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JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN-AID SOCIETY.

VOL. V., No. 57.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
West Coast of Africa	94	The Great Gambia Hoax.....	99
Alleged Conspiracy at the Gambia.....	94	Legal Oppression on the West Coast	99
Gambia Hospital and Gambia Authorities	95	The Church at Cape Coast.....	100
Liberia	95	Bight of Benin	101
Peace with Ashantee	96	Abeokuta Refuses Specially Taxed Goods from Lagos	101
War in the Eastern Districts of the Gold Coast.....	96	The Charge of Slave-selling at Abeokuta	101
Donations for Cape Coast Castle Native Female Industrial School.....	98	Lagos to Ibadan and Ikorodu.....	102
Subscriptions for "African Times".....	98	Lagos	102
General Observations.....	98	Murders of Slaves in Spanish Colonies.....	103
The Press and the Gambia Officials.....	98	The Jamaica Insurrection.....	103
Post-office Absurdities on the Gold Coast	98	Deaths	104

THE COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS, LIMITED.

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

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THE ALLIANCE BANK OF LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND MANCHESTER.

The Capital of this Company has been fully subscribed.

Up to the present time comparatively little has been done to develop the resources of Western Africa. Trade there is merely in its infancy; but the Directors of this Company believe that it may soon be made most valuable to Great Britain. In 1827, the value of British and Foreign Goods exported from the United Kingdom to the

West Coast of Africa was		£155,759
In 1840,	"	410,798
In 1850,	"	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		£9,804,356
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).

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The usual mail steamer arrived at Liverpool on the 13th. She brought no news of any importance.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AT THE GAMBIA.

No. 1.

Copy of Mr. Finden's first letter to his Excellency Governor d'Arcy, requesting him to reveal his informant respecting the conspiracy said to be secretly made by the natives for the killing all the Europeans in this colony, and also to have the matter properly investigated.

Bathurst, R. Gambia, December 22, 1865.

Sir,—The charge that has been alleged against me by your informant, that I am a ringleader of an intended mutiny in this colony, is so grave that I cannot do justice to my character and country-people here, as well as my friends in England, unless you will be good enough as a Governor to produce your informant and a proper investigation face to face be made of such a grave charge, which has already led to military preparation.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will attend to this, ere the arrival of the mail for England.—I remain, Sir, your Excellency's obedient servant,

(Signed) HARRY FINDEN.

His Excellency Col. George d'Arcy, Governor, &c.

Copy of his Excellency Governor d'Arcy's reply to Mr. Finden's letter of the 22nd December, 1865.

G. H. B. G., December 23, 1865.

Sir,—I have received your letter of this date, in which you complain of an alleged charge made against you, that has led to military preparation.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) G. D'ARCY, Governor.

To Mr. Harry Finden, Bathurst.

No. 2.

Letter of Mr. Goddard, British Merchant at Bathurst.

Bathurst, R. Gambia, February 16, 1866.

Sir,—I beg to enclose for your Excellency's perusal copy of a letter sent to me by Messrs. Finden, Gore, Njie, and Providence Juff, in which they ask me to apply to your Excellency for an answer to the letter Mr. Finden had the honour to write you, dated 22nd December, 1865, to which you merely acknowledged the receipt but did not give any reply. Your Excellency having sent Mr. Tyas to Mr. H. Finden, and in his presence made certain accusations against him (Mr. Finden), I think with him that your Excellency is in honour bound, not only for his information, but also in justice to him and his fellow-townsmen, to state upon what authority, and whose, you made these accusations. Your Excellency said you had been informed by some one that certain expressions had been used, and that certain measures were to be taken, showing that it was the intention of the liberated Africans and others to commit a breach of the peace, and to kill the European population. I am quite sure I need not call your Excellency's attention to the fact that such an accusation is of very grave import; if true, punishable very severely, but if untrue, I feel assured that your Excellency should be the first to acknowledge the information to be untrue, and give up the name or names of persons upon whose authority your Excellency made such grave accusations. That the liberated Africans have a right to demand the information your Excellency can hardly question; nor can your Excellency suppose that if the required information is withheld, they will put any faith in the assertion you made that you had received such information, and can only come to the conclusion that your Excellency stated what was not strictly true, and merely an assertion of your own.

Of course I am well aware that your Excellency would not have said that you had received the information had it not been so, but your having sent Mr. Tyas to Mr. Finden, and I may say publicly accuse the latter with such a grave offence, I think that you are in justice bound to give them the information they ask for, or to acknowledge the information you received was untrue; and that the accusations made upon that information were not deserved, but were merely the result of such information; that your Excellency regrets that such accusations were made, and that you are assured of their loyalty to Her Majesty and her subjects. Of course personally I cannot say anything upon the state of feeling in the town at the time, but from my long residence amongst the people, and my intimate acquaintance with most of the leading men, I cannot for a moment believe that any such treasonable ideas were ever entertained or spoken of, in their clubs or elsewhere.—I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

(Signed) W. H. GODDARD.

G. H. B. G., February 20, 1866.

Honble. Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, in which you are of opinion I am bound to give up my authority relative to a report of a rising of the people against the Govern-

ment last Christmas; I have the honour to inform you that I must decline to do so, but the Right Honourable the Secretary of State is in possession of the gentleman's name.—I have the honour to be, honble. Sir, your obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) G. D'ARCY.

To Honble. W. H. Goddard, Esq.

Bathurst, R. Gambia, February 20, 1866.

Gentlemen,—Enclosed is a copy of my application to Governor d'Arcy on your behalf, and his Excellency's reply thereto. Indisposition prevented my applying sooner; I have done all I can in the matter, and remain, gentlemen, yours obediently,

(Signed) W. H. GODDARD.

Messrs. H. Finden, Gore, Njie, and Providence Juff.

No. 3.

Bathurst, River Gambia, West Coast of Africa,

February 19, 1866.

The Memorial of certain Black Inhabitants of Bathurst, on the River Gambia, respectfully sheweth:—

That your memorialists were falsely accused by his Excellency Governor d'Arcy with the heinous crime of conspiring to rebel against the Queen's authority, and to massacre all the Europeans in this colony on last Christmas Eve, and his Excellency, as we are credibly informed, went so far towards the proclaiming of martial law in the colony, as to seek the advice of his council on the subject at a meeting held on the 18th December, 1865, at the Government House of this settlement, at which meeting he urged on the honourable gentlemen present to vote the same, but fortunately it was not sanctioned by the whole of them, who had long experience of the loyalty and good conduct of your memorialists.

That his Excellency being dissatisfied with the advice of those honourable gentlemen, and by way of seeking proof of the necessity of taking the course he desired, ordered the Rev. Mr. Tyas, Wesleyan missionary, to cause one Mr. Harry Finden, whom he charged to be the ringleader, to appear before him at the Government House, on the 17th of December last, whose statement, denying the charge alleged and giving his account of the interview, your memorialists herewith have the honour to inclose.

That your memorialists are British subjects, liberated Africans and Joloff settlers in this colony, many of them for upwards of forty-eight years, and that some of them are grandfathers, uncles, and fathers of large families; that such a serious charge advanced against them is detrimental to their characters.

That your memorialists have, during several years past, put up with oppression from this Governor and his officials, without redress, which moved them to send one of their countrymen to England to study law for their future protection. Is this fact a sign of a desire to rebel? Is it not rather a proof of their desire to seek constitutional redress?

Therefore your memorialists most respectfully solicit that a thorough investigation into the subject-matter of this charge alleged against them be made, and evidence upon all points be taken to meet the requirements of justice, so as to clear their character from such a foul aspersion. They trust you will agree with them. As loyal subjects, they cannot allow such a serious charge to rest upon them without calling for an opportunity of establishing their entire innocence thereof.

The consequences of the proclamation of martial law might have been so serious as to have led to results which your memorialists now contemplate with horror.

Your action in this matter is humbly solicited, and if granted, your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.—We have the honour to be, right honourable Sir, for ourselves and fellow-countrymen, your most obedient, humble servants.

(Signed by seventeen of the principal African traders in the colony.)

To the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c., &c.

(Inclosure in Memorial.)

Bathurst, River Gambia, West Coast of Africa,

February 19, 1866.

A Charge of Ringleader to a Conspiracy alleged against Mr. Harry Finden.

I, Harry Finden, of Bathurst, in the River Gambia, liberated African, the above-named, make oath and say:—

1st. That I was falsely charged by his Excellency Governor d'Arcy as a ringleader to a conspiracy to rebel against the Queen's authority, and to massacre all the Europeans in this colony on Christmas Eve.

