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ROYAL AFRICAN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the proprietors was held at the offices in Leadenhall-street on the 11th inst. Mr. P. D. Hadow presided. A report, expressive of satisfaction at the doings of the company during the last six months, was read and adopted. Amongst other things it announced a new six years' contract with the Postmaster-General for the performance of the mail service. The subsidy payable under the new contract will be considerably less than that received at present, but it is hoped that the modification in the service and the development of traffic will compensate for the decrease. After making the usual reserves for depreciation, &c., there was shown a balance of 5,850*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* to the credit of the revenue account. The directors recommended the payment of the usual dividend of 8*s.* per share, free of income-tax, and after that there would be 1,447*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* left to be carried over to next half-year's account.

WAR IN THE RIVER GAMBIA—BURNING OF GROUND-NUT STORES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—In my last I endeavoured to give you a brief account of the attack, by Baccary Saidah, King of Boondoo, made on the kingdom of Woollie. It remains now to inquire whether it was a legitimate war, and whether it is such as will be sanctioned by the laws of nations.

I am very much against these native wars, as they have a most pernicious effect on the prosperity of the country; a flourishing people when once attacked is generally reduced to the utmost beggary; the invaders do not attempt to improve their condition, but reduce them to serfdom, and thus nip the little improvements which were being made. The kingdom of Woollie in former years was tributary to the King of Boondoo, the father of our present hero. After his death, a Marabout fanatic, Sakoo the Great of the East, rose up and invaded Boondoo, destroyed the town, captured a lot of the inhabitants, and paralyzed the government. After committing a great deal of mischief, he lapsed into a nonentity, and nothing more is heard of his conquests. Baccary Saidah, with great activity and industry—aided by the French, whose ally he is—endeavoured to renovate his tottering kingdom, called upon all the former tributary towns to pay their yearly quota, and to acknowledge the supremacy of Boondoo.

The King of Woollie, finding that he had increased in wealth and power, and sneering at the dilapidated condition of his once powerful but now questionable enemy, returned his demands, rather impolitely and with decided refusal, stating at the same time that he considered his kingdom perfectly independent of Boondoo. Baccary Saidah received the intelligence with unruffled countenance, but set about in great earnestness with reforms.

About three or four years ago, the Marabout in N'yanny rebelled against their rightful master, the King of Catabar, destroyed several towns, declared themselves independent, and treacherously killed Walley, the head chief of Coonting, and made that town their capital. The King of Catabar sent for the assistance of Baccary Saidah, who had been endeavouring for the last three years to get permission from the King of Woollie to pass through his country, but without success. Early this year he sent one of his sons and two of the princes of his realm to be kept as hostages for the good conduct of his men whilst passing through Woollie, but his Majesty, unfortunately for him, yielded to the imprudent advice of his Prime Minister, Saloom Jarty, and head

chief Calley Walley, unsparingly used the "cat" over the backs of two of these hostages, and returned them with the third to inform Baccary Saidah, their King, that they had sufficient muskets and gunpowder ready for him, and that they had not known when "cow-drivers" had become warriors.* Baccary Saidah was very much enraged at the disgraceful treatment he had received from one whom he had hitherto called his friend, and raised the war cry in the ears of his large army, who were bent to avenge the insult—"To Woollie, to Woollie."

The army, incensed by such disgraceful treatment which their comrades had received, and maddened by the low taunts which the King of Woollie's people had sent to them, swept the ground before them, and prostrated the stronghold of Woollie ere its sovereign knew that the enemy was in sight. One of the traders thus graphically described the movement of his army: "Baccary Saidah came down with a force of 12,000 men of all races, and mounted, to go down to Coonting, but the King of Woollie would not allow him to pass through his country, which annoyed Baccary greatly and caused him to attack one of the principal towns of Woollie—viz., Canopey. Today See Joberty and Salum Dorto, and all the great jallahs of Woollie belong to this town. Baccary Saidah burnt down this large town, and caught over 400 people; he then proceeded to Saloom Jarty's town and burnt it down, caught about 100 people, and came to Barjah Cundah, caught 500 people, and burnt it down. After that they came down to the port of Cobboo Cotto, but, luckily, we had crossed all our goods to the other side, and on board the Mary and Mary Anne. The war men arrived, and not finding any goods in the stores, set fire to the ground-nuts, stores, and houses, and stayed to see them burnt. There are upwards of 26,000 bushels of nuts burnt at this port. Whilst writing, the nuts are still burning; the whole of the trading ports from Sarmey to Berry Lendah are all on fire, and all the upper towns the same. The loss is enormous. Barjah Cundah is like a field of grass on fire; not a house standing. The total number of persons taken on the Woollie ground is about 12,000. Baccary Saidah had burnt six towns, and this he did within two days. We are still in danger of war and fire; it is not certain whether Baccary Saidah will cross on the Cantoorah side or not, for as the Woollie people never attempt to fire a shot or show fight, the Cantoorah people are very much frightened. Saloom Jarty had a very narrow escape, he was chased down to the water side, where he was picked up."

The chief of Canopy, Saloom Daibo, made a desperate stand against Baccary Saidah's army; he withstood them until by sheer gallantry his stockade was carried by a *coup de main*, and having no alternative but death or slavery he set fire to his magazine, blew up the town, destroyed a great many of his people and the invaders. But this brave man was not killed on the spot, and he dragged himself along to the well, and terminated his unhappy existence by throwing himself headlong into it.

Fattah Lendah, the principal trading port in the Upper Rivers, was attacked on the 29th; the army was led by Baccary Saidah's son, who had been trained in the French Military College in Senegal; the attack was sudden, and the victory complete. Prince Seremang, one of the chiefs of Boondoo, was killed in this engagement, and his head is now in the possession of Captain Spencer, of the Dover. Here the merchants lost a large quantity of produce, tobacco and rum; there were eighteen ground-nut stores, some containing 20,000 bushels, burnt to the ground. At Cotto Baccary Saidah fired on the Mary Anne, a vessel

* The Footah Foola are great herdsmen, and wherever they reside they generally keep a great many bullocks.
† Brokers.

belonging to T. Brown, Esq., one of the principal merchants of this place, and wounded one of the sailors.

Just about this time the *Dover* left Bathurst with a small detachment of the 4th West India Regiment, to relieve the detachment of the 3rd. At MacCarthy's Captain Bridge, B.E., who came up in her to inspect the barracks, undertook at once an expedition to the Upper Rivers, to save, if possible, any more destruction of property, and give confidence to the British traders. Baccary Saidah's army had returned to Boondoo ere his arrival, and the *Dover* returned immediately to Bathurst, but was quickly dispatched to the Upper Rivers by his Excellency the Governor, with David Brown, Esq., as political agent, to give security to the traders until they could bring down their goods and produce.

The question now stands thus: Are the merchants to be the losers? or will the Government compel Baccary Saidah to pay for what he had destroyed?

RIVER GAMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, May 24.

Sir,—We have been much amused here in reading Mr. Tanner's eulogium of Dr. Sherwood in your April number, especially as Mr. Tanner was one of the first to draw attention to the abuses in the Colonial Hospital. It is not strange, therefore, that he says very little himself on the subject, but quotes from Colonel D'Arcy's dispatches. Of course, poor D'Arcy believes in Sherwood, or else he would not be here; therefore quoting from D'Arcy is like quoting from Sherwood's own letter respecting himself. I will tell you by-and-bye how and why these two men, the Governor (or Administrator as he is now called) and the doctor, hang together. You will, to say the least, be surprised. I am very busy, and cannot write more till next mail.—Yours,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, May 23.

Sir,—Seeing in your last a letter censuring Colonel D'Arcy, allow me to say a word or two in favour of that gentleman. It is during his term of office that we have had Bathurst much improved by drainage, footpaths, &c.; a good carriage road to Cape St. Mary, bridges across the creeks, swamps, &c.

With regard to the charge you bring against him of allowing Dr. Sherwood to be medical attendant at the jail, and sitting as coroner at the inquests at that establishment, it, no doubt, would seem an anomaly to your English readers; but by allowing that the doctor, who is unpopular, gets all the private practice of the place, you refute the charge by showing that there is no one else here capable of filling the offices.*

I can say, from personal observation, that Governor D'Arcy is a man much respected by the native inhabitants for his courtesy and justice.

With respect to disturbances that have occurred up the river lately, some say Governor D'Arcy was to blame for his undecided policy and half measures; but when you consider that the only vessel he had at his disposal was "our own man-of-war," the *Dover*, which has no engineers or officer excepting the captain, and machinery very old and defective, you will perceive that he was not in a position to resent the outrages that had been committed on our traders. I am not in the Government service, and am opposed to the Governor politically, though I cannot consider a man incompetent for holding opinions different from myself.—I remain, &c.,

FAIR PLAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, May 24.

Sir,—Business is very dull here at present. Upper river trade entirely destroyed for this season, both traders and natives having had all their property burnt. H.M.S.S. *Dover*, still up the river, reports no fresh outrages having been committed. Great distress is likely to prevail in the Upper River districts, on account of all the provisions having been destroyed or carried off by the invaders. The Governor-General left here for Sierra Leone by the outward mail steamer.—Yours truly,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Gambia, March 23, 1866.

Sir,—I beg to bring to your notice some injustice I have to complain of at the Court of Justice in this place.

On the 6th instant I was at work at a public building. Dr.

* We cannot understand why Dr. Sherwood should necessarily sit as coroner on inquests held on persons who have died when under his care as surgeon, but we see a thousand reasons why it is grossly improper that he should do so.—Ed. A. T.]

Sherwood, on passing by, called me up to him and said, "Why did you touch your hat instead of taking it off, in paying your respects to me?" He then commenced using the most vulgar language. I at once made a complaint about his conduct to one of the magistrates, who ordered I should summon him; however, I declined until he repeated it again on the 8th instant. I caused a summons to be issued out against him. The sitting magistrate was his friend, Mr. Brown. Notwithstanding all the evidence I could produce, the case was thrown away, to the surprise of the whole court.

May I ask, Mr. Editor, are we, as Africans, not to have freedom and justice? Are we for ever to be shut out of the advantages and privileges enjoyed by the civilised world? It will doubtless be long, but I hope the time will surely arrive when Africa as a country, and the Africans as a people, will enjoy the same blessings.—I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,

J. W. SAWYER.

THE ASHANTEE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS: LETTER OF KING AGGERY, OF CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Gold Coast, May 11, 1866.

Sir,—I perceive some mistakes have crept into your journal with reference to the "Peace with Ashantee," and I venture, with your permission, to throw some light upon the subject.

Both blacks and whites are perfectly aware that the Ashantees invaded this country in 1863, and that all trade or communication between this country and Ashantee has been cut off in consequence.

