We may not ourselves see the results of our labours, but they will have formed a part in the ultimately concluded work. And the more nearly we endeavour to resemble Him, the more fully shall we obtain that "merry Christmas and happy New Year" which we now most heartily wish to our readers and friends as well as to ourselves. Peace!

THE SAD NEWS FROM JAMAICA.

In our last number we alluded briefly to the painful intelligence then lately received from Jamaica. An insurrection, or outbreak (for it was certainly more than a riot), of a portion of the negro population had taken place; some horrible excesses were stated to have been committed; and as a consequence, martial law had been proclaimed by the authorities, and hanging and shooting had been carried on to a lamentable extent. Since then we have been inundated with papers published by friends of the emancipated negroes in the West Indies, in which the conduct of the Governor, the commanders, the officers, the troops, and all concerned in the repression of this outbreak and the punishment of those guiltily concerned, or supposed to have been so concerned in it, is vehemently denounced; and extreme reprisals, even to the extent of hanging the Governor, and other supposed official culprits, are demanded. We are aware that we should have obtained popularity had we adopted or followed in the same course. But we can never allow the hastily-formed opinions of others—opinions adopted, as perhaps in the present case, under the impulse of a generous indignation against oppression—to weigh with us in the consideration of facts brought before us in our capacity as Editor of this paper. We cannot take a certain specified course, whatever it may be, merely because it is expected of us. With all our respect for the opinions of eminent men, we must conscientiously examine things for ourselves. We have been endeavouring to do this in the matter of the Jamaica outbreak, and the summary executions by which it has been punished. But we find the whole matter too serious for an extreme decision without that full evidence on both sides which will undoubtedly be furnished now that order has been restored. The facts are few, though the horrible episodes, alas! are many. What are the facts as presented to us? An outbreak accompanied by unpardonable outrages—an alleged general treasonable disaffection, and plot to murder the whole white population at Christmas—horrible executions and punishments which in their turn also sicken and appal us. Thus the case stands at present, attended by these additional facts—that the white population is only about 13,000, and the black above 430,000.

The arrest, removal, trial by court-martial, and execution of Mr. Gordon, who was well known to many persons in this country, were events calculated of themselves to call forth very strong expressions of opinion; and when to these were added the accounts of the slaughter, or execution, or cruel flogging of some two or three thousand people, a pressure was brought to bear on Her Majesty's Government, under which they have suspended Governor Eyre from office, during the inquiry to be made into all the facts and circumstances attending the outbreak and its repression, under the direction of Sir H. Storks, Governor of Malta, who is charged for the time being with the Governorship of Jamaica. We were not parties in any way to that agitation and pressure on the Government. With the fears that oppress our mind, and which we of course grieve to believe are well grounded, we could not be so. For should the inquiry unhappily establish the facts of that almost universal participation in a horrible treason plot which has been alleged, and of the complicity of those who have been punished, the sacrifice by a Government of its officer who had vindicated the supremacy of the law, restored order, nipped a bloody rebellion in the bud, and preserved thirteen thousand men, women, and children, from the dreadful fate with which they were menaced, and of which some premonitory examples had been afforded at Morant Bay, will, in our opinion, be attended with very pernicious effects by weakening the hands of Colonial Executives in periods of danger and difficulty. The vacillation or weakness of an Executive at such a season might place in jeopardy thousands of innocent lives, and lead to eventual results incalculably more dreadful than the suppressive severities of a firm and decided officer. For let it be supposed for a moment that the allegation of such an intended outbreak in Jamaica is correct—that such an outbreak had been successful—its horrors all enacted, and the island had fallen entirely into the hands of the negro population. Does any man in his senses believe that this country would condone the offence, and allow the guilty island thus to remain, one of the prophesied Confederation of Black Republics of the Antilles? Would it not rather exact a retribution as dreadful as the crime and the outrage had been atrocious? For the sake of the negro

population, therefore, as well as of the menaced handful of whites, severity will have been a great mercy if it shall have indeed prevented such a consummation.

We know that in expressing such opinions we deprive the society which this journal represents of much additional pecuniary support that it might have obtained had we gone with the tide which has swept away official protection from a denounced and pre-condemned Colonial Governor. But this weighs as nothing with us. We had rather see the seat of administration of the African-Aid Society transferred to a garret, or a cellar, than obtain one penny towards its support by following a course of which our conscience did not entirely approve. Moreover, what we are aiming at is the Christian civilization and industrial development of Africa. Africa is really our field of operations; the spread of industrial civilization there is the object we have in view. This has rendered necessary a study of the African character, which has led us to opinions differing widely, perhaps, from those entertained by many prominent friends of the emancipated negroes of the West Indies. Pride and a love of power are so far from being strangers to the African breast, that with freedom and education among them it will be by no means an easy task to maintain white dominion, where their numbers largely overpower the European. And this leads us to one of the most difficult problems we have to deal with. The civilization we desire for Africa cannot be self-generated in her; it must come from without; it can only come from Europe and British America (which includes, of course, the United States); it cannot be imparted without the presence of Europeans there; Europeans will not occupy a subordinate position, and will not without difficulty tolerate an equality; while there is a sensitiveness, a pride, a love of power in the educated African, however superficial that education may be, that prompts him to demand full equality, if not supremacy. Surely the work we have undertaken is not only not an easy, but is a most arduous and difficult one. Nor can it be a cause for wonder that we should closely scan official life on the Coast, and urge the appointment of men of Christian principles, whose conduct may illustrate that civilization which Great Britain ought everywhere to promote.