2nd. That I was, on the 17th of December, 1865, made to appear before his Excellency Governor d'Arcy, at the Government House, to answer the said charge, and which I solemnly denied in way and manner as follows:—

Governor d'Arcy: I was informed that the black population of this colony have conspired, and have been preparing themselves with guns, cutlasses, and all sorts of weapons, for the purpose of killing all the white inhabitants of this place on Christmas Eve, and that you are the ringleader.

Harry Finden: Who is your Excellency's informant? Bring him forward, and have the matter investigated face to face.

Governor d'Arcy: I have heard that you are a man of great influence and power over the said people, and that you are a strict attendant of the House of God, Sabbath after Sabbath. You should use your power and influence for good purposes, and not for evil.

Harry Finden: Your Excellency, my common sense would teach me to know better, and have induced me to use my influence for good and not for evil. I am not so ungrateful as to attempt to raise my hand against the Queen's authority.

Governor d'Arcy: You are hiding the matter; but it is known all over the colony. If that be the case, I will issue out the martial law, which will take me no time to do with pen and ink.

Harry Finden: Your Excellency has the power of issuing martial law; but if we do not break the martial law it will not affect us. Who informed you that we have bought ammunition and powder? and from whom were they bought? I should like you to bring your informant in this matter before I leave the Government House.

Governor d'Arcy: You are all ungrateful to Her Majesty. She has sent out men-of-war to protect you, and you have taken upon yourself to rebel against her authority.

Harry Finden: If you will allow me, I will tell your Excellency what I have heard. A masoner, who was working at the garrison, heard some of the soldiers talking that on Christmas Eve they will go out and fight with the civilians, and saw them preparing sticks for the purpose. I told my informant if I should hear any more of the said matter I shall report the same to the Governor. If you like to see my informant, I will bring him before you now.

Governor d'Arcy: You say sticks, but guns and weapons are different. I could not convince you, neither could you convince me. I think this must be the whole end of the matter.

The above statements of questions and my answers before his Excellency the Governor was in the presence of the Rev. V. Tyas, Wesleyan missionary, the postmaster, Mr. Hurst, and Mrs. D'Arcy, and I verily believe they would confirm the same.

HARRY FINDEN.

Copy of Letter attached to the Memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Sir,—I have the honour most respectfully to inclose you a memorial, signed by myself and fellow-countrymen, seeking for an investigation into a foul charge preferred against us. I have entreated his Excellency Governor d'Arcy to grant us this means of proving our innocence. He has declined to do so, therefore we address you.—I have the honour to be, right honourable Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) HARRY FINDEN.

The Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, Esq., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c., &c., Downing-street, London.

GAMBIA HOSPITAL AND GAMBIA AUTHORITIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Clifton-road, Bathurst, River Gambia,

February 23, 1866.

Sir,—You will, I doubt not, receive by this mail copious documents from some of the officials at Bathurst in contradiction of two or more articles that were written and sent by me to be published in your journal, dated respectively 22nd and 23rd December last.

I do not think a man ought to be molested for giving startling facts. The African mail screw steamship Mandingo arrived at Bathurst on the 7th of January, and on the 8th I had proceeded to Cape St. Mary's on my private affairs, and on my returning to Bathurst the following morning, 9th January, I met his Excellency the Governor on the wayside, and accosted him immediately I saw him. Acknowledging my salute, his Excellency said, "Are you Mr. Cole?" I replied, "Yes." "I have seen your name in two places in the *African Times*. Is it so?" "Yes." "I am not a man to be played or trifled with. The other day you were imprisoned for two weeks, but I will imprison you for two years. Take notice now; I shall prosecute you." Pray let me inquire of you and your British readers, if this is the way for one of Her Majesty's representatives to have expressed himself to his subject? You should observe that the imprisonment alluded to by Colonel d'Arcy is not a matter which he ought to have mentioned. I am an honest man, and meriting that name. I was a clerk in the military service for seven years, and resigned that office on the last day of December, 1865;

but the head of my department actually refused to let me out, threatened me that he had power to retain my services, which he did, illegally, for eight days; but I should think he will have cause to regret violating the law, by the tyrannical treatment or imprisonment which I had to undergo by his orders.

The sole cause of my imprisonment was for having forwarded an application to resign my office as clerk to the military medical department. I have, however, after the termination of my confinement, forwarded a letter to Lord de Grey, reporting the conduct of his subordinate officers towards me, and at the same time I await with patience to see whether justice could be awarded me for the illegal imprisonment I have sustained.—

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY THOMAS COLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Colonial Hospital, Bathurst, River Gambia,

February 22, 1866.

Sir,—As you have more than once alluded to me in your paper, I trust, in common fairness, you will allow me to speak for myself, the more especially as I only desire to point out to you the untruthfulness of the article signed "Voice of the People," in your publication of the 23rd of December last.

It is not for me to defend the personal character of Dr. Sherwood from the false and malicious charges so repeatedly made against him in your paper, but, as the dispenser and clerk to the Colonial Hospital, I emphatically aver that it is not true that medicines are getting spoiled in the hospital store whilst patients are dying for the want of them; and your proof as to the case of the late engineer of the Dover is totally false, the fact being that the Dover arrived from Macarthy's Island on the 17th of October last. Mr. Turner, the engineer alluded to, was brought up into the hospital about three o'clock P.M., suffering from yellow fever. Dr. Sherwood, who was down town at the moment visiting the sick, returned immediately, and saw and prescribed for him, and from six o'clock until half-past eight the same night, when the man died of black vomit, never left the sick man's bedside. Dr. Eaton also saw him, and the following morning made a *post-mortem* examination. The poor engineer was, therefore, only a few hours in hospital, yet your correspondent would have your readers believe the man was some days in hospital.

If what your correspondent writes be true, that the native population do not consider themselves safe under his medical treatment, how is it that the number of both in and out-door patients has annually increased since 1860—in 1864 the number was double that of 1860, and a still further increase in 1865—and why do so many of the natives and Europeans employ him as their private medical attendant? I enclose you a return of the number of patients:—

Table showing number of Patients treated at the Colonial Hospital from 1860 to 1865.

Year.	In-door Patients.	Out-door Patients, Daily.
1860	112	10
1861	118	10
1862	127	15
1863	214	15
1864	257	20
1865	443	25

One word as to myself. It is true I came out here as a "sailor," but my grandfather and my brother were both medical men in England, my father was an attorney, and I was apprenticed to a doctor for five years, but, to the regret of my parents and friends, I left to go to sea, which many more have done before me; but having previously served three years of my apprenticeship, I think myself more competent to dispense medicines than the self-taught native youths who are generally employed on the Coast.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HAYWOOD WILLIAMS, Dispenser.

LIBERIA.

The Legislature of Liberia adjourned January 9. The Pinkus proposal to throw capital into the country, as well as others to the same effect, was favourably discussed, but none approved.

The American Board of Foreign Missions have, at their Convention in Philadelphia, held in October, passed a canon to aid the "Liberian Church" (Protestant Episcopal).

The Calabar mail, January 14th ult., shipped at Palmas 251 butts palm oil, the largest shipment ever made.

Bishop John Payne, missionary bishop, will sail shortly for America, direct. The late Rev. C. C. Hoffman's eldest daughter will accompany him, and remain with her late father's relatives.

We are glad to hear, on good authority, that the Port of Entry Bill is considered to be producing very favourable results, in stimulating to the building of boats, and other enterprises inseparable from a coasting trade. But the difficulty which we

pointed out when the bill became law, and which led us to doubt whether the law was not prematurely adopted—viz., that of obtaining sufficient capital for the requirements of such a trade, has, we are told, been very much felt; and leading, as it naturally must do, to an inadequate supply of trade goods, had caused much restlessness, and occasionally signs of hostility among the natives along the coast, who had been previously well supplied with goods by foreign ships, which were then allowed to trade freely everywhere. Our advice has been, however, so unfavourably received when we have endeavoured to point out obstacles to advancement, and to counsel their removal, that we abstain from all remark, except to deplore that whenever—which, unfortunately, is but rarely the case—our Liberian friends abstain from making themselves the standard of excellence (a peculiarity which, when it prevails among a people, is obstructive, if not fatal, to progress), they fall into the error of imitating some rich and powerful State, standing upon their right to do what any great nation may have been permitted to do, without making a proper estimate of the real disability which attends their comparative weakness. We ardently desire to see Liberia become as rich and powerful as she is free; we desire to see her show a brilliant example of the government of Africa by Africans; but in the present age of the world she can only do this by real material progress; and this she will not make by disregard of those general laws which the experience of nations has discovered to be essential to the creation and development of national wealth.