Now, it would appear that on his arrival here in August, 1865, Lieut.-Governor Conran convened a meeting, composed of his Excellency, the people of Cape Coast, and myself, at the Government House; and his Excellency, among other things, expressed himself to this effect: "As regards the Ashantee war, the Queen of England instructed me that neither yourself nor myself was to send any messenger to the Ashantee Court to sue for peace; but that we may receive any messenger that comes from the King of Ashantee for purposes of negotiating peace." About one month afterwards it came to my knowledge that attempts were being made to negotiate peace; and I instantly despatched Mr. Joseph Martin to seek an interview with the Lieut.-Governor and ascertain if there was any truth in the report. The Governor said that, so far as the Government was concerned, there was no such thing; and he asked if Mr. Martin knew who was about to undertake the business. Mr. Martin replied that according to the rumours then afloat it was the merchants. The Governor said again, "For my own part, I have received no instruction from home to that effect; but it appears the merchants are doing all this of their own accord." After five days had passed, it reached my ears that certain two Ashantee captives dressed in (Queen's) uniform had left Cape Coast in order to join Mr. George Blankson on his way to Kumasi. I again deputed Mr. Martin to ask the Lieut.-Governor if he had any hand in the matter. But the Governor grew angry and said, "Does King Agger say I am under him? Who is he? I only acknowledge the Queen of England; and I will never condescend to let him know beforehand what I intend to do." Mr. Martin replied, "Not that your Excellency is under the King, but it is only co-operation we earnestly wish for, as far as the government of the country is concerned." Thus Mr. Blankson proceeded to the Prah, and remained there for upwards of two months, and no native sovereign knew who sent him, or what message he had to deliver to the King of Ashantee. In January this year Mr. Blankson arrived at Cape Coast, accompanied by Ashantee messengers. The Governor assembled a meeting, which myself, chiefs, and people of Cape Coast attended. We received Mr. Blankson and the messengers; and all present were anxious to hear the messengers, when the Governor rose and said, "The messengers have brought good news—news of peace. We were to treat them hospitably, give them presents." It could not be understood why the Governor spoke for the messengers, and we were agreeably surprised. The messenger in his turn got up, and said, "I am the messenger of the King of Ashantee. The King is the king over every black man, and the Queen of England is the queen over every white man; and they are husband and wife. The Governor, as representative of his wife, sent Mr. Blankson up the Prah; and Mr. Blankson sent to inform the King that the Government was wishful to make peace, and invited the King to send down messengers to represent him on the occasion. Peace is good news." The messenger having delivered his message, the Governor adjourned the meeting *sine die*, promising to make the contents of a letter his Excellency had received from the King of Ashantee known to us at the next meeting. The meeting never took place; but the Ashantees returned home, together with a messenger from the Government. Last month, Ashantee messengers, accompanied by the Government messenger, came in,

but what message they brought was not even communicated to any of us. We hear indirectly that the message was simply to the effect that "if the Government sues for peace, Genin (the Ashantee refugee, on whose account the country was invaded in 1863) should be given up." And, again, a third messenger from the Government has left this for Kumasi with a messenger we know nothing of.

Singular as it appears, so important an affair is all between the Governor and his merchants. I hope I am not asking too much when I say that the native kings and people should at least be informed of measures that may probably result in another war with Ashantee.

In giving publicity to these matters and things, my object is simply to show what has really been done here as regards these Ashantee negotiations.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN AGGERY,
King of Cape Coast.

INJUSTICE PRACTISED BY THOMAS SOLOMON, CHIEF OF DOMINASIE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, May 11, 1866.

Sir,—In the case of Yarb Pennin and R. C. A.'s father, which was heard by Chief Thomas Solomon, of Dominasie, and decision given in favour of Yarb Pennin, an appeal was made by R. C. A.'s brother, on behalf of their father, in the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court at Cape Coast.

The Chief Thomas Solomon sent a messenger of his, Quacoo Perah by name, to explain the matters to the judge on his behalf, trying to obtain judgment for Yarb Pennin according to his own decision; but, notwithstanding this, and after a long and patient hearing of the case by the sitting magistrate, Captain Banks, 3rd W.I.R., judgment was given in favour of R. C. A.'s father. The seven dollars which Yarb Pennin extorted from R. C. A.'s father was ordered to be returned, with 20s. damages. But how sorrowful and shameful was Thomas Solomon!

Now, Mr. Editor, this is another proof that if there were no appeal from the native chiefs and kings we should be very badly off. They will do injustice to the utmost of their power. May the kings' and chiefs' courts be therefore always subject to appeal. And this Thomas Solomon, of Dominasie, is no more than a private chief trying to obtain the title of a king. He made himself a king of the Abboorahs lately by giving some amount of money to the principal chiefs in the district solely to eject the acknowledged King, and make him a king in his stead, but he has been curiously knocked away by the people themselves, who made him a king. In short, he is not at all a king, but merely a private chief. Over which district is he a king? Abboorah? No. Dominasie? Dominasie is not a district, but a town in the district of Abboorah, and how can one district bear two kings?

The recognised and well-known King of Abboorah is the brother and successor of the late King Otoo, of Abacrampa, but Thomas Solomon is a mere private chief.

If Thomas Solomon, bearing the title of a chief, is trying to force maladministration of justice upon his people, how much more would this be the case if he received the title of king? We hope the Governor of the Gold Coast will put these native kings and chiefs into their proper positions, so as to avoid collisions.

Thomas Solomon has cast off the religion of "Jesus Christ our Lord," which he first held, and is now, very sorrowful to relate, worse than a heathen who has never heard the Word of God.

Mr. G. H. Ridley, one of the merchants among us, died yesterday, the 10th inst.

It is rumoured here that the English are about to give this Coast up. Such a change would be ruin. Rather let us pay poll-tax, and thus defray part of the expenses of government.—Yours truly,

A YOUNG MAN.

GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Christiansborg, Accra, May 9, 1866.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your kind letter on the 23rd of March, and thank you very much for your sympathy and exertions on my behalf. God will bless you for your philanthropic labours.

Such is the state of things here, that in all endeavours to do good I have suffered pecuniarily, on account of the unsettled state of the country. If we had peace, I might have done very well, but now all has fallen to the ground, and I have to commence afresh.

I intended to pay a visit to England this year, and see you personally, and discourse with you on different subjects relative to the improvement of the resources of this part of the country, &c., but affairs on the Volta have put me far back. Our resources are many, and we are favoured by God, but can we prosper

under the present existing circumstances—wars, troubles, stoppage of roads and trade? Use your efforts to obtain peace for us. We are now living in troublesome times, and unless this is speedily settled, our known enemy, the Ashantees, joined with the Aquamoos and the Awoolas, will shortly send us all through the Atlantic. We have not yet been told what the Government intend to do, but it is plain enough they don't intend to do anything; and carry on the war ourselves, we can't. Do something for us. The supplies for the poor missionaries in Krepee are now cut off, and I think the poor people are starving by this time. There are at present upwards of 200,000lbs. of cotton shut up in Krepee, and the greatest part belongs to ——— and myself, the missionary merchants, and the merchants at Accra. There has not been a pound of cotton from Krepee since January, and this year's labour has been thrown away.

I do not understand why the Government call this war our own war. Has not Gerald been troublesome to the Government on account of his slave-trade for the last eight years, and now to the whole country? And why is this place called protectorate, but that we are to be protected from foreign invasions? We have to pay duties, &c., to the Government, and what is this for if not to protect trade? All the expenses of this war have been thrown on the poor merchants here. Government only supplied us with 1,000 guns, and ammunition in proportion, and left us to do all the work, and there is no unity of action amongst us, no one to enforce orders. Fancy giving us a British officer, Lieutenant Herbert, as commander-in-chief of 15,000 men, but no soldiers, not even a single policeman to assist him in the discharge of his arduous duties.

We are gathering a very little cotton in the neighbourhood here, but what is that to Krepee? The people at Adda are actually starving.—Yours truly,

B.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Gold Coast, May 10, 1866.

Sir,—You will not, I think, be surprised to hear of the entire failure of the expedition which was organised in February against the Augnas or Awoonahs. It seems that the main cause of the failure has been the absence of that unity of action which could only be secured by a well-organised and popular Government taking the lead, and controlling all matters of detail. There was no proper order observed among the native forces, or, at least, not that amount of order which was really necessary; and hence, in the enemy's country, they were taken at disadvantage, during a march, while encumbered with luggage, and obliged to fight with fearful odds against them, which resulted in a panic, and in many instances, it is said, in a disgraceful flight.

You will doubtless receive more correct and extensive details from other correspondents better acquainted with the case than I am. I will only add that such results will generally follow such defective organizations of the forces of the native tribes, whether led against each other for purposes of police, or against a foreign enemy. This state of things cannot, of course, last long. If the Government decline to manage things with proper energy, I see no alternative but that of the people trying to organise something of their own, but if they have to do so they must raise a revenue—they cannot work without ways and means. It is, I think, easy to foresee to what general result these things will lead in the early future.

With regard to Ashantee, it is said also that things wear a doubtful aspect. Rumours are afloat that the King declares he never sued for peace, and will not have peace on such terms as Governor Conran's proclamation has set forth. These reports may not, however, be true. You will doubtless receive more correct information from your correspondent at Cape Coast. I will only add that I have not been able to see how it was possible for Mr. Blankson's proceedings in sending up messengers to Kumasi from the Prah to take place without compromising the Government, and leading the King and his chiefs to think that we were suing for peace.

I hope you are likely to succeed in getting home the representatives of the King of Dahomey, that they may see the wonders of European civilization. I think the results would be extremely good for the King of Dahomey and his people.

The long drought has now broken up, I am glad to say, and we are having nice refreshing showers.—Yours sincerely,

ACCRA.

WAR IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE GOLD COAST.

Letter of C. Commandant Lieut. Herbert, J.P., to Liebrecht Hesse, Esq., J.P.

Addah Foah, April 16, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose you a letter received by me from his Excellency the Governor, directing me to return to Accra to resume my duties as Commandant, and to transfer the command of the expeditionary force to the next senior magistrate.

In accordance with these instructions, I am about to proceed to Accra, and I have now the honour to hand over my command to you, being well assured that I leave it in good hands.

I will not presume to give you directions now the supreme command is vested in you, but I would suggest that you immediately concentrate your force in this neighbourhood, and advance on the principal Awoonlah towns before the enemy has time to recover from the check he received the other day; and I am convinced that, with the efficient co-operation of Mr. Briandt and other native gentlemen, you must succeed.