CAPE COAST FEMALE SCHOOL.

It is not often that we now ask our English readers to give anything for Africa, or for the cause of God and man in Africa. One cannot be always rolling a stone uphill. If we are to judge by results, we should say it has become a fixed idea in all but a few superior minds that to give for African objects is to throw money away. The old Christian sympathies for Africa seem to have made an Arctic voyage and become thoroughly iced. They will thaw some day—of that we have no doubt—and for the most part we endeavour to wait with as good a grace as possible. But there are some things to be done that strike so immediately and directly at the worst of the evils of African society, that to withhold the pecuniary means, when the more precious ones of devoted Christian zeal and self-sacrificing human sympathy are ready for action, is a deplorable neglect of duty. To hope against constant disappointment is difficult, but in one case, at least, we do try to hope that such neglect of duty will not appear. The Cape Coast Female School, for which Mrs. Moseley, widow of a late chief justice of the Supreme Court at the Gold Coast, is seeking the necessary funds, ought to be commenced forthwith. There is no real Christian civilization possible anywhere without a previous release of the female part of the population from those degradations to which they are subject in heathen and barbarous countries. A real civilization must begin with the education and refinement of woman. When at Cape Coast, Mrs. Moseley, whose Christian heart was deeply grieved at the debased condition of the women and the utter neglect of the female children, made some efforts at imparting instruction, which were most gratefully welcomed by the people, and promised to be attended with very beneficial results. The poor creatures saw that a kind and generous heart was interested in their welfare, and they repaid her efforts with a warm and most gratifying tribute of affection. It is impossible to estimate the good that might be effected by the devoted labours of a refined and cultivated Christian lady such as Mrs. Moseley really is. We are sure that, if our readers could see her and hear her plead for the poor people for whose welfare she is ready to give up all the charms of a refined society she is so eminently fitted to adorn, they would feel so powerfully the influence of that sense of Christian duty by which she is actuated to make such sacrifices, that they would soon double the amount now stated to be indispensable to the commencement of the work at Cape Coast. We refer our readers, our lady readers especially, to Mrs. Moseley's letter which appears in our third page. They will perceive that some 300*l.* and more is still wanting, and that 100*l.* worth of articles for a fancy fair has been promised. We do not take the liberty of attempting to dictate to our readers how this 300*l.* is to be made up, whether by direct money, subscrip-

tions, or by bazaar efforts—all we say is, make it up some way or other. Any further information required on the subject may be obtained by addressing Mrs. Moseley direct. The blessing of "those that were ready to perish" will certainly be given to such as render assistance in this case. As there is now a native Christian King at the town of Cape Coast, the attendant local circumstances are particularly favourable at present for the work Mrs. Moseley is so devotedly anxious to inaugurate.

THE ABEOKUTA SLAVE.

If we had needed new facts to convince us that the presence of British power and authority is indispensable for removing the great evils that prevail in Africa, we should have found them in the deposition of an escaped slave, which will be found in page 60, and should be read in conjunction with the letter that immediately follows it, signed "One who Writes Truth."

We have known, alas! but too long, that such practices do prevail, although it is not often the evidence establishing the existence of them can be obtained or produced. We have never forgotten that it was alleged the great opposition at Lagos against the annexation of that place to the British Crown, was promoted by educated native British subjects, who could no longer be slaveholders there under British rule. But we hoped the influence of British Lagos would so prevail, and the fear of British Lagos be so felt, that in Abeokuta as well as in Lagos, no British subject, or so-called Christian, would lay himself open to legal pains and penalties and the condemnation of good men, by buying, holding, or selling his fellow-creatures as slaves. But the deposition and letter alluded to disabuse us on this head. The evil leaven seems to be there in power. Its presence is disgraceful to those educated Africans who are leavened by it. This Robbin, this so-called Christian slaveholder of Abeokuta—this seemingly pious master of a Christian slave—whose tender mercies to his slave seem to have been, indeed, as cruel as those of any pagan slaveholder could have been, was, we believe, some two or three years in Manchester, educating there as a mechanic and engineer. We do not recollect whether he had been a slave liberated at Sierra Leone, or was sent direct from Abeokuta for instruction. We believe, however, that he is a British subject, and if so, and that deposition be a true statement of facts, we hope that should he come within the reach of British power, he will be made an example of. It seems to us, moreover, quite clear that the indulgence to slaveholders at Lagos, of which we have so often complained, should now cease, and the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons be carried out by an immediate abolition of all slavery within the precincts of the colony. We hope, too, that we shall never again hear of a slave who has sought refuge there being delivered up to her former master in a heathen town, even though he be a king, and demand her on the ground of her being one of his wives, or intended wives, and promise that she shall not be punished—a promise, the value of which in such cases is less than that of a grain of common sand. And a proclamation should also issue that native or other British subjects in Abeokuta, or elsewhere in Africa (as in all other parts of the world), against whom proof may be obtained that they are holders, or buyers, or sellers of slaves will be severely punished. We recommend, moreover, to missionaries of all Christian churches to follow from henceforth the course so successfully pursued during the last two years by the Basle Mission on the Gold Coast, where no slaveholder can be admitted to be a communicant. Nothing short of a practical protest of this kind against slaveholding can suffice to eradicate this great demoralizer from among professing African Christians living in native territories. Christianity and slaveholding must be separated in Africa if any real good is to be effected.