PEACE WITH ASHANTEE.

PROCLAMATION,

By His Excellency Edward Conran, Lieut.-Governor of Her Majesty's Ports and Settlements on the Gold Coast; Colonel, Commanding Her Majesty's Troops on the Gold Coast and Lagos, &c.

Whereas it is well known that this Government has been in a state of warfare with the Ashantees since March, 1863.

And whereas His Majesty Quaoe Dush, King of that nation, has been pleased to send to me, at Cape Coast Castle, on the 8th instant, four duly accredited Ambassadors, soliciting peace between his Kingdom and the British Protectorate, both in writing, dated at Kumasi, on the 19th and 20th December, 1865, and by message delivered to me at the public meeting held in the Square of this Town, opposite Government House, on the 8th day of this month, by the aforesaid Ambassadors:—

Now, I do hereby publish, declare, proclaim, and make known, that I have, with the advice and consent of my Executive Council, and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, as Lieut.-Governor of the said Ports and Settlements on the Gold Coast, thought fit and expedient to accede to the aforesaid overture from His Majesty Quaoe Dush, in the name and on behalf of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, the native Kings, Chiefs, and People of this Protectorate. And be it known that on and after the publication of this Proclamation, the British Protectorate shall be at peace with the Kingdom of Ashantee, and that trade and lawful commerce between both countries may be henceforth resumed.

And I do hereby further declare, as the Representative of our Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria, that any native King or Chief residing within the limits of this Protectorate, who shall hereafter take upon himself or themselves, to disturb the peaceful relations which are henceforward to exist between this Government and other nations or tribes, outside the boundary of the said Protectorate, without authority from the Governor, Lieut.-Governor, or Officer administering the Government, shall at once be brought before the Governor at the seat of Government, and then and there made answerable for the consequences. And that in future all disputes, of whatever nature, arising between the people of Ashantee and this Protectorate, shall, in the first instance (if possible), be referred respectively for settlement to His Majesty the King of Ashantee, and the Governor of this Protectorate.

Given under my hand, and the public seal, at Government House, Cape Coast, this sixteenth day of January, 1866.

By His Excellency's command,

M. DOORLY, Acting Colonial Secretary.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 10, 1866.

Sir,—You will be sorry to hear that the eastern districts are in a fearful state. A war has broken out at Addah, and a Portuguese slave-dealer, named Geraldo, has raised up a large force and set the English Government at defiance. He has killed more than a hundred of the people under our flag. His very camp is on British territory. Colonel Conran has gone down with fifty men in the gunboat Espoir to settle the difficulty,

but I am afraid he will not succeed. I will write you very fully next mail (p.v.).

The troopship Urgent left yesterday with the remainder of the 4th West India Regiment. Mr. Martin Doorly and his wife left in her. It is to be hoped that the Colonial office will soon see the necessity of sending out some educated gentleman to occupy the most responsible post of Colonial Secretary, as it is reported that a young officer (Lieutenant Cary) is to be appointed.

Peace is proclaimed, as per enclosed notice. I have a great deal to say about this peace affair; in fact, I shall begin tomorrow to write you the whole. There have naturally been some blunders, which could have been easily avoided if Colonel Conran had been properly supported by a good right-hand man, such as a competent colonial secretary.

I was very much surprised at seeing a testimonial this morning got up by Charles Bannerman in favour of Mr. Barry. It was sent to me for my signature, and I indignantly sent the paper and the boy that brought it out of my office. No one has spoken more against Barry than Bannerman; but he is either mad, or it is to gain some private end, that he has taken this extraordinary step. I cannot act a double part. I like to be consistent; and I will always say that, in my opinion, Barry is far from being an ornament to the judicial establishment here.

A meeting was held on the 8th inst., for the purpose of ascertaining Colonel Conran's views on the report that he had set up Attah against Aggeri. Colonel Conran disclaimed it publicly, and vowed that if Attah set himself up as a king, he did so without his knowledge or consent; and he publicly told Attah that if he assumed the position of king again, he would banish him out of the Protectorate. The King of Cape Coast was perfectly satisfied, and on the Governor leaving for Accra to quell the war at Addah, his Majesty King Aggeri went to the beach arm-and-arm with his Excellency.

There is a great scandal here now about some money matters. I think it will be proved that the 200*l.* that was reported to have been stolen by Ricketts, and for which he was condemned, fell into —'s hands. More on this serious matter. I wish I had time to write you all.—Faithfully yours, SPERO MELIORA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 10, 1866.

Sir,—I send you enclosed a list of parties who have paid the subscriptions they promised.*

The following persons refuse to pay now, although they promised a year ago, and put their names down.

I have no other alternative than to publish their names to exonerate myself:—

George Blankson, jun.	£1	1	0
W. E. Davidson	2	2	0
J. E. Davidson	1	1	0
W. H. Ward	1	1	0
T. D. Aubin	0	10	0
Joseph A. Fynn	0	10	0
W. C. Fynn	1	1	0
Coffee Etchie	0	5	0
William Toby	0	5	0
John Bankah	0	5	0
I. M. Insaidoo	0	4	0
Class Peter	0	10	0
Rev. Peter Bernasko (Whydah)	1	0	0
George Musgrove	1	1	0
James Catiline	0	10	0
M. B. Brown	0	2	6
Henry Hagan	0	2	6
Coffee Comah (since dead)	1	0	0
H. A. Williams	0	5	0
W. Z. Coker	1	1	0
John Saekey, Accra	1	1	0
E. Bannerman	1	1	0

I am, yours truly,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

WAR IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Gold Coast, February 9, 1866.

Sir,—Since my last of December 10 we have had very exciting times of it. We are at this moment in a grave crisis, and it depends entirely upon the way in which Colonel Conran manages matters whether the eastern districts be ruined, and the merchants at the same time; or, whether they are to become more flourishing, and the merchants better off than ever.

In April last the Awoonlahs (wrongly called Aunglahs by some people), at the instigation of the notorious slave-trader, "Ger-

aldo," attacked the Addahs, at the mouth of the River Volta, and were about to attack them on other points higher up the river, when they were compelled to withdraw, to reinforce the expedition they had sent against the Ahngays. This gave us peace, and a renewal of trade for eight months; but some six weeks ago, the Awoonlahs recommenced to annoy us by seizing all the Addah canoes, and attacking the small trading places up the Volta, and instigating others, under British protection, to give them assistance in so doing. The consequence is, that for the last six weeks, trade has almost entirely ceased in these parts. Porng, the great emporium for cotton, and the half-way house between Crepee and Accra, has been burnt down by the enemy, and large quantities of goods destroyed. Messrs. Guiseppe and Briand especially have been great losers. All trade on the Volta has ceased. Geraldo having selected a very favourable point as the base of his operations, has the entire command of the navigation from Porng to Addah Forth at the entrance. News having reached Accra of the destruction of Porng, and of the probable junction of the Aquamboes with the Awoonlahs, the merchants, and people in general, thought it high time to bestir themselves. A meeting was accordingly held at the house of the Hon. Nicol Irvine, which was attended by the King, chiefs, merchants, and all the principal residents of Accra; and it was decided to petition the Governor to interfere in the matter, and compel the Awoonlahs to deliver up Geraldo, and cease giving further trouble. Three days after a second meeting was held, and the Chief Civil Commandant and Captain Peile, of Her Majesty's ship Espoir, the senior officer in the Bights, were also present. It was resolved to send a deputation to the Governor at Cape Coast, and Captain Peile having kindly offered passages in his ship, Mr. Irvine was selected by his brother merchants to represent them and the general interests of Accra; and proceeded to Cape Coast in the Espoir, accompanied by Mr. Clayton, another European merchant of Accra. On Wednesday, the 7th, the Espoir returned with his Excellency and staff, and our deputation. Would you believe it? This is the first visit that Accra has had from a Governor for two years and one month!!! No wonder our people are beginning to forget that they are living under any Government at all. His Excellency (Colonel Conran), on his arrival, gave notice that he would be glad to receive the King, chiefs, merchants, and principal residents at the Government House, next day. At 12 o'clock precisely, the King, chiefs, merchants, &c., made their appearance in full force (the chiefs attended as usual by a large staff of ragamuffins, including a rascally fetishman, but these were very properly ejected), and his Excellency having opened the proceedings, and stated his object in calling us together, Mr. Gunnell, who had been appointed our spokesman, informed him that he appeared there for the whole district, Europeans and natives, merchants, chiefs, &c. &c., unanimous on this occasion, as they had always been on questions relating to the general interests of Accra. Mr. Gunnell having given the Governor a brief sketch of the Addah palaver, up to the burning of Porng, asked to what extent the Executive would go in resenting the wanton aggression on the part of the Awoonlahs, and in protecting the trade of Accra, now entirely stopped by the acts of the enemy. Mr. Gunnell laid great stress on the fact of the merchants paying heavy duties, which entitled them to some kind of protection. His Excellency replied that the Government could not give merchants protection except in those places immediately under the guns of the forts; and in support of this proceeded to read extracts from a dispatch from Mr. Secretary Cardwell, which was couched in the usual official evasive style, and meant everything or nothing, just as one chose to take it. His Excellency gave us to understand at first that his instructions prevented him giving us any active assistance or protection at all; and that, beyond making a demonstration, by landing twenty men at Addah, he could do nothing for us. Mr. Gunnell then asked his Excellency if he would allow us to protect ourselves if the Government could not protect us. To this the Governor replied that we should have adequate protection according to circumstances. It was finally decided that a force of twenty men, under two officers, should proceed at once to Addah Fort by the Espoir, to protect that place, until the arrival of the Governor there by land, when the enemy would be called on to submit, and give satisfaction; failing which, the Colonel declared his determination to force them to do so. Mr. Gunnell informed his Excellency, that all classes would back up the Government in every possible way. The Governor thanked Mr. Gunnell for this intimation, and added that he had always found that unanimity and loyalty in Accra, which did not exist to the same extent in other places. Mr. Gunnell having thanked Colonel Conran, in the name of the merchants and people, the meeting broke up. Thus affairs stand for the present. What we require to be done is this:—