Will you have the kindness to return the enclosed letter. On my arrival at Accra, I shall report to the Governor of my having transferred the command to you.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) N. T. CUFFE HERRERT, J.P.,
Chief Civil Commandant E.D.

Lebrecht Hesse, Esq., J.P., Commanding Native
Expeditionary Force in the Field.

Letter from L. Hesse, Esq., to Lieut.-Colonel Conran, Administrator of the Gold Coast Government.

Accra, May 2, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Conran, Governor, that in compliance with instructions received from Lieut. Herbert, dated "Addah Foah, April 16, 1866," copy of which is herewith enclosed, I assumed charge of the allied native forces that had been collected together in February and March last, to repel the invasion of the Protected Territories in the Eastern District on the part of the Awoonlahs.

Doubtless, Lieut. Herbert has already placed you in possession of all that transpired in the field up to the period of his handing over to me the management of the native army.

On my assuming charge, I found that the force had been considerably reduced in strength by the departure of King Quou Daddy of Aquapem with all his people for their country, and by the great numbers of the Accras who had escorted their wounded friends home, and others who had left on the plea of scarcity of provisions.

Without delay I convened a meeting of the kings and chiefs, all of whom, with the exception of Quou Daddy and his captains, were now assembled at Addah Town. It was resolved that active offensive operations should at once be renewed against the enemy, and that a sufficient force should be immediately collected and dispatched across the river to occupy some favourable position on the Awoonlahs' side until the whole force could proceed to join them.

I, as well as all the native gentlemen that still remained in the field, perfectly coincided with this view of matters, because it would seem that the enemy had evidently misconstrued our object in retiring from their territory across the Volta on the very day that we had so completely routed their forces after a severe engagement; and any delay might afford them an opportunity of forming alliances with those of the water-side people who had been hitherto neutral, as well as with such of the tribes on their side of the Volta as were in alliance with us, all of whom would without doubt consider our inactivity on the Addah side of the river as an acknowledgment on our part of having failed in attaining the object of the expedition, if not of absolute defeat.

But when we had arrived at this conclusion, we found that the force remaining with the kings had dwindled down to no more than their own and our immediate servants and retainers, which was totally inadequate to undertake with any possibility of success the projected enterprise.

Under these circumstances the kings determined to send each their own captain and a linguist to their towns to collect all their people, and at the same time they addressed a letter to the Chief Civil Commandant with a request that he would assist in hastening the return of all stragglers to the camp at Addah, and that he would render them further aid and advice in the war. A copy of this letter I have also the honour also to enclose. In the meantime, all the kings have bound themselves by an oath not to return home until the objects of the expedition are attained—viz., the capture of Geraldo, and above all the restoration of peace and trade on the Volta, to say nothing of the necessity which they appear to believe to exist, of effacing the injury done by hasty and not altogether necessary retrograde movement performed in the hour of victory over the enemy.

At the desire of the kings, and with the view of expediting the affair, I have returned to Accra.

I feel it my duty to observe that, in my humble opinion, and indeed in general opinion, nothing further can be done until November, as the rains having set in, it will be almost impossible to act with effect in those regions until the lagoons, &c., caused by the overflowing of the Volta in the rainy season have subsided.

In the meantime, the kings have very wisely despatched messengers to the neighbouring chiefs of Krepee and Agotim, acquainting them with the position of affairs, and desiring them to form a camp in such a point as will facilitate a junction with them when required. At the same time, the merchants and other influential natives are exerting themselves to the utmost of their power.

It is to be regretted that with the large force and means at our disposal in the recent campaign the object of the expedition was not accomplished. There is, however, not the least doubt that, with the experience the natives have now acquired, on the renewal of the campaign that object will be speedily attained.—I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

L. Hesse.

To His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Conran, Administrator of the Gold Coast Government, &c., &c., &c.

PETITION OF BRITISH MERCHANTS, NATIVE KINGS, CHIEFS, MERCHANTS, &c., TO COLONEL CONRAN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOLD COAST GOVERNMENT, &c., &c., &c.

To His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Conran, Administrator of the Gold Coast Government, &c., &c., &c.

Accra, May 4, 1866.

The humble petition of the undersigned, British merchants, native kings, chiefs, merchants, and others, resident in the eastern districts of the Gold Coast, under British protection,

Humbly sheweth,—That your petitioners having taken into consideration the present state of affairs in these districts, arising out of the invasion of this part of the Protectorate by the Awoonlahs, have unanimously resolved to address your Excellency with the view of drawing your Excellency's attention to the disastrous and almost ruinous condition to which, in their humble estimation, these districts have been reduced by the Awoonlahs' invasion and the insufficiency of the measures adopted to repel and punish the same, and to solicit that aid and protection from the Government which they, as British subjects and natives residing under British protection, obeying British laws, and paying taxes and duties, respectfully submit they have a right to expect.

Your petitioners deem it unnecessary to waste your Excellency's time by a repetition of the circumstances attending the origin of the present disturbances and the facts connected with the invasion up to the day on which your petitioners had the honour of an interview with your Excellency on the subject.

Your petitioners, however, would beg leave to draw your Excellency's attention to the hope you were kind enough to hold out to them of the active, material, and continued aid which they might rely on from Her Majesty's Government, if it appeared that the Protectorate had actually been invaded, and the property of British subjects had been plundered and destroyed, and their lives jeopardised.

Your Excellency was pleased to include in this promise of aid the active co-operation of one or more of Her Majesty's cruisers, if events should necessitate their interference.

In short, your petitioners that if the invasion of the Protectorate territory on the part of the Awoonlahs should become an accomplished fact, and circumstances render it necessary, you would cause the enemy's towns to be bombarded from the sea. Relying on the continued active assistance of Her Majesty's Government, hopes of which were thus held out to your petitioners, they did not shrink from embarking in the expedition against the enemy.

Your Excellency having already been made acquainted, through the ordinary official channel, with the result of the expedition, your petitioners deem it needless to enter into details. It is sufficient to know that the expedition utterly failed to accomplish the object which was in view when it was set on foot. Though various circumstances combined to render abortive the efforts made to bring the campaign to a satisfactory termination, your petitioners, after mature deliberation, are of opinion that these active facts, more than any others, contributed to bring about such an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

These facts your petitioners deem it their duty respectfully to bring to your Excellency's notice:—

First, the withdrawal of the regular troops, consisting of a detachment of Her Majesty's 3rd West India Regiment, under the command of Captain Humfrey, at the moment of the allied native forces crossing the Volta in pursuit of the enemy, by which the control that had up to that period been possessed by the officer in charge of the expedition over the native chiefs and people generally, and the confidence with which their presence naturally inspired the native tribes in the field, were at once done away with.

Secondly, the cruisers having refrained from bombarding the

enemy's towns after it had become only too evident that they were the aggressors, and had caused great loss of life and destruction to property in the Protectorate territory.

That the expedition was at one period of the campaign in an extremely critical situation, in consequence of the non-execution of this part of the programme, your petitioners need only refer to the despatch of the officer commanding the native allied forces to Captain Humfrey, dated March 21, wherein he represents the urgent necessity of an immediate bombardment of the Awoonlahs' towns, so as to draw the enemy's attention from the object they then had in view of marching their whole force to crush the allied native army before it could receive its expected reinforcements.

One more most important fact your petitioners would beg leave most respectfully to represent to your Excellency. So far from the services of the British cruisers being called in to further the objects of an expedition undertaken in defence of the lives and property of British subjects and people under British protection, the presence of British cruisers in Awoonlah waters actually served as a protection to the enemy, and, indirectly, to the injury of British interests. In order to justify this very extraordinary and apparently absurd assertion, your petitioners beg to inform your Excellency, upon the authority of one of themselves—viz., the Honourable Nicol Irvine, who has just returned from those parts—that the people of Jellee Coffee, having been, as they were, assured by the senior naval officer in the Bights, not only of immunity from any hostile act on the part of Her Majesty's cruisers on account of the existing war, but also of actual protection against the expedition—an expedition raised under the auspices, undertaken with the sanction of, and armed and equipped by, Her Majesty's Government, commanded by a British officer, and in which British merchants were personally engaged in defence of British interests—that they, the people of Jellee Coffee, being thus assured, on such good authority, of the protection of Her Majesty's ships against this expedition, left their town to the defence of the British cruisers, and marched out to reinforce the Awoonlahs, who fought against the allies in the neighbourhood of Jellee Coffee, on Thursday, the 12th April last. The people of Jellee Coffee were further made to believe that in case they suffered in the least degree through the acts of the allied native force under Lieut. Herbert's command, either in life or property, that they should receive compensation from the Accra tribes.

Your petitioners would only be too happy to believe that a misconception existed in respect to this matter, but unfortunately a combination of circumstances precludes all chance of arriving at such a conclusion, and compels us to accept the statement as fact.

That the people of Jellee Coffee had reasonable grounds for relying on some kind of protection from the British Government, and were to a certain extent justified in expecting exemption from any hostile acts on the part of the allied native force, may be inferred from the order issued by Lieut. Herbert, commanding officer, to the different native chiefs under his command on crossing the Volta, to the effect that he had your Excellency's directions to them that the Jellee Coffee people were not to be molested. That they were not neutral as was supposed. That the fact that many of them were recognised by the Accras during the action might have been accepted as proof sufficient, if there had not been a more convincing one furnished by the number of dead they left on the field. Under all these circumstances, your petitioners deem it their duty to call your Excellency's attention to the state of this district, which seems to them to require at this moment the special interference of the Executive.

Your petitioners, having maturely deliberated on the subject, have arrived at the conclusion that unless such special interference at once takes place the whole trade and prospects of the eastern districts will be ruined. Your petitioners have already suffered severely by this war, and are still suffering. And that your petitioners are of the opinion that they have not received that protection and support from Her Majesty's Government at this crisis which they had been led to expect, and which they would most respectfully submit they are entitled to.

Your petitioners would beg that Her Majesty's Government would now, once for all, intimate to them whether they, as British subjects, living under British rule, obeying British laws, and paying very heavy taxes, from which their neighbours the Dutch are exempt, are to expect protection from the British Government when they are attacked, and their property plundered and destroyed, and the aggressors to be punished, or whether protection is no longer to be granted to them?

JAMAICA.—The news from the West India Islands is unimportant. The Jamaica Journal states that the greatest order prevails throughout the country, fine seasonable weather is experienced in several parishes, and most excellent crops are looked forward to.

IBADAN.

We hear that at a meeting held on the 14th of April in Ibadan, a law was made commanding every one, under severe penalties, to abstain from all acts of violence or kidnapping on the Abeokuta, Ijaye, and Ijebu roads; that if any one is disposed to kidnap he must direct his attention to the Ijesha farms. At a subsequent date it was determined to close all roads leading to the Ijesha country, preparatory to a war to be undertaken next dry season.