LAGOS, ABEOKUTA, AND IBADAN.

THERE is perhaps no other part of Africa in which a greater disposition exists to cultivate the soil for the purpose of exchanging the produce against foreign commodities than in the Yoruba countries, lying between the Lagos Lagoons and the river Niger. Before the annexation of Lagos to the British Crown, Abeokuta had become remarkable among the African countries for the great and rapid increase of its production and trade. Abeokuta was immeasurably the largest exporter of cotton in native Africa; her palm oil trade with Lagos was considerable, and other commerce prospered. With the annexation of Lagos to Great Britain, we looked naturally for a still greater increase of production and trade; and we have no doubt that such results would have been obtained but for the native wars, which have so interfered with agricultural pursuits, and the differences with Lagos on the part of the Egbas, which had their origin principally in those wars. In the comments we have from time to time made upon those wars and differences, we have regarded the former as in a great degree arising from

the desire of the Ibadans to have an open direct road to Lagos through the Jebu country, *via* Korodu or Ikorodu, and that of the Abeokutans to prevent the realization of the Ibadan desire; and we have constantly upheld and approved of the policy of the Lagos Government in endeavouring to increase the facilities for communication and trade with the interior of the Yoruba countries by other routes than that of Abeokuta, which would not of itself suffice for that development of the natural resources of those rich countries which is so desirable for the growth of commerce and the spread of civilization and Christianity among the people. Although inundated with complaints against the Lagos policy, and the means employed to forward it, we could not conscientiously differ with it. We have always felt a deep interest in Abeokuta, where so many educated Africans were engaged in commerce, where so many Christian converts had been made, and so much success seemed to have rewarded missionary labour. But as we had never seen a desire on the part of Abeokuta that the good she was herself receiving from direct communication with European civilization and direct contact with Christianity should extend beyond her into the interior, our great desire was that Ibadan should be placed in a position to receive similar advantages from the proximity of Lagos. In a word, we looked upon Lagos not as a commercial tributary of Abeokuta, but as a commercial and civilising power for the whole Yoruban country, with its differing and, unhappily, too often hostile tribes and peoples. We looked through the temporary difficulties and dissatisfactions to a future that should atone for them, and watched the progress of events with ever-deepening anxiety and hope; and rejoiced extremely when a month or two ago we saw reason to believe that the differences between Lagos and Abeokuta had virtually terminated, and direct and unimpeded communication between Lagos and Ibadan had been at the same time secured.

Our hopes have not been realised, and a policy has been pursued at Lagos from which we feel bound to dissent. That dissent we expressed in our last number, and shall not further allude to it. But in the same number we published two out of a host of letters from Abeokuta, the contents of which, with regard to Ikorodu matters, startled us; and which we felt bound to insert, because of the position of the writers, and their agreement on this subject with the contents of other letters that came to us through channels we greatly respect. We had not then time or space to point out the evident errors with regard to the Ibadan and Lagos route *via* Ikorodu into which a strong Egba bias had led the writers. We reserved our observations on this important subject for our December issue; but we have been spared the task by the esteemed author of a letter we now insert headed, "The Ibadan Road to Lagos." That letter deserves the attention of our readers. We cannot agree with the author that because there have been mis-statements about the Ikorodu road, that therefore all the other statements about Ikorodu fall to the ground; but we do think that we should not be justified in so assuming them to be true as to ground on them accusations against Her Majesty's chief representative at Lagos, whom we have so much desired always to be able to praise, but whose disqualifying ordinances as regards British traders we must again condemn. We do think that such an ordinance, as well as the additional export duty on goods for Abeokuta, ought not to have been promulgated or enforced without previous sanction of the authorities at home. There we leave it for the present, sincerely hoping that the mail arriving on the 10th January will bring intelligence of the revocation or withdrawal of such obnoxious edicts.