The Awoonlahs to be called on to deliver up to the Government the person of Geraldo, and to pay for the property belonging to British and native merchants destroyed by and lost

through them. If they do so, then let us be friends with them. But if they refuse they can be forced into submission in the following manner: Let the Espoir bombard their head-quarters, the fetish town Awoonlah, and the towns of Attorkor, Febway Voge, and Jekoe Coffee, whilst the boats of the same proceed up the river as far as Marfee and Doffu and burn those places; at the same time the Accra and Aquapem native auxiliaries attack them in their rear. All their towns being within easy gunshot of a ship-of-war, it would be unnecessary to land a single man. Not a soldier would be required except to make a show; and besides, there is no place on the coast so fitted for military operations as the country about Awoonlah, which is all open plain and beach. It is high time that these Awoonlahs should be taught how to keep the peace. The Governor has now a splendid opportunity of striking a blow which would give peace to the whole district for many years to come, and this without any expense to the Government over and above the ordinary charge for the troops. If he succeeds in restoring order in the Volta countries he will deserve our lasting gratitude. Touching this "protection" business, an impression appears to prevail pretty generally that the British authorities are out here to protect the Dutch only. It is a fact that the Dutch receive more protection and greater benefit from the presence of the English here than we do. In illustration of this I might refer to an affair that occurred the other day at Elmina, only it is so ludicrous that I am almost afraid to relate it, in case you might think I was exaggerating; however, I may inform you that about five nights ago Colonel Conran was roused out of his bed by a Dutch officer, sent by the Governor of Elmina to ask protection and assistance from the English against a certain chief under British rule who had threatened to take Elmina by storm. The relative power of the Dutch and English on this Coast, and of their positions towards each other, and with regard to the different tribes acknowledging their sway, will be best understood when I say that this formidable invader, whom the Dutch Governor could not (as he must have believed) resist, was brought to his senses by two of Colonel Conran's peace-officers; but in order that the Dutch might not be humiliated in the eyes of their own people, and to prevent its being said that two British constables had stopped an invasion that was considered too formidable to be successfully resisted by the whole Dutch Gold Coast army, the Colonel proceeded himself to the assistance of the Dutch Governor with 150 men of the 3rd and 4th West India Regiments and Her Majesty's ship Espoir. If our authorities were only as prompt in protecting us as they are in protecting the Dutch, who only thwart them in doing good, it would be well. I shall not say anything with regard to the settlement of the Ashantee affair, except that too much praise cannot be given to Mr. George Blankson for his successful interference in the matter, and that it is to be hoped that he will get something more substantial than empty praise. When this Awoonlah business is properly settled I see no reason why the country should not enjoy a long period of peace and prosperity. If Colonel Conran succeeds in bringing the country into a state of general tranquillity, surely it would only be just to him to offer him the choice of remaining at his post, to enable him to complete such measures of reform and benefit to the country as he may have in contemplation.

We in the eastern districts labour under a serious disadvantage from which our brethren to windward are exempt. A change in the command of the troops which may occur once a month, necessitates a change in the Chief Civil Commandantship of Accra, because the senior military officer generally holds that very important post. Though we have been extremely fortunate in the two last appointments, yet we generally agree in condemning the system. Justice was never more impartially administered in our courts than during the commandants of Lieutenant Coward and Lieutenant Herbert; and both those officers, whilst upholding the dignity of the Government, and maintaining their own, managed to keep on good terms with all classes, thereby acquiring that universal respect and esteem which can only be accorded to gentlemen. In spite of all this, I repeat the system is bad. It would be a matter of indifference to us whether our Chief Civil Commandant was a military man or a civilian, provided we could make sure of his remaining in that post for a period of not less than five or three years, and that he was fit for his position. Nothing would give us greater joy than to hear that Lieutenant Herbert was appointed to the post for five years. He has proved himself quite fit for a position still higher than that he now fills, though this is by no means an unimportant one. If the exigencies of the public service render it impossible for a military man to remain in the office that time, why not appoint a civilian? Give a man 600*l.* a-year, and you will get one fit for the office.—Yours truly,

ACCRA.

P.S.—The cotton trade is entirely stopped in consequence of the enemy being posted at different places on the Volta.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—At the present time, when the public is so anxious about the mode of governing the blacks in our West India possessions,

it may not be out of place to make known the treatment shown to the coloured traders at Cape Coast, West Africa. The case I relate is deposed to on oath as to the main facts, and shows that gross injustice has been done in the name of the law.

Mr. Joseph Smith, a native of Cape Coast Castle, where he was a Justice of the Peace, began as a merchant in the year 1844 to trade with England, and continued to do so until the year 1859, during which period Messrs. Forster and Smith, of London, were his agents, and remittances to the amount of about 140,000*l.* were made by Smith to them. In 1859 Mr. Smith became aware that Messrs. Forster and Smith charged him a much larger price for goods sent than some of the other merchants at Cape Coast were paying—in other words, that Messrs. Forster and Smith were what is called “salting their invoices.” Mr. Joseph Smith then mentioned the subject to Messrs. Forster and Smith, who immediately sued him for an alleged balance, amounting to 18,556*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*; and it is the mode in which the proceedings to recover this alleged balance were carried on that appears so flagrantly unjust. In 1860 Mr. Matthew Forster and Mr. John Forster made a declaration before the Lord Mayor in London of Mr. J. Smith's debt, and also that a written acknowledgment had been given for that sum. These documents, together with a power of attorney, were remitted to a Mr. Moffat, Forster and Smith's agent at Cape Coast, who proceeded against Joseph Smith; and on the cause being heard before Mr. Justice Corner, at Cape Coast, the alleged acknowledgment of the debt was pronounced a fabrication, and overcharges in the accounts to the extent of between 20,000*l.* and 30,000*l.* were proved; but by a judicious application on the part of Forster and Smith of the Statute of Limitations—which I am informed was then for the first time applied in the colony—Mr. J. Smith was declared a debtor to the extent of about 16,000*l.* From this decision Mr. Joseph Smith appealed to the Governor and Council, consisting of Governor Andrews, Judge Corner, and Mr. Lindsay, Acting Colonial Secretary, and the appeal was dismissed. Mr. J. Smith then acting, as he believed, under Governor Andrews' advice as conveyed by his secretary, and to avoid imprisonment (no pleasant thing on the West Coast of Africa), made himself a bankrupt, and Mr. Moffat, Forster and Smith's agent, was appointed assignee; and subsequently, on that gentleman leaving the Coast, Messrs. Edwards and McIntyre, other agents of Forster and Smith, undertook on their own responsibility to act as assignees, though they were never appointed as such by any court. It appears from the only account rendered by any of these gentlemen that they had received but 2,572*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, and that Mr. J. Smith, with the exception of what was due to his clerks and servants and Forster and Smith, had only one other creditor for 30*l.*, while the fact is that in July, 1860, Forster and Smith attached and received the proceeds of about 6,000*l.* worth of palm oil in the hands of Messrs. Sewell, Rose, and Co., in London, and though Mr. J. Smith has applied to the Court at Cape Coast, the Executive have never made the assignee render any account of the proceeds of that attachment. Failing to obtain justice at Cape Coast, Mr. J. Smith comes to England to try if he can succeed here, whereupon Forster and Smith—who, by themselves and their agents, had obtained possession of the whole of his property (and he being an uncertificated bankrupt)—caused a writ to be issued against him for 13,245*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, which action was stayed by judge's order on condition that Mr. J. Smith returned to Africa to assist his assignees to get in his estate. Six days after Mr. J. Smith's arrival at Cape Coast, Forster and Smith, through their agent, Mr. Bannerman, again sued him for the same 13,245*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*—which is part of their original debt of 16,000*l.*, proved under the bankruptcy—and by some *hocus pocus* obtain a judgment; as in 1864 a notice was served on him to show cause why he should not be sent to prison for non-payment of such 13,245*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* In 1865 Mr. J. Smith, having, as I think you will admit rightly, no faith in English law as administered by Englishmen to the natives of Africa, and the assignees of his estate, as well as the persons who self-appointed had acted as assignees, being in England, filed a bill in Chancery before his Honour the Vice-Chancellor Wood, seeking for an account from his assignee and reputed assignees, and that he might be at liberty to use their names in an appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Court at Cape Coast. To this bill the said assignees demurred, and Vice-Chancellor Wood decided to dismiss the bill on the ground that Mr. J. Smith had not sufficiently proved that he could get no justice in Africa; and Mr. Smith on his return to that country will, in reply to any application to the Colonial Court, be informed that as the assignee is now out of their jurisdiction no redress can be given him there.