ABEOKUTA.

The disputes about duties have caused the river road to be practically closed to produce going down; some few pass notwithstanding. There is a very general and strong feeling against the payment of duties here.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH AT AKE BY FIRE.—The church at Ake, Abeokuta, having been destroyed, except the walls, by fire, the Rev. H. Townsend respectfully and earnestly begs the assistance of all who are disposed to help in forwarding the work of Christianity and civilisation towards restoring it, and with material not so liable to take fire as native thatch is. The church was originally built by subscriptions raised in Exeter, aided by the free labour of native Christians. Services have been regularly held in it on the Sunday, two in the native language and one in English, and two services in the week. At the last Sunday service held in it before the fire, in the native tongue, the church was filled to the doors, and we have no other building capable of receiving one-half the number: it is therefore most necessary to restore the building; and to prevent the occurrence of the like accident it is thought most desirable to have an iron roof. To do this it is estimated that we shall require 300*l.*; a sum beyond what we can expect to raise among the native converts. Churches are not built by the Church Missionary Society; missionaries are obliged to obtain aid for such erections where they can. The native Christians have largely contributed to the restoration of the mission compound both in labour and material, and have restored the schoolroom so that it can be used as a temporary place of worship; more we cannot at present expect from them, especially as war and blockades have impoverished the country. The church was furnished with a turret clock, a bell for the clock, and another for calling the congregation together, and a harmonium, raised by subscriptions here, all of which have been destroyed; the communion plate was the only thing saved. The Rev. H. Townsend makes this appeal to the public hoping to obtain this much-needed help for the restoration of the church at Ake.—*See Irohin.*

Subscriptions are earnestly requested, and will be thankfully received by the Rev. C. A. Gollmer, 22, Hawley-square, Margate Kent.

THE ABYSSINIAN CAPTIVES.

We have received the following from the Foreign-office:—

Colonel Stanton reports from Alexandria, by telegram, that letters had arrived from Mr. Rassam, dated Korata, April 9, all well; and that later intelligence had been received at Massowah, according to which Mr. Rassam had crossed the lake to take leave of the King, while the late prisoners had gone on to Gorgora, at the north end of the lake, where Mr. Rassam would join them, and the whole party would then proceed to Metemma.

DEATH.

At Cape Coast, on the morning of the 10th May, 1866, Joseph H. Ridley, Esq., Justice of the Peace for the Gold Coast, and manager of Ridley and Co.'s business at Cape Coast and Anamaboe. Mr. Ridley leaves a widow and a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.

MR. M'CORKINDALE is expected out by the next steamer, on his way to the Transvaal, in connexion with his important scheme of colonization there. Having received from the Government of the State the right to seventy farms of 6,000 acres each, at a nominal price, his mission at home has been to form a company for the due disposal and occupation of them, and we believe he has succeeded in effecting the preliminary arrangements. The design of the promoters is to stock these lands with sheep, under the charge of practical farmers, with their families, introduced from the United Kingdom. It is an important scheme, as, if it succeeds, many similar projects will probably be started. They aim at industrial occupation, which is a sound principle of action, and cannot fail to be beneficial in some form or other. Companies having such a basis deserve local encouragement; and we hope that if Mr. M'Corkindale's attains practical success, operations of a like nature may in due course be set at work in this colony.—*Natal Mercury.*

SPECIAL NOTICE.

ADDRESS OF LETTERS, NEWSPAPERS, &c.

We shall feel obliged by all our correspondents addressing us, in future, as under:—

Editor of "African Times,"
Care of Mr. W. J. Johnson,
Printing Office,
121, Fleet Street,
London, E.C.

P.S.—All letters must be post-paid.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We must beg our African friends to prepay sufficiently the postage of all letters addressed to the publisher, or in future they will not be received at the office.

"AMOR PATRIÆ," Cape Coast, should have given us his name, as we are not acquainted with his handwriting.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 5s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance.

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

The African Times.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1866.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Captain John Hawley Glover, R.N., late Lieutenant-Governor of Lagos, where his services will be long remembered, returns to England, having given over the colony to Rear Admiral Charles George Patey, who was inaugurated as "Administrator of the Settlement of Lagos" on the 23rd of April. The office of Colonial Secretary is abolished, and the "Administrator" is also at present "Collector of Customs."

His Excellency Major Blackall, late Governor of Sierra Leone, now issues his proclamation as "Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the West African Settlements."

The Missionary Church at Ake, Abeokuta, has been destroyed. We insert Rev. H. Townsend's appeal for new bell, harmonium, and 300*l.* for an iron roof. Those of our friends who are interested in missionary progress in West Africa will do well to respond to this appeal. Such supplies must come from England if we wish Christian civilization to progress there.

The Christian natives are reported in the late fights in the eastern districts of the Gold Coast to have shown a courage and discipline so markedly superior as to have excited the admiration of their heathen brethren.

Five shillings per month is stated to be the total allowance for food for the debtors in prison at Cape Coast, and insolvents are said to be from four to twelve months in prison without inquiry into their affairs. We hope some other correspondents will tell us if these things be true or false.

The "Immigration Committee" of Natal recommend the Government to give immigrants the choice between a land order of the value of 10*l.* or a grant of land in some agricultural reserve of say fifty acres.

The war between the Free State and the Basutos had terminated. The Free State receives from Moshesh sixteen million acres of land and 3,000 head of cattle.

A newspaper is announced to be published in Natal in the Zulu Kafir language.

Gold is said to have been found in Transvaal, but the report needs confirmation.

There is no doubt that both silk and tobacco will be largely produced in Natal for exportation. Japanese silk eggs had been received in the colony.

ADDRESS BY THE EDITOR TO SUBSCRIBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE "AFRICAN TIMES."

A COMBINED and powerful attack has been lately made upon the *African Times*, to destroy its existence, if possible, and deprive the educated African people and their less advanced countrymen of that power of appeal to the public opinion of Great Britain which they now possess through its columns. The upholders of African abuses, mercantile and administrative, brought so strong a pressure to bear upon the African-Aid Society itself, that the Editor of the *African Times*

could only preserve its existence for Africa by assuming the proprietorship of it. This he could not do without pecuniary sacrifices, and, in order to mitigate these, he calls upon every subscriber who is in arrear with his subscriptions to remit the amount due, and one year's further subscription in advance. Beyond this, any donations to the "*African Times*" to assist the Editor in his responsible task, will be thankfully acknowledged in the columns of this journal.

The change in the heading of our paper, and in other portions of it, will show our subscribers that this journal now stands unfettered by any nominal, and, as circumstances have proved, precarious support of a society. The African-Aid Society has, in point of fact, absolutely ceased to exist, though it was not in any way in pecuniary difficulties, but possessed a considerable surplus. We shall give a full account of all the proceedings connected therewith in the first number of our sixth volume, which, *v. v.*, will be published on the 23rd of July, for the West African mail, as usual; and we hope our services to Africa have been so felt among our subscribers and readers on the West Coast and elsewhere in Africa, and also in England, that our friends will come forward to our help without delay.

All communications to be addressed (post-paid) "To the Editor of the *African Times*," 121, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

CLOSE OF OUR FIFTH VOLUME.

THE *African Times* has now had five full years of existence. During that period the whole of the anxiety, labour, and responsibility, both public and pecuniary, which it has involved, have been borne by one individual, the Editor. When first started, he undertook, subject to the condition of a certain number of copies being subscribed for individually by some members of the Council of the African-Aid Society, that it should never involve that society in any pecuniary loss or responsibility. Contrary to his opinion as to the conditions under which a public journal could be successfully conducted, and submitted to by him solely with the object of facilitating its establishment, a committee of a few members of the council of that society was appointed to meet monthly, prior to its publication, for considering the articles, &c., which the Editor had decided to insert. But to this the Editor attached a stipulation that he would not consent to any alterations of which he did not himself fully approve, and which he did not consider advisable or innocuous. Such a committee of course could not work, and the Editor freed himself almost immediately from the nominal restriction, which only served to increase the difficulty of bringing out the paper on the proper day, without effecting any useful purpose whatever. A perfect and entire independence of thought and opinion in the editor is essential to the success of any and every public journal. During five years, therefore, the whole labour and responsibility have, as before stated, rested with one individual, the present Editor. Such an anniversary as this is therefore a solemn one with us. The objects the Editor has endeavoured ever to keep in view have been the promotion of good government in the British African colonies and settlements, to force a removal of official abuses, to promote material development and increased facilities of transit and trade, as auxiliaries to missionary effort, and as indispensable, not to the reception of Christianity, but to the existence and spread of Christian civilization in Africa. Having entered upon this work with a deep sense of responsibility to God, we feel bound to ask ourselves how that work has been performed. With the measure and extent of its success we have nothing to do, that we leave in the hands of Him who worketh through individual agencies on the earth, according to His own infinite wisdom. But have we done our duty by the African people, and have they, on their side, done their duty towards us? As regards the former, we can only look to our motives and our desires. We have endeavoured to keep a watchful guard over ourselves as "one who must give an account before God," and we have, with no small sacrifice of time and rest, conscientiously striven to give to Africa in our labours whatever talent or wisdom God may have bestowed upon us for that purpose. As regards the latter, we think we have cause of rejoicing rather than of complaint. The number of our African subscribers has continuously increased, filling up, in a way most satisfactory to us, the gaps in our subscription list caused by the withdrawals of those of our early friends who considered, we suppose, that no further effort on their part was necessary to our support. And we have given a voice—a public voice to Africa. Few people in England, unfortunately, care much about her or her concerns. The English Anti-Slavery party, fully occupied in their high and noble object of the eradication of negro slavery everywhere, have not yet had time generally to recognise the importance of paving the way, and preparing for, and aiding in the work of Christian civilization in Africa itself. Many of the few who do care about Africa have from time to time taken exception to some opinion put forth by us, and, overlooking the