But, returning to the subject of direct and unfettered communication between Lagos and Ibadan, we ask whether the facts stated in "D. H.'s" letter with regard to the difficulties under which the natives conduct their palm oil and cotton traffic with the coast, do not justify us in all the efforts and all the representations we have made for obtaining roads in Africa, and for furthering navigation on her rivers. The civilization, the Christianizing, the development of the resources of the populous and productive interior, must depend greatly on these. Roads, roads, roads, and the navigation of rivers, is still our cry, and still our demand for Africa. Much might be done from Sierra Leone; much from Cape Coast, Accra, and other towns on the seaboard of the Gold Coast; and much, we hope and believe, will ere long be done from Lagos. We know how to estimate, alas! but too well, all the difficulties that oppose and impede. But we know that the interior of those countries cannot be civilised, or obtain the development of their resources, without such aids; and as we believe that Christianity and civilization will prevail there, we feel assured that those aids will sooner or later be enjoyed. Yoruba has advantages over many other portions of Western Africa. She possesses a good and strong breed of horses, and we may certainly be pardoned, even by the greatest anthropological hater of Africans, for an earnest desire to have palm oil and cotton drawn to the coast by these instead

of being borne day after day in journeys of from four to ten days on the heads of women, who may be carrying at the same time an infant at the breast. Ah! the woes of Africa are not an illusion, nor will the hope of relief for them prove to have been but a dream.

TRIBUTE TO THE "AFRICAN TIMES."

We have been much gratified by the following tribute to the usefulness of this journal, and of the African-Aid Society, from the pen of a gentleman who has attained the highest eminence as an advocate in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone:—

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, December 4, 1865.

Sir,—In recognition of the services which the journal of the African-Aid Society has rendered to the African cause, I beg to inclose a cheque for five guineas towards the funds of your society.

I rejoice to think that the colony of Sierra Leone, triumphing over many obstacles which have beset her in her onward path, is now making rapid strides in industry, commerce, and civilization.

I regret that you have not established in that colony an independent and regular correspondent, for I assure you that many circumstances of great importance in the administration of the Government there in the last year have not come under your notice.

Wishing your society every success in the cause in which it is engaged, I am Sir, &c.,

To F. Fitzgerald Esq., Hon. Sec. African-Aid Society, and Editor of *African Times*.

WALVICH BAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Walvich Bay, August, 1865.

Sir,—When I came to this harbour in June last year, with the intention to open a trading connexion with the natives of this country, I found my intentions thwarted by open hostilities, which just at this time had come to action between the Namaqua-Hottentot and Damara tribes—the latter assisted by Mr. Green and Mr. Andersson, known as hunters and explorers of this country—and was compelled to abide in this bay, kindly allowed permission from the Rhenish Missionary Society, under the direction of Rev. C. H. Hahn, to use their premises. It happened during this time that some of James Nisbet and Co.'s monthly "Chronicles" fell into my hands, addressed to the Rev. H. Kleinschmidt, at Rehobot (now defunct), who first drew my attention to an investigation of the doctrine promulgated in these volumes. Without, therefore, entering on the political state of the country, over which some expositions have been vented recently in the Cape Town papers, mostly contributed by Mr. Baines, and arresting the attention chiefly for a termination of the inherent quarrels between the Hottentot and Damara tribes, I will only mention the exertions of the Rev. C. H. Hahn, who has taken, in the spiritual view of the case, the most efficient part for the Damara population, providing the same with a vernacular of their own language, and, I think, already finished translation of the Bible in the same. The labours of the other missionaries amongst the mixed Hottentot tribes have likewise not been without results, with the single individual as well as with communities, and have, conjointly with the intercourse of traders and travellers, beaten a track open to further progress and cultivation.

For the furtherance of beneficial improvements, a programme has been designed, in one of the late Cape Town papers, by Rev. C. H. Hahn, purporting to make the Church Establishment self-supporting, by engaging in trade and introduction of agricultural and horticultural enterprise, which may at the same time serve to bring hitherto disunited and heterogeneous elements to concordance, until this part of the country is brought more acquainted with authorities on whom it will devolve to assist and protect further emancipation.

I therefore remit you these lines only as a contribution due in regard for the Evangelical Association, and refer to the Rev. C. H. Hahn, who, after the decease of the Rev. H. Kleinschmidt in the war time, as superintendent of the Rhenish Society, will be most able to render communication about the progress and wants of the mission in this field.

Hoping that this will not be unfavourably received, I remain, Sir, yours most respectfully,

CHARLES BUSHBECK,

In charge of the Mission Premises in this Bay.

SAD MORTALITY AMONG EMANCIPATED NEGROES IN LOUISIANA.—Several of the agents of the Freedmen's Bureau have officially called attention to the fact that great suffering will probably exist among the negroes during the approaching winter, and that the mortality among them is fearful and increasing. In one district over 900 died out of a body of less than 4,000 within six months. The mortality among the children and the aged is particularly great.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Diamond Company's steamer *Uitenhage*, from Table Bay, November 9, arrived off Falmouth on the 10th instant.