Now what is Joseph Smith to do? Virtually deprived of an appeal to the Privy Council by Vice-Chancellor Wood's decision—certain of not obtaining justice at Cape Coast against such powerful antagonists as Forster and Smith; is he to cease all further effort to obtain redress? I have thought that possibly the publication of these facts in your journal might bring the matter under the

notice of some of the influential friends of the African people, whose efforts might be used to obtain the appointment of some Court of Appeal in England for this and similar cases.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,
H. WILLIAMS-MACKRETH,
Solicitor for Joseph Smith.

THE CHURCH AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Allow me on behalf of my brother, Mr. R. Dalrymple Ross, who is now serving the Crown in a distant part of the world, to thank you for the terms of praise in which you have been pleased to speak of his merits in establishing the small church at Cape Coast. Although the English flag has been floating upon the batteries of Cape Coast Castle for nearly two centuries, no church connected with the Government had been built or had been set apart in the town for public worship before my brother landed there towards the close of 1858. By interceding with the head of his own department in England, he secured a grant of 300*l.* from the commissariat chest, and with that amount he commenced in 1859 the foundations of the church with which you have associated his name with such handsome brevity.

When the Government of the Gold Coast was carried on by me, I did what I could to follow in his track in more ways than one; and by writing the circular letter which I have ventured to transmit to you,* I gained the support of all who desired to see the wider dissemination of Christian truth throughout the whole of the settlements, and I succeeded in getting the sum necessary for the continuation of the building of the church.

It is true that the honour, and, further, that the consolation of opening the church did not fall to my lot, for at the very moment when I thought that the prize was within my reach, the reins of the Government passed from my custody to another quarter, where went almost all the credit which was due to the zeal and piety of my brother, as well as to the imitative, but not less earnest efforts of myself. To you alone it remained, after a lapse of so many years, to disabuse the minds of persons at a distance of the injustice, and to confer in one complimentary phrase the reward which ought to have been conferred long ago on my hard-working and excellent brother.

Had I not felt—and felt keenly—that my brother's unselfish labours on the Gold Coast had been treated with needless silence and neglect, I should not have attempted to thrust myself into print to-day; but the recollection of the field of prosperity which his studious disposition opened to the view of the English merchants who were identified with the protectorate, and the recollection, also, of the positive and palpable blessings which his policy and his knowledge as an agriculturist strove to place, and did indeed place, at the door of the native community, have stimulated me to say what little I have said. Though he discharged the duties of a subordinate office—those of Colonial Secretary—upon his shoulders lay the entire weight of the local Government. For upwards of eighteen months, not a despatch written home, and not a measure adopted on the spot, but had come from his pen or had been worked out in his brain; and yet, with the exception of an address presented to him by the gentry and chiefs, neither orally nor on paper had he barely a syllable of thanks from any source likely to stamp with official approval his assiduity and usefulness, and to advance him in the ranks of his particular department. His judicious and prudent character anticipated the evils which are eating, like a cancer, into the very heart of the settlements; and if he had not been absent from Christiansborg Castle on business of the commissariat, you would never have heard of the difficulties which beset the fine imposed on the Kroboes, and which still hamper the oil-trade of Accra. He was always opposed to the “farming” of the fine to Messrs. Hutchison; and, as I have observed, the simple fact of his absence from Christiansborg led to the confirmation of an act which has pressed most fatally on an industrious tribe, which has well-nigh alienated its loyalty, and which will not cease yet awhile to complicate the interests of the eastern districts.

Apologising for the length to which I have drawn out a matter completely personal, I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
February 6, 1866.

W. A. Ross.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MARCH 10.—In reply to Lord Chelmsford, the Earl of Clarendon said that he had received a telegram from the Consul at Cairo, which stated that Mr. Rassam had written from Abyssinia on December 28, stating that a few days before a letter had reached him from King Theodore, which contained an invitation to his court, and offering every facility for his journey. Mr. Rassam intended to start on January 1, and he expressed an opinion that there was a favourable prospect of the liberation of the English captives detained in Abyssinia.

* We are compelled to defer this till our next.

BIGHT OF BENIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Great Popo, January 31, 1866.

Sir,—Knowing your object to be that of promoting the welfare of the poor Africans, I cannot conceal from you the wish of the Ahgway chiefs. They desire me to send you a copy of a letter they have prepared for the new commodore, and as soon as they see what he will do, they will write you. By the next mail they intend to send you the copies of the treaty entered into between them and the Little Popo chiefs in the presence of Commander Wildman, the letter to them by the Commodore Wilmot, also from Commanders Wildman and Grubbs, which will prove to you how they have behaved towards the officers of Her Majesty's ships-of-war who visit them.

The King of Dahomey is preparing to go hunting slaves for the Grand Custom; but in the meantime, by his orders, the Whydah troops attacked last week a small town containing about 800 inhabitants, and have taken about 300 prisoners. Unfortunately, amongst the prisoners there are many people from Whydah, who sheltered themselves there, so as to escape going to war, and others who have been trading; every one of these belonging to Whydah has to pay the value of one slave to the King before he shall be let out of chains.

I will write you about the war between the Ahgway and Popo, and also about Dahomey, by the next mail.—I am, &c.,
D.

ABEOKUTA REFUSES SPECIALLY TAXED GOODS FROM LAGOS.

Notice is hereby given that from and after this date all goods from Lagos for which the imposed duty of 2½ per cent. is paid will not be allowed to pass to Abeokuta by the River Ogun, nor overland by way of Otta to Abeokuta, or elsewhere to the Egba Territory, until such time the Governor of Lagos shall or may be convinced to remove the said tax of 2½ per cent. upon the Egba nation.

N.B.—All goods passed or attempting to pass the blockade to Abeokuta shall and may be turned back or confiscated and declared forfeited for the use of the Egba Government. By virtue of an ordinance (No. 3) issued on the 21st October, 1865.

Passed and confirmed by the Egba's United Board of Management this 24th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1866.

By command,

SHOMOTA BASHORUN, President General.
GEO. W. JOHNSON, Secretary and Director.

THE CHARGE OF SLAVE SELLING AT ABEOKUTA.

In our number of December 23 we published a deposition made at Lagos by one “Dopemu,” charging Mr. Henry Robbin, of Abeokuta, with the above serious offence. As the deposition was forwarded to us officially, from the Colonial Secretary's Office at Lagos, we felt bound to treat the matter seriously, and were not sparing in our editorial denunciations. In our January number we stated that evidence had been placed before us in disproof of the odious accusation brought against Mr. Robbin, and we have now pleasure in publishing the following letter from him renewing our expressions of regret that the evidence is far too long to allow of our giving it a place in our columns. This Dopemu seems to have been an out and out villain. No one can be more pleased than we are at Mr. Robbin's disculpation:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Ake, Abeokuta, Feb. 3, 1866.