general tendency of our efforts, have withdrawn. A different measure is meted out to us to that which is applied to the great public journals of the day. No subscriber of the *Times*, or the *News*, the *Telegraph*, the *Standard*, the *Advertiser*, or the *Star*, thinks of giving up his journal because he does not agree in all points with its editor. Again, in the work of official reformation on the Coast, we have occasionally wounded some individual susceptibilities; and sometimes we are accused of being misled by our subscribers and correspondents. But, on the whole, we think we have cause of satisfaction in the appreciation which our efforts have received, and in the warm and steady support of our African friends. We regard our having been able to continue the paper so long, without any serious loss, as a standing testimonial from them that we have not laboured altogether in vain. But we do not hesitate to tell our African friends that we have need of a fuller measure of support. And of those who occasionally take exception to some part of the contents of our paper, we ask that they would seriously consider whether our existence be not necessary for the educated African people? Would there not be a void not easily filled were we to disappear from the public scene, and the African monthly mail no longer bear to the African people the assurance which the *African Times* gives them that there are at least some persons in England who are devoted to their best interests. A heavy attack is being made upon this journal by those interested in the old abuses, official and commercial, which have disgraced the British name on the African Coast. But though we may have to fight the Hydra of abuses single-handed, we will, by God's aid, persevere, if the educated Africans in Africa will rally round us. We demand for them everywhere an effective voice in the disposal of revenues levied in their several colonies, so that, instead of the treasuries being drained by official favouritism, useless hangers-on upon the Government, and foolish selfish expenditure, the funds may be devoted to those improvements of which every one of the colonies and settlements, without exception, stands so greatly in need. Our Gambia correspondents, on the one hand, and the talented author of the "Political Economy of Western Africa" on the other, have, thanks to our columns, been able to make themselves heard in favour of retrenchment and reform, and expenditure on useful and sanitary works at Bathurst and at Sierra Leone. We do not despair of obtaining good roads from Cape Coast and Accra to the Ashantee country and the productive districts of the Volta, as well as from the always navigable portion of the Ogun to Abeokuta, and from Ikorodu to Ibadan. Bathurst, Freetown, Cape Coast, Accra, Lagos, ought to be and must become luminous points from which Christian civilization may radiate, scattering the darkness of the heathen night of the interior, and freeing the natives from those odious bonds of ignorance and cruel superstition in which they are such debased, and miserable, and terror-stricken captives. Hitherto we have done next to nothing for the interior of those countries and their wretched people; and the future would be like the past, if the old systems and the old abuses were allowed to reign quiet and unmolested in their vicious selfishness. We know not how long God may spare us for the work we are now endeavouring to perform, or continue the charge in our hands. But while charged with it—while we have it to perform, we will endeavour to carry it on energetically and unweariedly, notwithstanding the machinations of false friends and open foes; and we again ask boldly of our African friends—of every educated African on the Coast who desires the real emancipation of Africa from idolatrous ignorance and barbarism, to rally round us and strengthen our hands by visible tokens of their appreciation and support. With this we close our Fifth Volume.

THE GAMBIA AUTHORITIES AND HOSPITAL.

We have again a mass of correspondence on the subjects of the Gambia authorities and the Colonial Hospital. But they all relate to past abuses, upon which we have sufficiently enlarged, until we obtain the evidence of new facts to prove, either that the publicity we have given to complaints has been ineffective for producing reform and amendment, which are the only objects we have in view, or have instigated to those desired changes which will give a guarantee, or at least a hope, of future good government and administration, such as the natives and inhabitants of the colony have a right to enjoy. We cannot too fully or too often impress upon our native correspondents that we have no personal animosities whatever as regards the inculcated authorities; that our self-imposed mission is to do good for Africa and the African people; and that if we can succeed in this, we obtain the sole object of our desires. While, therefore, we require constant information as to the acts of the authorities and their bearing upon the public welfare, we recommend most earnestly the cultivation of a good feeling between authorities and people as being most pregnant with benefits for the latter. Of course this can never exist where there is a constantly expressed or

evident contempt and hatred of the African, and we therefore earnestly implore those who are in positions of trust and influence to show on every occasion that kindness and consideration which everywhere win regard, and in no part of the world more surely than in Africa. In this they will only be doing their duty. The African colonies and settlements are not kept up by this country with an object of pecuniary advantage, but to assist in the protection and advancement of the so long oppressed and wasted African people; and British authorities who are not friendly to the African people are acting disgracefully in opposition to the spirit of the Government under which they hold their appointments.

THE LATE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF LAGOS.

We have had great pleasure in giving publicity to a letter of one of our Lagos correspondents setting forth the praises of Capt. John Hawley Glover, R.N., late Lieut.-Governor of that colony, who has been replaced by Rear-Admiral Charles George Patey, under the title of "Administrator of the Settlement of Lagos." We find it necessary to pause a moment, and ask why settlement? We thought Lagos was a colony of Great Britain. Settlement seems to imply a temporary occupation, that may be given up or abandoned at any time; and for Lagos to be viewed in such a light as regards its relations with Great Britain would greatly impede her progress toward that position of influence over the interior of the neighbouring continent which, in the interests of its material development and Christian civilisation, it is so necessary Lagos should acquire and preserve. We know that some of our friends, and warm and sincere friends of African progress, have thought that in Abeokuta might be made the radiating centre of civilising influences. But without for a moment wishing to detract from what has been done there by the zealous labourers who have been so many years engaged in the holy work, we could not endorse their opinion. While the authorities which rule in Abeokuta are heathen and uncivilised, Christianity and the usages of Christian civilisation are not likely to be systematically encouraged and promoted by them. A source of Christian and civilising influences must be itself, at least nominally, Christian and civilised. Lagos has now become such a source, and it is on this ground that her advancement is with us a matter of very deep interest. We feel certain that all our anticipations respecting her will be amply justified when the jealousies, and mistrust, and difficulties which the establishment of British rule in her (in itself a declaration of supremacy over wide territories and countries, whether we desire it or not), and the mode in which the transfer from heathen to British rule was effected, shall have passed away. There might be a struggle for mastery, or for predominant influence between Abeokuta and Ibadan; but there can be more in the future between these, or either of these, and Lagos. And that this desirable period of indisputable superiority and influence has been rapidly advanced by Captain Glover entitles him to praise. It is only of late, on one or two occasions, that we have felt compelled to record the adverse statements of those who have been the opponents of his policy—a policy so entirely our own that we could not fail to approve of it, and to abstain from small criticisms upon a great work. It was not likely that such a policy could be carried out successfully, without engendering opposition and hatred in places and persons whose plans of supremacy and powers were frustrated thereby. We therefore passed by everything as comparatively unimportant until statements were persisted in of conduct that would have brought disgrace, had it been true, upon the British name. We feel certain there must be misconception of facts somewhere, and that the light of publicity would remove it. It has done so. And we welcome Captain Glover back to England with the most sincere wishes for the re-establishment of his health, and those substantial rewards which ought always to follow in the train of zealous and successful services.

ON EDUCATION IN AFRICA.

"BY ONE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN AFRICA'S TRUE WELFARE."
In the history of nations there is a recognised infancy, youth, maturity, and old age, just as these exist in the biography of an individual. A country possesses its infancy and youth in the first outpourings of native instincts and contrivances; it has its maturity in the growth of its commercial, social, and political strength; and if in age it is, however, to succumb to a nation of younger growth, the cause is found in its self-conceit; and the luxury that self-complacency has brought with it leaves neither power nor will efficiently to resist a determined conqueror. Such an argument as this refers to nations that have passed away; it is not one to use in our latter days. We raise a barrier against civilising influences if we regard the growth and decay of a nation as the fatalism of a locality and a people; we also stifle and silence the longing that exists among civilised

society to bring a less advanced people into the comforts and privileges of England's experience in these things, if we calculate on decadence as a necessity.

Travelling, commerce, and enterprise of many kinds leave few places in the world untrodden by the English race. The higher aim of bringing distant lands into the knowledge of the Christian's interests is also ripe and well-represented in missionary work. These are generalities: they look well in the ledger of a merchant when he has made profitable exchanges with the natives of far-off lands; they sound well on the platform of a religious gathering of people, who are told in round numbers of the sums disposed of in Bibles, or in the employment of men to preach among aborigines. The audience suppose, in the hilarity of excitement, that the work is done, and the whole world evangelised. This is grand and astonishing; but there is yet much patient work to be done. The Bible dispersed and its doctrines preached, is one step only—though a great one—towards the results such good beginnings "are in time to produce."

There are no means separate from the truths of the Bible that can ever help civilisation; dispersion of the Bible as a book, and preaching its truths as God's message to fallen man, is an advertisement, so to speak, that says "This is the way, walk ye in it." To influence the lives of a people to whom these principles were once unknown belongs to Christian education so begun. One of the greatest helps a people can offer to those who would teach them the ways of civilised life is the encouragement held out by the natives themselves towards the work they are anxious to accomplish. "Come over and help us" is the recorded invitation to the early Apostles, from a country that had not yet heard more than a rumour of the new religion. Some of the readers of the *African Times* may already suspect that the locality of Cape Coast Castle is in the present writer's mind. Its especial claim to help arises from the anxiety of the native chiefs to see an increase of English influence diffused among their people. The means to procure what they desire appear to be within the easy grasp of such as desire to obtain them. If the merchants of the district had no higher aim than the profit of their mercantile traffic, they would find that was aided by the employment of educated labourers rather than uneducated men. Education does not necessarily consist in the knowledge of so many words, or languages, or sciences. Education is rather the rousing of latent mental and perceptive power, so as to make it available for common life. In this lowest estimate of education it is profitable to an African employer by giving him more intelligent service than he has been accustomed to expect; the work is better done by an artisan or clerk who performs it intelligently than by one who only acts on his own unawakened powers in the matter. This argument can be pursued in reference to the further diffusion of education for the practical purposes of life among the natives, both male and female, on the Gold Coast. There is also an extended district to be affected by the establishment of an English system of teaching for both rich and poor who desire to seek such advantages, and who are hindered by distance from seeking in England the education they covet. The English system of teaching proposed in reference to Cape Coast Castle has for its especial object the Christian education of the native women and girls of that country. These need help; every one who has devoted thought and labour in the work of education knows that the women of a people exercise great influence either for good or evil. It is a dreadful truth in connexion with the French Revolution of the last century, that the degraded women were far more furious in their cruelties and their sins than the men of the same epoch. The women and girls, then, should be the especial objects for Christian education where it is begun as something new amongst them; and there are many native and other merchants, as well as influential men, who are wishing to see remedied this evil of ignorance among the females of the land. Raise the women, and the whole community will in a few years be raised in social, moral, and, above all, in religious character. St. Paul wrote of the refined heathens of civilised Rome, "They changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator." Civilization is not rightmindedness; idolatry is the sin of the natural heart untrained to seek for spiritual influences. The young female mind is impressible to truth. Faith, it has been said, is more easy to the clinging nature of a woman than to the more vigorous will and understanding of a man. The holy precepts of the Bible must be the foundation of all that is to advance and improve the native character of the African; and who shall measure the result on the civilization and well-being of the country arising from the tiny seed of first principles implanted in the young, and nourished by practice and by example in all that is holy, and just, and true? Dr. Johnson once said, "Whatever causes the past or the future to predominate over the present raises us in the scale of thinking beings." This is the key-note for us to strike in order to dispel ignorance. A thought elicited is a first step towards

the perception of a higher state of being and of aspiration than has hitherto been presented

To the poor Indian, whose untutored mind
Sees God in clouds, and hears Him in the wind.