The news from the Cape is of no great importance, the war between the Free State and the Basutos having degenerated into a series of raids, the object of which is the theft of cattle.

Moshesh, the Basuto chief, was left undisturbed in his mountain home, while bands of farmers from the Free State and the Transvaal Republic were dashing into his country and carrying off everything upon which they could lay hands. The natives were retaliating in a similar manner, and it was impossible to say how long this state of things might continue. Moshesh had expressed his readiness to afford every satisfaction for the Natal raid, but nothing further had been done. Appearances generally indicated weariness on both sides, and it was considered unlikely that the war would for some time to come reassume its former importance.

Trade in the Cape was somewhat improved, and it was hoped that the crisis had passed. In the eastern districts the weather had been extremely favourable, and the lambing season, which was drawing to an end, had been unusually prolific, although it was said that the oat crops had suffered from the rains, and that there was some rust among the wheat. There were, however, no indications of a harvest deficit.

Another mail, bringing advices to the 14th November, arrived on the 18th inst., but the news was not important.

THE IBADAN ROAD TO LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

London, December, 1865.

Dear Sir,—In the interests of truth I wish to make some comments on the two letters from Abeokuta which appeared in your last number, and to rectify some errors in them. The worst feature of such letters is that there is so much of truth mixed up with what is untrue—so much of true facts modified, not to say distorted, and so much matter suppressed which would necessarily throw light on the subject in hand. Now in the case of the Governor of Lagos, I sincerely regret that, through his late ordinance, and a few things of that kind, he should have made the reconciliation of Abeokuta with the Lagos Government more difficult and remote; and I always held as untenable his endeavours to prevent British subjects (native or European) from settling anywhere (not only in Abeokuta) in the interior for the purposes of trade, for I am convinced that unless that is done the resources of the country can never be developed. But as to what the two letters say about the affair at Korodu and, again, the road from Ibadan to Korodu, I have no doubt whatever they mislead you, and wrong the Government of Lagos; and this is as much to be regretted as the Governor's unconciliatory ordinance, because it only helps to keep up the animosity. I will only refer to what is said about the Ibadan road to Korodu, to show the way in which facts are related, with parts of them distorted and parts suppressed, to make out a case. In one of the letters it is first of all denied that it is the direct road from Ibadan to Lagos. Now I have more than once sent a messenger from Ibadan to Lagos, who, without a load, walked it in two days to Korodu, got a canoe the same evening, and crossed over to Lagos the same night; but people with loads of merchandise occupy three days, and, of course, they use four very often from choice, time being of no value in their estimation. Then, again, it leads you to suppose that the road from Ibadan to Korodu was open all the time since the Egbas were driven from that place, and yet that the Ibadans came to Abeokuta to trade in preference to Lagos as soon as there was peace between Ibadan and Abeokuta, to prove how little they cared for the road to Korodu. Now this is concealing the all-important fact that the road from Ibadan to Korodu was *not* open for the Ibadans, or for any other but the *Jebu* people themselves. The Ibadans have to sell to the Jebus at Iperu, a Jebu town half way from Ibadan to Korodu, and get what they can from the Jebus, the Jebu King, backed by his Abeokuta allies, prohibiting the Ibadans or any up-country people to go any farther coastward than the town of Iperu, in Jebu Kemo country, and some other place similarly situated in that of Jebu Ode. Therefore, as a matter of course, they would rather go to Abeokuta, where there are European stores of native and English traders, than to Jebu, where there are none. But let the roads through the Jebu country be fairly open to all parties, as was the case some twenty years ago in the slave-trade time, and you will see what use the Ibadans will make of it, and see, too, the wonderful change in the development of the interior trade. In fact, the resources of the towns and country east and north-east of Ibadan can never be developed unless the natural roads to their seaport, Lagos, are open through the Jebu country. Besides, when once the land roads are used freely for traffic from the interior, it will follow very soon that the water communication will be used as well; for it ought to be known that water com-

munication *could* be had from Ibadan through the Jebu country to Lagos; one to as near as eight miles south of Ibadan through the Jebu Kemo country by the small, but deep river Ona; and the other fourteen or sixteen miles south-east of Ibadan by the large river Osun, close to which the Ibadan farms reach. Now I have no hesitation in saying that with these river roads open to towns like Ibadan, Iwo, Ede, Osogbo, Ife, Modakeke, Ilesha, and others, all large towns with a country productive, above all other parts of Yoruba, of palm-oil and cotton, Lagos will become the Liverpool of Western Africa. I would further say that money, patience, and perseverance, would be the sure means of opening these water communications; and I am much mistaken if Lagos Governors some years ago were not fully prepared to use those means for the purpose, when at the very outset their plans were frustrated by those lamentable wars; which wars, and not the presence of an English Government, as everybody ought to know, were the cause of the depression of the trade of Lagos.

Now I am persuaded that, just as in the case of the Ibadan road to the coast *via* Jebu, so with regard to the affair at Korodu, your Abeokuta letters, to say the least, mislead you and your readers, and that for anything but a good purpose. Such communications do a great deal of mischief, keeping up animosity and strife.