Sir,—My attention has been called to an article in your number for December 23, containing some remarks based upon certain statements in the deposition of Dopemu, accusing me of slaveholding and slave selling and other acts. I therefore beg you will allow a space for the insertion of this.

In my defence I have to state that since my return from England and residence in this place in 1856, I have had many an occasion, and, as far as my means could allow, to redeem several natives of both sexes, and in no way whatever have I held any one as a slave, nor sold, or caused to be sold, any of them or any person.

All natives who have been redeemed by me have been treated as employed servants, and have always been fully paid for their labour. All are free, and under no consideration whatsoever have I intended or intend to receive back any price for their redemption, even when offered, much more to sell or cause any of them to be sold.

Dopemu was formerly a slave to one Tywo in Lagos, and for an act of theft he was sold.

He was never my slave, neither was he redeemed by me, but worked for me in the capacity of a canoe-man; and through his notoriously bad character several circumstances brought about his running away to Lagos, and for your insight into

the other side of the case, I beg to refer you to the copy No. 1 of evidence taken here.

This Dopemu, in order to effect his purpose, instigated a woman named Awa (whom he knew had been a load-carrier for me, and who was subsequently sold by her master), to raise further scandalous accusation against me, which accusation I utterly deny.

I have not, up to this date, received any information of these serious accusations made against me, except such as my personal friends obtained privately for me at great risk to themselves, and then not until some time had passed away. I would have gone to Lagos and demanded an examination into the charge made, but that I have no confidence in the administration of justice where acts so unjust can be committed against me as the receiving, printing, and forwarding to England, sworn depositions against me, and at the same time keeping me in ignorance of it.

Perhaps you are not aware that a steamer was sent to various places to obtain evidence against me, whilst here in Abeokuta, where they said I had committed the wrong stated, no one was asked anything about it. What is the value of evidence of runaway slaves in this country?

Enclosures are copies of evidence taken here, which I shall consider a favour your publishing in your next number.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY ROBBIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, February 7, 1866.

Sir,—The undersigned having seen in your paper of the 23rd November last a letter by one Otito, of Abeokuta, dated September 10, cannot but avail this opportunity to bring to light some very gross errors made by him in the second paragraph of his letter. The undersigned has only to do with this. For that gentleman meant, upon the whole, “that the road *via* Ikorodu to Ibadan and its interior is not direct; and that the cotton and palm oil brought from Ibadan *via* Ikorodu to Lagos are all plundered things from the Egba farms; that Ibadan is not as large as Abeokuta, &c.” The undersigned begs to assure you, that if there can be any more direct road to Ibadan and its interior, the way can be any more direct road. Otito knows this; but his *via* Ikorodu is the most direct road. Those who know very little object and plea are not understood by those who know very little of what he really meant, which is this: He meant by it to say, that if the Ibadans are allowed to go down to Lagos with their produce *via* Ikorodu, and not to Abeokuta as heretofore, his great coat of pride will be stripped off, and his nakedness and emptiness will be seen. Therefore to cover the “Kókó idi agbá,” Otito is trying to falsify what is truth, by thus stating that “the road” *via* Ikorodu “is not so good as the one by way of Abeokuta,” because “during the rainy season, or from March to November, it is very bad for travelling,” and that “it is a four days' journey with a load, while the road from Abeokuta to Ibadan is only a day and a-half.” This plea appears to the undersigned very lame, or that Otito is quite a stranger, because from five to ten years ago the merchants in this place had plenty of palm oil, so that sometimes they had not enough casks to put the oil in. Oswald's house, Macoskry and Banner Brothers will confirm this truth, that the oil did come from “Ejinrin” and Ikorodu markets, through this Jebu road. So, therefore, that this road is the most direct and desired one to and from Ibadan and its interior to Lagos is most unquestionably true.

Otito said that cotton brought to Lagos *via* Ikorodu was and is a plundered thing from the Egba farms, and, as such, the Ibadans have no cotton of their own to bring to Lagos but what is plundered. The undersigned begs to ask Otito where do the people of Ilorin, Taki, Gbobo, Kisi, Iseyin, Oglemoso, Ede, Iwo, Osogbo, Ikirun, Oyo, Ejigbo, Ilesa, Ife, Modakeke get the cotton of which their country cloths are made? Are the Ibadans still kidnapping on the Egba farms? If not, why do not the present Ikorodu and Ejinrin markets fall short of cotton? Is it the plundered cotton the Ibadans are still selling? If not, whence do these markets get their supply? To this the undersigned can only say that Otito wrote what he did not really intend, or if he did, he is quite a stranger in the country, where he has no one to tell him the real state of things; and if he has, he must then be infatuated. The true state of Otito is, “Abéré bó lówó adété ódété.”

Seeded cotton now in this place is little above a penny a-pound; before long it is expected that it will come to a halfpenny, or even less than that price. There are very few cotton gins and presses here. So to be here without gins and cowries will be for the party to talk all nonsense as Otito.

“That the town of Ibadan is not so large as Abeokuta,” as said by that gentleman, can be disproved by the several missionaries and travellers who have been through the different countries from Abeokuta and Ibadan to its interior.

The undersigned prays that this Governor's life be spared for better days to come, when he will be enjoying the fruit of his

noble labours in this country. Whatever may be written and said of him about his policy, the undersigned cannot but confess that it has turned out well, to his great credit. For whatever trade is going on in this place now, must be through his instrumentality. He did nobly, it must be confessed. In this country, if any one knows our ins and outs, we never like the party; so in this case. For our Lieut.-Governor knows too much of the ins and outs of this country people, and, as such, he will get no good name from those who do not understand them.

The undersigned begs to close with this, that all which is contained in Dr. H—'s letter of the 23rd December is all that he himself would say, and recommend the good England to assist to do for our people in the interior of the country. If wars and slavery are to be put away, "give in exchange a better trade" is the motto.—Yours ever faithfully,
AN EXPLORER.

LAGOS TO IBADAN VIA IKORODU. TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

March 13, 1866.

Sir,—It strikes me that many of your readers will ask, after reading your article in the last paper on roads in the Yoruba country, whether it can be proved that Ibadan is really so near to Lagos as you there make out.

If you allow me, I will answer this question. It can be proved. Take the following as proof: On the 10th of April, 1865, I left Ibadan for Lagos. We started at 6.30 A.M.; at 7.50 I was at the River Ona; by 8.30 P.M., we were at Ipara. Out of the fourteen hours that it took us to go to Ipara, three must be deducted for resting at various places on the way, leaving eleven hours for the first day's journey. We left Ipara at 1 A.M. on the 11th, and by 2.50 we were at Ode. Passing this place, after a short rest, we went on to Ipem, where we arrived at 3.45. Here we rested till 6 A.M., when we started for Ogin, where we arrived at 7.30. This journey from Ipara to Ogin took us 4h. 15m. We remained at Ogin all day. At 5 A.M. on the 12th we started from Ogin, and at 2.30 we were in Ikorodu. From this must be deducted, for resting on the journey, two hours, leaving 7h. 30m.

	H. M.
Add up, 1st day	11.0
2nd day	4.15
3rd day	7.30

And you get a total of 22.45

That same night I came over to Lagos. It is a matter of fact, then, that the journey from Ibadan to Lagos can be made in three days, and that the journey from Ibadan to Ikorodu occupied only 22h. 45m. when I came down. It may be worth while adding that I came from Ikorodu to Lagos in a steamer, so that whatever produce is brought from the interior to Ikorodu is as good as if it were brought to Lagos.