What a new thought to have built on this ignorance, that an immortal soul is the possession of each one—a soul to live eternally, and to be trained for an immortality of bliss! This, then, is Christian teaching, beginning from the consciousness of a Divine presence in the words, "Thou God seest me," and proceeding to the higher desire of being renewed in the spirit of our minds; the desire to grow more like the Saviour, by the practice of holiness carried into the daily walk of life, whatever our place in society may be. The gentle influence of such teaching, both of head and heart, is calculated to civilise and raise a people to their right position in the sight of God and of man; and simple as may appear the details of lessons day by day, if they have a judicious tendency they are the beginning of life-work, which shall never perish in the using. They serve to hallow the daily round, the common task. Precepts for action are instilled in such lessons as "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;" and, above all examples, the life of Christ, who is first the Redeemer of the soul from sin, and then the great Teacher for every human action, is the one example in all that should be learned in these Christian schools. May we soon see the hands of those who are working, both in Africa and in England, strengthened for the commencement of carrying out this great movement! Its claims have been heard and responded to, but not sufficiently for the schools to be begun. Encouragement in the form of funds would fix the time, and labourers are ready to work in the vineyard. Soon, then, let us hope that the schools will be planted in Cape Coast Castle, and that girls and women shall press into them for the benefits of instruction they will afford. It must be a labour of faith as well as of love. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Nothing yields a more plentiful harvest than seed sown for eternity, such as help and prayers that may be given to raise our needy and less advanced brethren and sisters in the scale of true Christianity, civilization, usefulness, and industry.

TRIBUTE OF PRAISE TO CAPTAIN GLOVER, LATE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, May 5, 1866.

Sir,—You encourage me by having inserted in your March number my communication of February. I am emboldened, therefore, to write you again. As I shall always make it my duty to write you of facts from Lagos, I beg respectfully you will not consider me tedious. Now, then, we have here now with us another person, superseding Captain Glover, to administer the government of Lagos, and the latter leaves for England. Permit me to show the public, by your impartial paper, some of the good that mother England has done for us through this man, Captain Glover, during his administration. The late Governor Freeman came here to form a Government after your model. He met a chaos of difficulties and intricacies. He devised, planned, schemed, and zealously set to work; as fast as he grappled and wrestled with them, fresh mountains of difficulties presented themselves. Poor man! with his superior talents and views he had impaired health. He did work courageously, but he lacked energy. His was thus theory, rather than practice. The difficulties took a formidable shape in the Ijai war, which ruined the prosperity of Lagos, inasmuch as, without trade with the interior and the surrounding countries, we, for and by ourselves, cannot subsist. Governor Freeman's health altogether failed. He embarked for England, and left our dismal affairs to the management of his successor, Governor Glover, than whom you could not have given us a better man. A more frank, faithful, energetic, shrewd, and practical English sailor you could not have sent us. With courage, activity, foresight, forethought, and ability, he combined the knowledge and experience of the habits of the black man, his wants, his country, and his disadvantages. He nerved himself to the gigantic work before him. Surrounded with difficulties in and out of the colony, the slave case showing its black front, dissatisfied and disappointed colonists throwing obstacles in the way, the surrounding tribes instigated to be unfriendly by parties in the colony—the Ijai war, which brought into its arena the warlike tribes of the interior, closed all the roads, Abeokuta distressing our trade and menacing our Government; the Jebus refusing all communications; trade stagnant—Captain Glover, seriously viewing these things, saw his duty, took the responsibility, and acted thereon. He tried persuasion to no effect; he explained, none cared to understand. The Egbas, elated by a recent victory over the blood-thirsty Dahomans, and having enough of Lagos property in possession, went to the Ijai holy war. The Ibadans, flushed with the victory over the

allied forces of Abeokuta and Ijai, came down to Iperu to force open a way, a road, for themselves, *vid Korodu* to Lagos, which they saw enrich Abe. The Jebbus, made to covenant with Abeokuta not to trade any more in palm-oil with Lagos, were stubborn. The Egbas, again, successful by some base treachery that caused the exit of the Ibadans from Iperu, came down to possess Korodu, in order to rule the surrounding countries and Lagos inclusively. These things collectively presented a formidable and overwhelming battle array for Lagos. Captain Glover saw it. To establish peace, trade, and commerce, which will bring the tribes to study their better and more lasting interest, was his sole object. He set to work; he was indefatigable. He could have made himself very comfortable at Government-house; he could have made himself popular here, by giving and accepting invitations for dinner parties and *soirées*, and could have left Lagos to take care of itself; but what would have become of us? Commerce failing, power weak, Government imbecile, difficulties huge, many, and dismal; you would have left Lagos, and the French would have stepped into your place; then, your stopping the slave-trade would have been just commenced. Captain Glover saw these things; he saw that opposites must destroy opposites; he saw what was absolutely necessary to be done to change matters and to bring about and promote peace and trade. He is the man to do it here. That one bold move against the destroyers of peace and trade encamped before Korodu, that single chastisement for once, given opportunely and effectually on the Egbas before Korodu, did wonders. People from the banks of the Niger, up and down the interior, until you come to Dahomey, see that for once there is power in Lagos, and England means good by it. Trade revives; confidence in its continuation is restored, and communications are resumed; the several closed roads are opened, and here are in Lagos, now that I am writing, messengers from the Kings of Beda on the banks of Niger, Ilorin, Ibadan, and (much more important) Dahomey, sent to treat with the Queen, through the Lagos Government, on peace and trade. This was never so in the times of the kings and consuls. It is so now. Captain Glover has done this. Now that he has made peace, revived trade, we want consolidation, we want permanency, and who should take care of the new-born child most but the mother, who, after anxiety, labour, pain, sorrow, and trouble, brought it forth? Lagos must be to the interior what the head is to the body. Do tell it to the Foreign-office that to make Lagos the head, we don't want your only *fin* gentlemen to do it. It is no fault of theirs; they cannot do it. Please tell it to the Colonial-office, in working out the good that mother England intends us, to send energetic and disinterested British sons, such as Captain Glover. Don't send them and tell them to fold their hands and look on. If Captain Glover is allowed to nourish and perfect what he has brought forth; if he is allowed to carry out his views with regard to Lagos, Ibadan Road, Porto Novo, Whydah, and Cotonou, he would do, and here in Lagos, and in his time, what your squadron in this division has not yet succeeded in doing for this part of the West Coast of Africa.—Yours very respectfully,

AN AKU MAN.

THE JAMAICA INQUIRY.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

The Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners on the origin, nature, and circumstances of the late disturbances in Jamaica, and concerning the measures adopted in the course of their suppression, was laid before Parliament on the 18th June. It fills forty pages of a folio blue-book, and comprises, in concise form, a complete history, from evidence taken on the spot, of the origin and outbreak of the disturbances, of the measures adopted to suppress them, and the conduct of those engaged in this important duty; of the case of Mr. G. W. Gordon, which is separately treated, and of other political prisoners. The duration of martial law is also duly considered, and the report is brought to a close with a formal statement of the conclusions at which the Royal Commissioners have arrived on the whole subject.

The Commissioners say that it is their duty, no less than a pleasure, to place upon record their sense of the readiness with which all persons of all classes in Jamaica, upon the first announcement of the Commission, at once came forward to promote its objects. They remark, however, that in many cases the witnesses manifested a singular ignorance of the nature and value of evidence, as well as a misconception of the proper scope of the inquiry; but no difficulties in point of form have been suffered to bar access to the tribunal; no material witness, of whatever colour or party, has been denied a patient hearing. Public declaration was made to the effect that Her Majesty's Commissioners were to be regarded as the representatives of all classes equally of the Queen's subjects in Jamaica. Fifty-one days were consumed in the inquiry; there were sixty separate sittings held, and in all 730 witnesses were examined. On the disputed

question as to whether the Volunteers defending the Court-house at Morant Bay fired upon the people before or after they themselves were directly attacked, there was some conflict of testimony. After considering the matter, the Commissioners say that the fact appears clearly established by the testimony of a large number of witnesses, that the crowd of blacks were aggressors by throwing stones, and that then "the captain, having received authority from the Custos, gave the word to fire." It was proved that before the 11th of October the negroes met and drilled, administered the secret oath, and in many ways showed by their conduct and declarations that the disturbances were not an accidental riot, but a planned resistance to the constituted authorities. The reporters say, "With this evidence before us, it was impossible to avoid arriving at the conclusion that there was on the part of the leaders of the rioters a preconcerted plan, and that murder was distinctly contemplated." The Commissioners quote and make special reference to Paul Bogle's (and nineteen others) well-known letter addressed to the Governor on the afternoon preceding the outbreak. They say of it, "It seemed to be relied upon as showing the peaceable intentions of the writers. We confess we cannot look upon it in that light. Its language is that of scarcely concealed defiance, and looking at its terms, at the time at which it was written, and the acts by which it was accompanied and followed, it seems to us to partake rather of the character of a manifesto preparatory to, and attempting to justify a resort to violence." There was manifested throughout the troubles, on the part of the negroes, a great desire to conciliate the Maroons, and a great fear of offending them. "Be careful what you do with this man—he is a Maroon," was sufficient to obtain the release of a policeman when taken before MacLaren, "the Captain of the Guard." "I am a Maroon; and if any one disturbs any one in my house, I shall send for the Maroons," was the exclamation of a woman, of itself sufficient to frighten away a crowd of men intent upon violence. "I am Manning of the Maroons," seems to have been sufficient to enable Mr. Manning to secure the safety of those for whom he was interested. A great number of facts concerning the origin and progress of the outbreak are set forth. One erroneous assertion upon which strong arguments were founded when the news of these troubles reached England is now disposed of. "It did not appear to us that the rate of wages was low, but rather that the smallness of the sums frequently received by the labourer at the end of the week arose from the unwillingness to labour for more than a very limited time. Nor was it proved to us that there was unfairness on the part of the managers of estates in the payment of wages." Difficulties in the way of seeking relief by law, in the case of disputes, were however, great; and it was not to be expected that the bench of magistrates, as at present constituted, would have the confidence of the labourers. "But the originators of the outbreak do not appear generally to have belonged to the labouring class. They were, for the most part, what are called free settlers." "Their great desire was to obtain, free from the payment of rent, what are called the 'back lands.'"