In making these remarks I do not, however, mean to imply that our Governors do always carry out their policy in the most satisfactory way; but much allowance ought to be made on account of their peculiarly trying positions, which few people at home can understand. As to the roads I have been pointing out, I ought perhaps to add that it is but natural Abeokuta people should want to ignore them, because while they can do so effectually they will retain all the profit on exports as well as imports by their own road. But this is a very contracted and short-sighted view of the case; for with only their road really open for all the interior, as I have already said, the resources of the country can and will never be properly developed. But if it can be done by others conjointly, surely much of the future excess on the present of the interior produce must flow to Abeokuta as well, the more so as there are good many traders in Ibadan who have houses for their business in Abeokuta as well as in Ibadan, being Egbas by birth; to say nothing of the fact, that if those parts of the country which have Ibadan and Jebu for their direct road to the coast were better developed, the parts which more directly depend on the Abeokuta trade could surely not remain behind.

When your Abeokuta correspondents want to make you believe that all the cotton and palm oil which came to Lagos *via* Jebu was the produce of Abeokuta farms stolen by Ibadan kidnappers, I think I ought in justice to state that, though I believe some may have been the produce of kidnapping (though I know what fell into the hands of kidnappers of the kind in the Egba farms was chiefly burnt), yet there was a very large amount of palm oil, and also of cotton, accumulated in Ibadan against the opening of roads. It ought not to be forgotten that, even before the war, large quantities of palm oil and cotton coming into Abeokuta, and which was there by traders supposed to be all the produce of Abeokuta farms, came constantly from the interior towns. I myself have seen women bringing palm oil as far as three and four days' journey E. N. E. from Ibadan, and carrying it in pots and calabashes on their heads to Abeokuta. I want your trading companies to notice this: a distance of six days' journey, palm oil carried on heads of women, with babies on their backs, with the risk of breakage, and loss of all the contents from a mere slip or stumble, when, with the river Osun open, one day, and less than one day, would suffice to bring it to the water's edge.

Now I am afraid you will think I have said a great deal too much about trade and trading roads, but I can assure you, Sir, I do it from a full conviction that missionaries in the interior of the country can neither work securely, nor effectually, nor extensively, without trading roads, and that amount of lawful trade which tends to civilise an uncivilised people. D. H.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gambia, October, 24, 1865.

Sir,—The following statements are facts, which Governor D'Arcy, his Honour John Isle Mantell, and Secretary Robertson, could not conscientiously deny, as on an occasion these three gentlemen, moved by Mr. Mantell, saw the horrible state of the hospital. The whole colony, if summoned, can come forward to attest these statements. It is high time the Colonial Medical Department should be cleansed of its filth. Dr. Sherwood, the head of that department, is a very careless, lazy, and intemperate man; his behaviour is much regretted by the Europeans themselves. But Dr. Sherwood, being a white man, and backed by Mr. Brown, the most influential supporter of European misdoings, is permitted to go on with impunity.

The colony is becoming thin by death, through the dread of, and neglect of Dr. Sherwood. Medicines are getting spoiled in

the hospital store, while patients are dying for want of them. For proofs, the late engineer of the Dover, who was sent there when he was taken ill (for ——— days) never knew or saw the doctor almost till his dying hour. Patients were obliged to go back to their homes after four or five days' lying at the hospital without seeing the doctor, or any one to attend them. The whole work of that department is left to the dispenser, a European sailor-boy, alluded to some time ago in your columns, whom I must call the master of the establishment.

The hospital is so corrupt that this subordinate could abuse and disgrace Dr. Sherwood in public, and even attempted, in passion once, to throw him over one of the windows in the hospital, without the doctor's attempting to dismiss him. The dispenser had observed, "I can ruin Dr. Sherwood any day." Dr. Sherwood is hardly found when wanted. He revels in town the whole day, and returns to the hospital about two o'clock in the morning inebriated, and rises from bed about half-past ten A.M. The native population do not consider themselves safe under his treatment, as he had actually threatened them, and therefore on sick beds they are heard to say, "I rather die than call Dr. Sherwood." In fact, this honourable doctor of the Gambia cares only for the European retainers, who fill his pockets annually, though he attends them with public medicines, and even these complain bitterly of his inattention. Applying sometimes to military doctors is useless, for they say that it is Dr. Sherwood's place and duty, to which they have no right. Dr. Sherwood never knows anything of numbers of patients he has in the hospital. Poor Syrians, or Jaffers, or even European patients, when taken there, are never seen till after three or four days have passed, and some patients can prove that they have been a week lying at the hospital without seeing Doctor Sherwood. His remedy for patients who have been lucky to find him in the hospital, or if their being there is reported to him, is, "Give the patient a bed"—that is all! This department uselessly consumes the public revenues. It is well known that Doctor Sherwood and the midwife subsist on the hospital allowances, embodying their expenses in the establishment charges. The midwife, whom I should call Mrs. Sherwood by his relations with her, has forgotten her place as a midwife, and is everything in the hospital. She uses bad and indecent expressions, and even abuses her *coquet*. Dr. Sherwood, who is now advised to get his lover out of the place. Such a man, who is a decided hater of the blacks, "especially the Jolloffs," should not be permitted to hold such a responsible post. He does not like to keep an intelligent native in the establishment, but dismisses him for a trifling cause as soon as he suspects him to know his turns. He notices such as are serviceable to him. This is the man whom Governor D'Arcy permitted to hold so many offices. Is the public interest sought hereby, or Dr. Sherwood's private interest?—Yours, &c.,
THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