These facts need no comment; they tell their own tale as to the importance of this road to Ibadan via Ikorodu and the Ijebu country.—I am, yours, &c.,
E. ROBER,

Late Missionary at Ibadan.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—I have heard and read much by our English friends of the immorality, &c., of us Africans out here, and I have been told by some of those of our so-called friends that we had no business to be educated, and that education does us black people more harm than good. Now I ask, through you, what will the good people of England—I will not say friends, or the term might be misunderstood—what will they say to such observations? No doubt some, a few, might believe such statements when told by the smooth-tongued ones; but surely all will not believe, at least as it would be generally represented. However, I will state a few things which some of them will try to evade or deny. But if they deny the one they cannot possibly do the other, and any casual English visitor to this part of Africa will confirm what I say. First, as regards our morality. I will acknowledge this is not of a high standard, nor at all what it should be; but at any rate there is a visible improvement this last year or two. But let me ask, what example do those who speak so ill of us show to us? those that we look up to as knowing better than we do, that have a better knowledge of right and wrong? Let those amongst them who have not committed such offence "cast the first stone." Begin from the Gambia, and travel along down the coast as far, at least, as the Gaboon, and I venture to say you will not find even a solitary one Englishman but what is living in concubinage, whether they are married in England or not; ah! and openly too. Let — or — deny it if they can, for as for the latter he has had a regular harem at Gaboon, and if all is true has even now. All along the coast you can trace the white men by their children by black women, many in some of the most uncivilized

parts along the coast, going about in nothing but native dress, and following the customs and habits of their heathen mothers, and deserted and never more thought of by their fathers. These women, in more enlightened parts, such as up here, Gambia, Cape Coast, &c., &c., are recognised openly as Mr. or Captain So-and-so's wife, woman, or girl, as the custom of the place may term them, and are allowed in some instances in the highest society out here; even some of the highest of our officials are not exempt from a dab of the same brush. So far at present about our immorality. As regards educating us, I need say but few words, which I think will suffice to explain why we should not be educated according to those (our friends') ideas. The reasons are the more ignorant that we are the better tools we would be for them to carry out in many cases their acts of villany; the less fear they would have in cuffing and kicking us about, knowing that they would go unpunished. The more ignorant we are the better they would be able to carry on their system of double plunder, which is carried on by many of them out here—viz., robbing their employers in England and robbing us out here. The more ignorant we are the more they would be able to abuse and drive us about as slaves, and to purchase and sell us, as has been well known to be done by even Englishmen. Some, too, that have come out here that have not had even a dog to command in their own country, have come for a mere pittance, calculating how they will feather their nests out of their employers' moneys; and after being out here for a few months and getting initiated, can live in as high, if not higher style than their masters. Why should we be educated, by which our eyes become opened? Hoping, Sir, that you will insert the above in your journal, particularly for the benefit of our friends, some of whom say that nobody worth notice reads the *African Times*. But we hope differently.—I remain, your humble servant,
L. O.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, February 7, 1866.

Sir,—Allow me to write these few lines for your information. I only want to say a word or two, pointing out some of the results of the policy of the Lagos Government, as it seems to me Mr. Otito would hide, if possible, many things from the public. I am sorry for the tribal feelings existing here, and Mr. Otito is one of those that foment the same. Whatever means the Lagos Government may have employed in effecting its objects, I do not feel myself qualified to comment on. Let every one mind his own business. It is, I think, sufficient that peace has been established, and trade revives—the interior towns are communicating with one another and with us, Abeokuta only excepted, whom Mr. Otito, and many like him, keep away from participating in the general good. Allow me to state the following facts. No more dealing in the live article—i. e., slaves—here. No more brutality. Abeokuta understands now she cannot give laws to the Aku kingdom. Her pride is humbled. She is not the emporium; she can be an emporium in the Aku territory. Mr. Otito, in your November number, says, "trade has not increased." He means to say that as Abeokuta shuts up her little bit of trade from us, and he in his world of Abeokuta sees nothing doing there, trade has not, therefore, increased with them. If he came down here, he would change his mind before he was an hour older in Lagos. This very mail takes home to England from Lagos a larger shipment of cotton than was ever shipped here at one time before. Mind you, not a fibre came down from Abeokuta. Mr. Otito, writing in September last, states that "the quantity of oil and cotton that came down from Ibadan to Ikorodu was plundered from the Egba farms; and when that was over, the influx ceased." There has been, therefore, no more plunder. Whence comes the present quantity? Every gin is now employed in Lagos. Ships have been, and are still, loading in our Lagos harbour with palm oil and nut oil, and palm kernels, not a drop of which comes from Abeokuta. The geographical position of the places from which produce goes to the celebrated Ejirin market is such, that no one can say the Jebbus plunder their cotton, oil, kernels, sheep, fowls, cloths, &c., from the farms of Mr. Otito's world of Abeokuta. Are the horses, teeth, country cloths, sheep, and immense quantity of cotton, that now come from the interior to Ikorodu by the Ibadan road, being plundered from the Egba farms? It is a fact, that Madam Tinubu, of Abeokuta, sent recently to the Bassorun of Ibadan, to beg him to open trade for her alone. She has slaves who might be working her farms. The Ibadans have not gone again to plunder her farms. Why is she not satisfied with the produce of her own farms? The quantity of oil that comes every ninth day, together with bullocks, fowls, pigs, &c., from Porto Novo to us, does not come from Abeokuta. The oil from the Awori, the trade from Igbessa, Iworo, Epe, do not come from Abeokuta. Now, Mr. Editor, the policy of the Lagos Government has given us general peace. To-day more than 200 persons came, with about forty messengers, from Ibadan to Lagos. Traders from

the towns of Ibadan, Oyo, Ilorin, Ogbomasa, Taki, Kisi, Iseyin, Igboho, Momakeke, Ikirun, Apomu, Imo, Bde, Iwosale, and the countries of Ijesa, Ife, Efou, &c.—places that had been before Abeokuta came into existence—traders, I say, from these places are pouring into Lagos every ninth day, by the celebrated Ikorodu road. Cannot Mr. Otito come down and see for himself. Our merchants and traders here are smiling now in anticipation of the coming prospects. We have now the Ejirin market, Ikorodu, Ogudu, Iworo, Igbessa, and Porto Novo markets, each held every ninth day. And our Egba friends are buying from us horses, which they take to Abeokuta. Unless there come more cotton gins from England, and our merchants set hard to work, there will not be sufficient demand for cotton this year. This is a fact. Seed-cotton from the Ikorodu and Ejirin markets is knocking about the town for purchasers. These are the results of the policy of the Lagos Government. Our merchants are convinced now that without Abeokuta trade they can work and smile. Forgive my occupying too much of your time. Mr. Otito's absurdities make me forget I am writing to you for the first time. If by this I show that the writer of "Otito" is not honest, and if you can put this in some shape for the information of the public, you will do some good for us Africans. The above, I assure you, are facts.—I have the honour to be, Sir, yours respectfully,
AN AKU.

MURDERS OF SLAVES IN SPANISH COLONIES.

The Spanish *Abolicionist*, a journal now published in Madrid, gives horrible accounts of the murder by excessive punishment of two slaves—one, a girl of sixteen, at Marianao, in the island of Cuba, by order and under the atrocious supervision of her mistress—and the other, a male slave, at Porto Rico. The crime in the first case, that of the girl of sixteen, was the having drunk a glass of milk, which was denied her, when in a state of semi-starvation. The local authorities, when stirred to inquiry by public complaints, certified that the girl had died of some disease of the brain. But the news of the atrocity had reached Havana. A commission was sent down, examination made, and horrible details were elicited, at which the blood turns cold. The tribunals have sentenced the murderess to imprisonment for life; but she is very rich, and, of course, had effected her escape from the island. We cannot doubt, however, that the justice of God will follow and overtake her, though she has escaped from the too tardy justice of man. The husband, who we presume has also escaped, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for having permitted the murder under his roof. The local authorities have been heavily fined, and the medical men who gave so false a certificate, and thus strove to conceal the dreadful crime, are to be prosecuted. In the latter case, that of the man murdered by his owners, at Porto Rico, the authorities are still pursuing the inquiry.

THE JAMAICA INSURRECTION.

(From the *Times*, March 19.)

There is no longer any reasonable doubt that cruelties of which it is impossible to think without shuddering were perpetrated in the suppression of the Jamaica insurrection. Some, indeed, of the worst stories originally told have melted away under the process of examination, others have been materially qualified by counter evidence, and many seem to have been attached by mistake to innocent persons. Still, more than enough remain unshaken and even undisputed. It is now certain that scores, and perhaps hundreds, of prisoners were flogged before being hung, and often before being tried. It is certain that some, though it is uncertain how many, were compelled to run the gauntlet, after being flogged, through a crowd of brutal spectators, who were allowed to insult or pelt them as they pleased. It is certain that several, at least, were shot or hung without the pretence of a trial, at the caprice of an officer or subordinate. It is certain that Mr. Ramsay, the Provost-Marshal, stands charged by a multitude of witnesses, black and white, with excesses for which a parallel must be sought among the infamous eccentricities of Oriental despots. It is certain, at least—for the statement rests on the authority of the resident magistrate at Bath—that he flogged with his own hand fifteen men who had never been sentenced, and were to be sent before the court-martial at Morant Bay. It is probable, moreover, that men were bribed with the hope of life—a hope not always realised—to betray their accomplices; that persons accused of crimes were refused permission to call witnesses in their defence, and that some were executed the only proof of whose guilt was their being found wounded. These are things which cannot be dismissed with commonplaces about the dire necessities of war, and the unfairness of scrutinising retrospectively through a microscope the proceedings of men confronted with an overwhelming danger. They are acts, not military, but judicial, done for the most part after armed resistance had ceased, and

when there was nothing to prevent a deliberate separation of the innocent from the guilty.