Concerning the measures adopted for suppressing the insurrection, the reporters say: "With the full knowledge of all that has occurred, we are nevertheless also of opinion that upon the information before them, and with the knowledge they possessed of the state and circumstances of the island, the Council of War had good reason for the advice which they gave, and that the Governor was well justified in acting upon that advice." In respect of the execution of the "Obeah man," by order of the late Colonel Hobbs, the Commissioners report, "the suggested object of making an example, and the facts when explained relating to the head have, in our opinion, disposed of this charge" of intentional cruelty and barbarity. The total number of men shot by the Maroons does not appear to have exceeded 25. About 141 cottages of the villages situated near Stony Gut were burnt by the Maroons, or by persons who alleged that they were acting under their orders. The total number of deaths caused by those engaged in the suppression amounted to 439, and the total number of dwellings burnt to 1,000. It appears that 60 persons were flogged by order of courts-martial. One woman was sentenced to be flogged at Morant-bay; but Brigadier Nelson would not approve the sentence. The number flogged without court-martial was much larger: 73 at Port Antonio, 45 at Up Park Camp, 20 at Manchioneal, 50 at Monklands and Golden-grove, above 100 at Morant-bay. At Bath 50 were flogged in one day, 20 of whom were women; between thirty and 40 were flogged there on other days. The number of persons executed at the several stations by order of courts-martial amounted to 354. As regards Provost-Marshal Ramsay, as he is now about to take his trial on a charge of wilful murder for an act done by him in discharge of his office, the Commissioners forbear to make any remarks upon his conduct. At the courts-martial, "In the great majority of cases the evidence seems to have been unobjectionable in character, and quite sufficient to justify the finding of the court. It is right also to state that the account given by the

more trustworthy witnesses as to the manner and deportment of the members of the courts was decidedly favourable. But we think it right also to call attention to cases in which the finding or the sentence was not justified by any evidence appearing on the face of the proceedings. In the case of Mr. G. W. Gordon, the Commissioners set forth in great detail all the correspondence in connexion with his conviction, and the testimony they themselves collected, as well as that brought against him at his trial. They then say:—

"Upon a careful review of this evidence we have formed the opinion that the true explanation of Mr. Gordon's conduct is to be found in the account which he has given of himself. 'I have just gone as far as I can go, but no further.' 'If I wanted a rebellion I could have had one long ago.' 'I have been asked several times to head a rebellion, but there is no fear of that. I will try first a demonstration of it, but I must first upset that fellow Herschell, and kick him out of the vestry, and the baron also, or bad will come of it.' Mr. Gordon might know well the distinction between a 'rebellion' and a 'demonstration of it.' He might be able to trust himself to go as far as he could with safety, and no further. But that would not be so easy to his ignorant and fanatical followers. They would find it difficult to restrain themselves from rebellion when making a 'demonstration of it.' 'It is clear, too, that the conduct of Gordon had been such as to convince both friends and enemies of his being a party to the rising.'"

"Although, therefore, it appears exceedingly probable that Mr. Gordon, by his words and writings, produced a material effect on the minds of Bogle and his followers, and did much to produce that state of excitement and discontent in different parts of the island which rendered the spread of the insurrection exceedingly probable, yet we cannot see, in the evidence which has been adduced, any sufficient proof either of his complicity in the outbreak at Morant Bay, or of his having been a party to a general conspiracy against the Government. On the assumption that, if there was in fact a wide-spread conspiracy, Mr. G. W. Gordon must have been a party to it, the conclusion at which we have arrived in his case is decisive as to the non-existence of such a conspiracy."

In closing their report the Commissioners state:—

"Upon the subjects proposed for our inquiry we have come to the following conclusions:—

"1. That the disturbances in St. Thomas-in-the-East had their immediate origin in a planned resistance to lawful authority.

"2. That the causes leading to the determination to offer that resistance were manifold: (1.) That a principal object of the disturbers of order was the obtaining of land free from the payment of rent. (2.) That an additional incentive to the violation of the law arose from the want of confidence generally felt by the labouring class in the tribunals before which most of the disputes affecting their interests were carried for adjudication. (3.) That some, moreover, were animated by feelings of hostility towards political and personal opponents, while not a few contemplated the attainment of their ends by the death or expulsion of the white inhabitants of the island.

"3. That, though the original design for the overthrow of constituted authority was confined to a small portion of the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East, yet that the disorder in fact spread with singular rapidity over an extensive tract of country, and that such was the state of excitement prevailing in other parts of the island that, had more than a momentary success been obtained by the insurgents, their ultimate overthrow would have been attended with a still more fearful loss of life and property.

"4. That praise is due to Governor Eyre for the skill, promptitude, and vigour which he manifested during the early stages of the insurrection, to the exercise of which qualities its speedy termination is in a great degree to be attributed.

"5. That the military and naval operations appear to us to have been prompt and judicious.

"6. That, by the continuance of martial law in its full force to the extreme limit of its statutory operation, the people were deprived for a longer than the necessary period of the great constitutional privileges by which the security of life and property is provided for.

"Lastly. That the punishments inflicted were excessive. (1.) That the punishment of death was unnecessarily frequent. (2.) That the floggings were reckless, and at Bath positively barbarous. (3.) That the burning of 1,000 houses was wanton and cruel."

Along with the above report a despatch from Mr. Cardwell to Sir H. K. Storks was laid on the table of the House of Commons. This despatch contains the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the evidence taken by the Commission, and on the conclusions which had been arrived at. They desire, in the first place, to express their sense of the laborious and dispassionate manner in which Sir Henry Storks and his colleagues had conducted the

inquiry; of the readiness which all parties, and especially Mr. Eyre, those who acted under him, and the late Legislature of Jamaica, had evinced to assist them in its prosecution; and finally of the generally tranquil and contented disposition of the people, who appear to have received them with confidence as commissioned by their sovereign to conduct a full, searching, and impartial investigation.

In the conclusions at which they arrived Her Majesty's Government generally concur. There can be no doubt that the disturbances in St. Thomas-in-the-East had their origin in a planned resistance to the constituted authority, and the Government think that Governor Eyre deserves all the commendation which is bestowed upon him for the skill, promptitude, and vigour which he manifested during the early stages of the insurrection. As regards the proclamation of martial law, Her Majesty's Government agree with the Commissioners, that the Council of War had good reason for the advice which they gave, and that the Governor was well justified in acting upon that advice. The following passage relates to the conclusions at which the Commissioners had arrived with respect to the continuance of martial law in its full force to the extreme limit of its statutory operation, and to the excessive nature of the punishment inflicted:

"In reviewing this painful portion of the case, the greatest consideration is due to the Governor placed in the circumstances in which Governor Eyre was placed. The suddenness of the insurrection; the uncertainty of its possible extent; its avowed character as a contest of colour; the atrocities committed at its first outbreak; the great disparity in numbers between the white and the black populations; the real dangers and the vague alarms by which he was on every side surrounded; the inadequacy of the force at his command to secure superiority in every district; the exaggerated statements which reached him continually from distant parts of the island; the vicinity of Hayti, and the fact that a civil war was at the time going on in that country—all these circumstances tended to impress his mind with a conviction that the worst consequences were to be apprehended from the slightest appearance of indecision." After stating that it should not be forgotten that Governor Eyre showed himself superior to the feelings of alarm which others entertained by refusing to proclaim other parts of the island, the despatch, to do full justice to the Governor, quotes his reasons for the continuance of martial law. Having given these reasons, the despatch proceeds to say: "On the other hand, however, it must be borne in mind that martial law, and the execution of capital sentences under martial law, continued for the full period of a month authorised by the statute, although after the few first days of the insurrection no serious outrages were committed by the insurgents, nor was any resistance offered to the troops." Her Majesty's Government are compelled to express their concurrence in the last conclusions of the Commissioners as to the excessive punishments which were inflicted. Upon this subject the despatch contains the following passage: "It appears to them (the Government) to be evident that, even in the first excitement of the disturbances, and still more at some later period, if martial law was allowed to continue, instructions ought to have been issued to the officers to whom the actual conduct of the operations was entrusted, which would have rendered such an abuse of power impossible. They agree entirely in the words which you have used, that 'much which is now lamented might have been avoided if clear and precise instructions had been given for the regulation of the conduct of those engaged in the suppression, and every officer had been made to understand that he would be held responsible for the slightest departure from those instructions. It does not seem reasonable to send officers upon a very difficult and perfectly novel service without instructions, and to leave everything to their judgment.'"

Further on Mr. Cardwell, after saying that he will refer separately to the case of Mr. Gordon, says: "With respect to the other measures of severity to which I have above referred, you have not imputed, and Her Majesty's Government do not impute, to Mr. Eyre any personal cognisance at the time of those measures; but they feel strongly that when a governor has been compelled to proclaim martial law, it is his bounden duty to restrain within the narrowest possible limits the severities incident to that law, and for that purpose to keep himself constantly informed of what is taking place under it." Therefore, Her Majesty's Government "cannot hold the Governor of the colony irresponsible for the continuance or the excessive severity of these measures." With regard to Mr. Gordon, the Government think that the proper course would have been to reserve him "for trial by a regular tribunal, with all the means of defence which are secured by the ordinary process of law to every subject of the Queen. Considerations of public safety justified the arrest of Mr. Gordon. His removal on board the *Wolverene* for the purpose of safe custody would have been judicious; but his trial by court-martial, and his execution by virtue of the sentence of

that court, are events which Her Majesty's Government cannot but deplore and condemn."

After speaking of the Indemnity Act, the despatch proceeds to say, "that, as regards all acts done by the military authority, the proclamation of martial law under the Island Statute of 1844 operated within the proclaimed district to give as complete indemnity as the Indemnity Act itself. For acts done beyond the proclaimed districts the authority of the Act of 1844 and of the proclamation is inapplicable. The following is the last paragraph of Mr. Cardwell's despatch: 'Finally, I have to express on the part of Her Majesty's Government their sense of the promptitude and judgment with which Governor Eyre submitted to the late Legislature the views which he entertained, and in which they so readily concurred, as to the expediency of effecting a decided change in the mode of government of the colony. Those views have been confirmed by the sanction of Crown, and by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, and the new form of government is about to be established under the Governor who shall succeed you when you are relieved of your temporary duties. It remains, therefore, to decide whether the inauguration of the new government shall be accomplished by Mr. Eyre, or whether Her Majesty shall be advised to entrust that arduous task to some other person who may approach it free from all the difficulties inseparable from a participation in the questions raised by the recent troubles. It will be evident from what I have already said that Her Majesty's Government, while giving to Mr. Eyre full credit for those portions of his conduct to which credit is justly due, are compelled, by the result of your inquiry, to disapprove other portions of that conduct. They do not feel, therefore, that they should discharge their duty by advising the Crown to replace Mr. Eyre in his former government; and they cannot doubt that, by placing the new form of government in new hands, they are taking the course best calculated to allay animosities, to conciliate general confidence, and to establish on firm and solid grounds the future welfare of Jamaica.'"