At the half-yearly meeting of the shareholders, held at the Company's Offices, Leadenhall-street; Mr. Hadow in the chair. The report having been read,

The Chairman, in moving its adoption, said that no events of an important character had characterised the half-year which had just closed. They kept on the even tenor of their way. No casualty either on sea or shore had occurred. The contract had been punctually performed the whole of the time, and that was saying something when the press was blaming other companies for not keeping time. Great credit was due to the commanders and officers of the vessels for the way in which they navigated them. The revenue account was slightly better than what it was the previous half-year. The freights and receipts were slowly but steadily advancing, which he considered to be a more healthy sign than if they had spurts of success and then fell back again. (Hear.) The depreciation account of 7½ per cent. had been written off, and they discharged the insurance of 7 per cent. That was rather a high figure, and he hoped if they were to go on with the new contract to get it lower. The boiler fund, the advantage of which they experienced in the repairing of the engines of the Athenian during the half-year, was larger than before these repairs were effected. Thus they were prepared to meet the worst that might happen. With regard to the two new ships, the Mandingo had been launched and would be ready for sea in a week. The Lagos was launched three days ago, and by the end of January would be ready for sea also. These ships would be built out of revenue, without calling for a penny of capital from the resources of the company. (Hear, hear.) They would therefore have one ship more than they ever had before. These vessels were of a superior character, and more capable of earning larger profits. The Government had given them notice of their intention to terminate the contract on the 26th September next year. The contract commenced in 1858, and during that time they had faithfully and efficiently performed their work. He could not say what was the inten-

tion of Her Majesty's Government in giving that notice, but they had put in a tender for the new contract on the lowest terms consistent with efficient working, but they had not yet received an answer either from the Treasury or the Post-office. Of course as soon as they received a reply the shareholders would be made acquainted with it. He believed that their ships, estimated at a low figure per ton, would return them all the paid-up capital of the company. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Norton seconded the motion.

Mr. Bolster asked out of what fund the two new ships were built.

The Chairman: Out of revenue, from the general funds at their disposal.

Mr. Bolster asked if there had been much lost by the coal hulk, and if the proprietors would be called together before the new contract was accepted.

The Chairman said there was a sum of 100*l.* to the credit of the company on the coal vessel. It was not the intention of the directors to call the proprietors together before accepting the contract.

Mr. Bolster said the contract might be so onerous that it would be better for them not to continue.

The Chairman said they had not tendered at a price that would place them in a worse position than if they broke up the company. At the same time they only looked for a moderate profit.

Mr. Bolster said the Government might insist on a bi-monthly mail, and if that were the case he had great fear of the company.

The Chairman said the directors had taken that into their consideration, and if called upon to do that, they were prepared to carry it out. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was put and carried, as well as a motion for dividing 8*s.* per share for the half-year, free of income tax, payable on and after the 8th inst.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, agents, and secretary, terminated the proceedings.

FAILURE OF TWO AFRICAN EXPLORATION EXPEDITIONS.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday, the 4th December, Sir Roderick Murchison said that he regretted to have to announce the failure of two African expeditions, in the success of which the society had a deep and heartfelt interest, but which had both ended in disappointment. The first was the expedition of the Baron Van Derdecken, to explore the interior of Africa, from Zanzibar, where he intended to go up one of the rivers. He fitted out the expedition entirely at his own expense. He, it would be remembered, was the first to settle the point of the existence of a large snowy mountain in Africa, under the Equator. The Baron, he was sorry to say, had lost both his steamers, and when last heard of was nearly dead himself. He had been fighting with the natives; one European and all the natives went down in the small steamer, and the doctor who accompanied the expedition had been ill, but when last heard of was recovering. He was not able to go further into the details of the misfortune. The other failure was that of the expedition of M. Du Chaillu, who had devoted the whole of the little fortune realised by the sale of his book to fit out a little vessel suited for his purpose. When he arrived out he had to wait for instruments, but did not waste his time, since he sent gorillas and plenty of other curiosities to the British Museum. When he reached the interior the small-pox broke out among the natives, and as they considered that he and his party had brought the disease among them, dissensions followed. M. Du Chaillu had encountered great difficulties, but he (the speaker) was not yet well informed as to their nature. However, he had received a telegram from M. Du Chaillu on Saturday, from Falmouth, saying that he had been obliged to fight his way back to the coast, but that he had managed to save his astronomical instruments and observations.