While we are unable to characterise in gentler terms the general effect of the evidence detailed in the letter of our Jamaica Correspondent, it is right to mention certain statements which tend, so far as they go, to extenuate the conduct of individuals. To the alleged enormities of Mr. Ramsay we shall not further allude, for this gentleman had been arrested on February 20, and, although released on bail, will doubtless have to answer an indictment for murder. Even to him some wild and fitful touches of kindness are attributed by some of those who testified against him, and two of the Volunteer officers, whose names are well known in connexion with these transactions, have apparently succeeded in modifying to some extent the unfavourable impressions against them. Captain Astwood, of the Kingston Volunteer Corps, positively declared that so long as he sat on the court-martial at Morant Bay—one or two days—every case was carefully investigated, the accused being allowed full opportunity of cross-examining, and "no man was sentenced to death who had not himself committed murder or been accessory to murders." We do not here stop to comment on this statement, which it seems quite impossible to reconcile with those of Mr. Lake, a reporter of the *Colonial Standard*, who remained at Morant Bay from October 13 to November 1. We give it only for what it is worth, as coming from a witness duly cautioned that anything which he chose to say might hereafter be used against him. Captain Astwood added that no woman was flogged at Leith-hall, where Lieutenant Adcock was in command, in his own presence or to his knowledge, but that, on the contrary, Lieutenant Adcock emphatically protested against any such proceeding. He negatived other acts and expressions ascribed to Lieutenant Adcock and Captain Ford, and, in particular, the reported execution of a man named Mitchell, on the sole ground that he "looked d—d suspicious." On the other hand, he admitted that he had witnessed running the gauntlet, of which he gave a less harrowing version, and had not felt called upon to stop it; he also denied that he had ever seen Mr. Ramsay exceed his duty in "a very trying position." Captain Astwood was followed by Captain Ford, extracts from whose letter have been published in this country. He premised that his orders were to flog in all minor cases, sending all graver offences to be dealt with by court-martial. Accordingly he did flog at the rate of about fifteen a day, some of them women, for eight days during which he remained, with Lieutenant Adcock, at Leith-hall, but maintained that he "inquired minutely into the particulars of each case." He justified the threat that he would flog people unless they worked on the estates on the ground that in that way they would best relieve themselves of suspicion, and took credit to himself for having won the respect and gratitude of the people. He endeavoured to explain away the most damaging passages in the letter to his brother, which he said was never intended for publication, by stating that he had strongly disapproved some of the measures described in it, but had been afraid to criticise them, knowing that private letters were opened at Morant Bay. Here we come to an issue of which the public may judge for themselves. With Captain Ford's letter before us, and every wish to make due allowance for excitement as well as for the motive he assigns, we feel bound to reject his own construction of his own words. Whether a private letter can be held to compromise an officer under such circumstances is another question; but that Captain Ford therein adopted the acts in which he represents himself to have taken part we have no doubt whatever. His evidence in favour of General Nelson, Captain Hole, and Lieutenant Adcock is more valuable, and goes to prove that some precautions, at least, were taken by these officers against the too summary execution of justice. We may add that if "Paul Bogle's valet," Anderson, of justice. We may add that if "Paul Bogle's valet," Anderson, is to be believed, Colonel Hobbs maligned himself in asserting falsely that he tied him to his stirrup and held a pistol to his head, "but the Colonel did threaten to shoot him if he did not tell the truth."

Upon the whole, the inference we are compelled to draw from the facts hitherto disclosed, subject, of course, to correction, when the result of the inquiry shall be made known, is that an abuse of power, beyond all excuse or palliation either in nature or degree, will probably be brought home to several British officers and a large number of British soldiers or sailors. It is a conclusion from which our readers will bear us witness that we long shrink, and which to have accepted hastily would have been almost as dishonourable as to shut our eyes to it now that it is forced upon us. It is right we should recognise before all things in a great political emergency the paramount obligation of securing the public safety. Order comes before liberty, the rights of society before the rights of the individual. Had the Volunteers drawn up before the Morant Bay Court-house killed some hundreds of people instead of only a few by a volley fired in self-

defence, or had any number of rebels caught red-handed been hanged upon the nearest trees, we should not have inquired too closely into the legality of such acts. We are prepared to go yet further, and to contend that a Government or any other constituted authority is entitled to a strong presumption in its favour when engaged in quelling an outbreak commencing with a massacre. But presumption must yield to proof, and we cannot but discern through much exaggeration and many inventions the proof that a Reign of Terror did prevail after the necessity for it had ceased. A time comes in every such crisis when the "dogs of war," however properly "let slip," ought to be sternly recalled, and after which the higher law must be invoked in vain. It seems to have been the chief fault of Governor Byre that he failed to appreciate this, and, oppressed with the burden of his own anxieties, asked no questions about the operation of martial law. The most cruel wrongs are often inflicted through a division of responsibility between those who give orders without seeing them executed, and those who execute them without consulting their own consciences. It will be for the Commissioners in this instance to apportion the blame between these two, and their task is one that few will envy. They will carry with them, however, the sympathy and support of the nation, which, jealous as it rightly is of its military character, will never suffer the sacred principles of justice and mercy to be profaned with impunity in its service.

DEATHS.

Died suddenly, at Cape Coast Castle, West Coast of Africa, on the night of the 29th January, 1866, William M'Kean, Esq., Lieutenant and Acting-Quartermaster 4th West India Regiment, sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends, who mourn the loss of one who was indeed an exemplifier of the saying, "In angustis amici boni apparent." Lieut. M'Kean was actively engaged during the whole Ashantee invasion; was on the banks of the River Prah for months, and was one of the few who escaped that dire calamity. He leaves a sorrowing widow and several children to mourn their great loss.

On Wednesday, the 14th February, at No. 20, Bernard-street, Russell-square, Mr. William A. Davis, Clerk of Police, Sierra Leone, West Coast of Africa, aged thirty-two years.

THE FRUITS OF LIBERTY.—In his speech on Saturday night General Howard reported that he had official notice of seventy thousand negro children attending school in the Southern States, and he knew of many self-supporting schools besides. He mentioned six coloured schools in one town, Tallahassee; in Lynchburg he found a school taught by a coloured man. The Freedmen's Bureau had secured school privileges in the labour contracts, he added. The *Macon Journal* reports that more than four thousand coloured people of both sexes and all ages are attending schools in that city. "Whole regiments of coloured people have learned to read," said General Howard, "and I should not be surprised to hear that on every plantation at the South some of the people know how to read." Six years ago men were hanged and women imprisoned for teaching coloured children to read. Six years hence a great part of these very coloured people will be in the exercise of the elective franchise with the voluntary consent of the communities in which they live, and as the natural of their intelligence, enterprise, and good conduct.—*New York Evening Post*.

MELANCHOLY DEATH OF AN AFRICAN EXPLORER.—The *Moniteur du Soir*, upon the faith of information received from Zanzibar under date December 2, gives some details of the lamentable termination of the scientific expedition into Eastern Africa undertaken by the Baron von der Decken. It appears that the traveller left Zanzibar on the 15th June last in his yacht, and made his way into the interior of Africa by ascending the river Djub, and on the 10th of September he arrived at Berdera, a town of the Somali tribe. He was at first well received by the ruler of that country; but upon his announcing his intention to continue his exploration up the river Djub the disposition of that chief towards him was entirely changed. Persisting, however, in his intention, the Baron von der Decken had the misfortune to lose his steamer at the cataracts which close the Djub about twenty kilometres above Berdera. On the 1st of October his encampment was attacked by a horde of Somalis. An artist and a mechanic attached to the expedition were killed. The Baron himself, weakened by the effect of cholera, from which he had suffered in June, and surrounded by myriads of savages, for a time kept them off by the aid of his revolver, but upon his stooping to pick up some of his arms the crowd rushed upon him and dragged him to the river's bank, where he was slain by the daggers of his barbarian assailants. His physician, Dr. Link, was also seized and slain the next day.

The Editor regrets so many papers are necessarily excluded, but hopes next month to insert all that are in arrears.

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