THE INTRODUCTION AND PROGRESS OF MOHAMMEDANISM IN AFRICA.

Beyond the limits of their own empire the Romans had little communication with any people except the inhabitants of Fezzan and Nubia, and at a very late period with Abyssinia or the kingdom of Axum. Nor did Christianity seem to have extended her light far toward the centre, west or south of Egypt. Her benefits, spread over the north, disappeared here under the effects of disastrous wars. To Mohammedanism was reserved the task of effecting a change in Central Africa. The fanatic Arab mounted on the active dromedary, or embarked in light vessels, flew to plant the standard of his Prophet on the banks of Senegal and on the shores of Sofala. No people ever possessed such qualifications for conquering and preserving the empire of Africa. Among the Mauritians and Numidians they found natural friends and brothers, and identity of manners, food, and genial climate. The fanatic Mussulman spirit astonished and subdued the ardent imaginations of the Africans; the simplicity of their creed suited their limited intellect, and easily connected itself with the superstition of fetishism, and the ideas which these people entertained of magic and enchantments. Civil slavery and despotic government suffered no change, except that the Marabouts, or Mussulman priests, and the *sharifs*, or descendants of the Prophet, formed in some of the states a species of aristocracy. Cannibalism was alone abolished. One event for a moment favoured the civilization of the Moors—the expulsion of those of their number who had ruled in Spain, peopled Barbary, and even the *oasis* of the great desert with a more industrious and better-informed race than the rest of the Mohammedans. But unhappily for Africa, a handful of Turkish adventurers, vying with one another in ferocity and ignorance, established themselves on the coast of Barbary, subdued the Moors, and founded the barbarous governments of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, forming a deadly barrier to the civilised world, more efficient than Mohammedanism itself.

Before closing this cursory view of Northern Africa, it is interesting to trace the triumphs of Mohammedanism in names which survive to the present day. After the first violence to which fanaticism prompted, the Saracen sway assumed a milder aspect, and their princes cultivated the arts and sciences with a zeal which had expired among the effeminate descendants of the Greeks and Romans. Not only did they establish splendid literary institutions in Egypt, one of which at Alexandria is said to have had 600 professors, but even Mauritania, which seemed doomed to perpetual barbarism, became a civilised empire, and its capital, Fez, became a distinguished school of learning. They founded several flourishing kingdoms in those parts of the continent which Europeans vainly sought to reach, till they were recently explored by their enterprising countrymen. Of these states Shana

(Kano of Dr. Barth) was the most prosperous, forming the great market for gold, in search of which merchants repaired from the remotest regions. Its sovereign was acknowledged supreme by all the neighbouring princes; while his court displayed a splendour hitherto unknown in those regions. The vicissitudes of fortune, however, have subverted the kingdom of Shana, and made it tributary to Timbuctoo, Kashna, and Socatoo. Dr. Barth, a few years since, found it a considerable town, with the name of Kano, manufacturing 600 thick cotton sheets a-year.

Tobur was the centre of another kingdom. It was inferior to the other, but powerful. It carried on trade with people in the remotest west, who brought shells and brass in return for gold ornaments. Mention is made of cotton cloths also made here. This is most probably the modern *Saccato*, now the most important town in central Africa. Indeed, Major Denham, in an official document, called this the empire of *Takor*.

Kuku, to the east of Shana, forms another kingdom, on whose power and extent the Arabian writers largely dilate. The sovereign is said to have a large train, and the merchants to be very rich and accustomed to hold intercourse with the nobility. This country is evidently modern *Bornoe*, from its capital, which still bears the same appellation.

To the south of Shana lay *Wangara*, a district said to abound in gold. This region is said to be intersected and overflowed by branches of the Niger, which impregnate the earth with the sand whence the precious metal is extracted. As soon as the waters have retired, the inhabitants eagerly dig the ground, and every one finds more or less, "according to the gift of God."

HOFFMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.
Corner of Pultney and Pademba Road,

Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Sir,—I had the pleasure of perusing James Fox Wilson's letter of the 28th June, wherein he alluded to Dr. Hunt's brochure, which I have not had the privilege of perusing.

I need hardly on the onset say I am an African—a pure type, an African of the Africans, and one who had the privilege of studying at King's College, London, &c., and as such I deem it a duty incumbent on me to reply to that letter. But I found some obstacles in the way of my giving that explanation it deserved. For instance, since my arrival here—that is, after the completion of my curricula of studies, now little more than three years—I had never witnessed a *post-mortem* examination, the native minds being sadly prejudiced against me at the very first onset, through an erroneous impression that I said that all the natives ere they are buried should be opened; and in a colony like this, where there has never been a medical school, and the public pay so much respect to the dead, the statements spoke ill for a beginner. After this occurrence—i.e. more than a year ago—I called at the Colonial Hospital to witness a *post-mortem* examination. The doctor never noticed me, forgetting altogether the professional etiquette. I did not even see the body, much less the brain. His young men (dressers) told me that he purposely withheld showing me the subject, and in order to avoid the like ill-treatment I have never called to witness any. These statements are made to illustrate the very low state of things in the colony, and how the Europeans view the natives, whatever their attainments may be, and the utter impossibility of satisfactorily illustrating any given subject. However, after seeing Mr. Wilson's letter in your columns, I undertook to address the following letters to the principal medical officer in the colony:—

(Copy.)

September 21, 1865.

Sir,—Can you be kind enough to furnish me with as many peculiarities of the brain of as many persons who may have passed through your hands during *post-mortem* examinations at the hospitals or prior your time, but which might have been recorded, particularly the weight, dimension, convolutions, whether many or few, the depth of the sulci, both of male and female, also those of children, and please to say whether you observed any physiological or microscopical difference in those of Europeans from Africans.—I remain, Sir, yours very truly,
Geo. T. MARLY, M.R.C.S. Eng.

To Dr. J. Bradshaw, L.K.Q.C.P. and L.M.L.R.C.S.,
Staff-Surgeon.

(Copy No. 2.)

Sir,—Inasmuch as you have, in reply to my letter bearing date the 21st instant, said (verbally) that you could not very well answer it, owing to multiplicity of duties, permit me further to solicit the favour of consulting the records at any of the hospitals in the colony, and to take extracts therefrom so as to meet the purport expressed in the alluded-to letter.—I am Sir, yours truly,
Geo. T. MARLY, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Dr. J. Bradshaw, L.K.Q.C.P., and L.M.L.R.C.S.I., Principal
Medical Officer, Tower Hill Barracks.

To neither of these letters have I received any answer, except

to the last, in which I understood that he was ill in bed. Yet there is one Dr. Stewart, the assistant staff-surgeon, and another, Francis Bradshaw, brother to the said staff-surgeon, and who is also the assistant colonial surgeon, the two first residing together, and the last not a mile from their residence. I therefore conclude that a reply could have been sent if they had wished so to do, but most probably the purport of the said letter was known to both of them, and they thereby strove to frustrate any object that would tend to show the rise and progress of the sable sons and daughters of Africa.

With reference to craniological and osteological matters, these cannot be fully demonstrated until we have a medical school, or when those in hospitals would retain foetal skulls of all ages, as well as statistics of other matters connected with the full development of such a research, and particularly interuterine foetal specimens up to the ninth month. So far as I have seen in the skulls of children at parturition I have never yet been able to observe or detect any abnormalities, or anything that would warrant the statement that European children's skulls are better developed or formed than those of African children. It must also be observed that the weight of the brain is said to decrease from thirty to forty years, so that whoever takes the weight should bear in mind this fact.

With regard to the comparison between the amount of intellect in the African to that of the European, permit me to state with all deference that while Europe at present holds the stand as to cultured men, Africa would have had similar men had she the like privileges. However, the few that had the privilege or opportunity can at any time stand with their brethren in the profession wherein they have been taught. I can only refer you to the professors at King's College, London, for testimonials as to the efficiency of those who were there, and I believe you will be satisfied that we are not a whit behind-hand in our several attainments and callings.

With respect to the physiology of the "civilised negro races," I say it is almost absurd to talk like that. I am apprehensive that there is no marked difference whatever between the African and European, except in the skin, which physiologists tell us is mainly due to black pigment cells. The circulation of the blood, the formation and general configuration of the lungs, the teeth and alimentary canal stand, I presume, *vis-à-vis* to that of the European. The hair is said to be woolly, but the microscope has disproved this.

In conclusion, it seems to me that after scientific men have exhausted all their energies in some fruitless research, and have none on whom to vindicate their resentments, they turn them to the African, forgetting that within their own domain individuals are to be found with physiological, anatomical, and craniological malformations of the skull—some of their so-called inferior species as to brain development or cineritious matter, want of intellect, and many of those physical constituents which they so much deprecate in the African. Have they not as many idiots? These might have occurred by consanguineous marriages, as it is affirmed, which problem alone can be solved by the Great Creator. But let me ask why do they see these faults in the Africans and not in themselves. That some of the untutored Africans can vie with a philosopher must be admitted. For instance, let Dr. Hunt or any of his coadjutors answer the following queries put to me more than fifteen years ago by an African Wolloff man of no education: "When nothing can be nothing, nothing cannot be nothing?" and this is only one of the many symptoms of high functional brain development in the African race, and I hope that whenever opportunity serves I shall be able to send Mr. Wilson the weight, depth of convolutions, sulci, and cineritious matter, say every other requisite, to assure him that genius and intellect first took their birth from Africa, and that she will ultimately stand high in the scale of nations; and I must also add, that it is a great shame for those who would cite cases in which mankind have been permitted to trifle with the brain of individuals as instances of comparison, or even of the poor slaves. Take them as they are, without any meddling, ill-treatment, or underhanded trickery, and then examine them—you will, of course, find them equal to any European, if they do not surpass.

Mr. Lawrence, F.R.S., thus writes, "That the negro is more like the monkey than Europeans, cannot be denied as a general observation." But why is the negro always selected for comparison? The New Hollander, the Calmuck, the native of America, are not superior to the Africans, and are as much monkeys. Why then is the negro alone to be degraded to a level with the brute, to fill up the break in Mr. White's chain between the European and the monkey? This is rather a gratifying result, to find that in 1822, when the above was written, we were compared to the monkeys, and that at present, 1865, to the writer of the article himself. It devolves on me now only to substitute the word European children's and females' brains for monkeys', and I thereby answer Dr. Hunt in the language of his own countryman as cited above; and I hope that in no length of time I will be

able to show Dr. Hunt, if he is not then deceased, that my brain is equal to his, if not superior in its proper development.—I have the honour to be, Sir, yours very truly,
GEORGE MARLY, M.R.C.S. Eng.

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