THE JAMAICA COMMITTEE.—A committee has been formed under this title in order to watch the progress of the official inquiry about to be instituted by the Government into recent events in Jamaica; to bring about a searching Parliamentary inquiry into the past and present condition of Jamaica; and to provide Mrs. Gordon and others who may have unjustly suffered from the proceedings of the civil and military authorities in Jamaica with competent legal assistance to conduct their several cases before the Commission. The chairman of the committee is Mr. Charles Buxton, M.P., and among the members are Mr. J. Stuart Mill, M.P., Lord Alfred Churchill, Mr. Bright, M.P., Sir Thomas Powell Buxton, Professors Cairnes and Goldwin Smith.

Sir Henry Storks, the newly-appointed Governor of Jamaica, has left in the Shannon, mail steamship, for the West Indies. Sir Henry will disembark at St. Thomas, and proceed to Jamaica in one of the intercolonial steamers, and will arrive at Jamaica on or about the 8th proximo.

Just Published, price 2*s.* 6*d.*, post free,

PAMPHLET BY W. RAINY, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, lately practising in the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone,

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THE undernoted Goods, now on hand for immediate shipment, being only of the well-known brand of FORBES, Aberdeen and London: Sardines, Preserved Salmon, ditto Lobsters, ditto Oysters, ditto Herrings, ditto Mackerel, ditto Haddock, ditto Turbot, Dried Codfish, ditto Lingfish, High-dried Herrings, Salted Salmon, ditto Herrings, ditto Mackerel, Preserved Fish Soups, Herrings à la Sardines, Preserved Soups, ditto Meats, ditto Poultry, ditto Game, ditto Vegetables, ditto Milk, Potted Meats, Anchovy Paste, Jams, in Tins or Jars, Fruits, Bottled and Dried, Pickles (Pure), Sauces, Mustard, Oatmeal, Bailey, Corn Flour. The above may be had in any package or size; also Hams, Bacon, Cheese, and Butter.

Priced Lists and all other information may be obtained of Mr. M. L. LEVIN, 1, Bevis Marks, London, Sole Agent for West Coast of Africa, and all orders forwarded him will receive immediate attention per return Mail.

PAMPHLET BY J. A. B. HORTON, M.D., S.A.S.

In the press, and will be published on January 20, price 1*s.*, THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF WESTERN AFRICA, AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEVERAL SETTLEMENTS, &c.

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NOTE.—Goods for SIERRA LEONE will be delivered at consignees risk into the Company's floating depot, whence delivery is to be taken within seven days after arrival, otherwise they will be landed and put into Customs warehouse at consignees' risk and expense, under stop for charges. Goods for FERNANDO Po and the Rivers are transhipped at BONNY, and forwarded by branch Steamer at shippers' risk.

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ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

THE COMMERCIAL COMPANY OF AFRICA LIMITED has been formed for the purpose of conducting, upon an extensive scale, a trade in the Bights of Benin, Biafra, the River Niger, and other parts of Africa, chiefly by barter, of European manufactured goods for palm oil, palm-nut kernels, ground nuts, gold dust, ivory, cotton, and other produce; also for the purpose of manufacturing oil from the kernels of the palm-nut. The value of palm oil alone imported into Great Britain annually averages about £2,000,000 sterling.

The Directors have satisfaction in stating that the Company has already secured, by provisional agreement, the stock and plant belonging to the London and African Trading Company Limited, with all its connexions and desirable establishments, at the most important points in the Bight of Benin and Liberia, and which have been ceded to this Company, in consequence of the capital of that Company being much too limited to carry on the trade.

This Company has also acquired all the interests of the said Company in a manufactory already established in Africa for the purpose of extracting oil from the kernels of the palm-nut.

The Company will not pay anything for the business connexions and good-will of the London and African Trading Company; but simply take over the stock and plant by valuation, to be made in the usual way, the whole being in good and merchantable condition, and well adapted to the requirements of the Company; and it is computed that a sum of from £15,000 to £20,000 will cover the whole of this purchase.

As the Company will thus enter at once upon a working business, possessing as it does the nucleus of an extensive trade, with experienced and acclimatised agents at their stations on the coast, the Shareholders will not have to encounter the delays and risks attendant upon the formation of new establishments and connexions, but reap the advantage of an extended capital at a time when trade promises to be specially active and remunerative.

As regards Agencies, the Company will receive consignments of every kind of produce, and execute indents for European goods, at a fair commission.

Applications for Shares to be left with the Bankers or Brokers upon payment of the deposit of £1 per share. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full, and if a less number of shares be allotted than is applied for, the deposit will, so far as required, be applied towards the payment due on allotment.

Prospectuses, and Forms of Application for Shares, may be had of the Brokers, Bankers, and Solicitors, and at the Offices of the Company, where the Memorandum and Articles of Association, together with the provisional agreement, may be inspected.