Registered for] [Transmission Abroad.

The African Times.

"FOR GOD, AND GOOD TO AFRICA AND HER PEOPLE."

"*If any Colonist suffers from injustice, whatever may be his class, his condition, or his colour, he has a right to redress at the hands of the Colonial Minister in this country.*"—EARL OF CARNARVON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, AUGUST 2, 1866.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Puya (Species of Rheea)	37
The West African Mails	38
Gambia Appointments	38
To Preserve Shingle Roofs from Fire	38
Suggestions for Destroying the Bug-a-Bug, or White Ant	38
Sierra Leone	39
Copy of Petition of the King, Chiefs, Headmen, &c., on the Gold Coast, to the Governor-General	39
Wholesale Human Sacrifices in British Territory on the Gold Coast	40
Curious and Important Results of Earthquake	41
Rolot v. the Queen and John Shaw	42
The African Climate	42
Cape Coast Female Native School	42
The Choristers' Surplice Question	43
Proposed Sending of Young Africans to England, "To Learn Mechanical Arts and Legal Practice"	43
Gold Coast	44
State of the Eastern Districts of the Gold Coast	44
Abeokuta	46
Ordonnance of the Egba Government, Abeokuta, Imposing Customs Duties	46
Accra Merchants' Petition	47
Abyssinia	47
Principal Events	47

PUYA (SPECIES OF RHEEA.)

(Boemeria puya; B. frutescens.)

a. Male Flowers; *b* and *c.* Denuded Seeds magnified; *d.* Seed in its envelope.

A letter respecting this plant will appear, if possible, in our November number.

We are indebted for the above plate to the kindness of Dr. Forbes Watson, E. I. Museum.

THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

DREADFUL CANNIBALISM.

The African Mail Company's steamer Lagos, Captain Corbett, arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday, October 10, with a fair cargo and twenty-one passengers.

The general health of the Europeans at the rivers is reported as good. Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, C. Livingston, Esq., was on a visit to the Bonny River and New Calabar in Her Majesty's ship Oberon, for the purpose of endeavouring to reconcile the turbulent natives in those districts, their quarrels having for a long time back seriously interfered with the palm oil trade. It is, however, very doubtful if his praiseworthy pacific efforts will be attended with the success they deserve, for the old-standing feuds between the hostile tribes have of late been greatly aggravated by the Crusha men having made a raid upon New Calabar and captured a large number of prisoners, about 100 of whom were reported to have been eaten at a great cannibal feast. As a natural result of this fearful massacre, the New Calabar men have expressed their determination to retaliate upon their enemies in the same fashion.

The coloured teachers in charge of the missionary station at Bonny, established about twelve months ago by the Rev. Dr. Crowther, Bishop of the Niger, have been eminently successful, their main efforts having been directed to the Christianising and civilising of the rising generation. Already many of the children in the schools can read the Scriptures fluently, in addition to the acquisition of other knowledge of a civilising tendency.

The steamer Thomas Bazley, belonging to the West African Trading Company, has returned to Brass River from an expedition up the Niger. The captain brings reports that the success of the persons in charge of the various trading stations and factories established up the river last year, has far surpassed the most confident expectations.

LIST OF PASSENGERS.—Messrs. Samuel Cheetham and Jan Janse, Old Calabar; R. Hemmingway, jun., Bonny; F. Hazlewood, R.N., Rev. C. F. Liel, Lagos; Mr. and Mrs. Lyell, Accra; Mrs. James Speede, Staff-Asssistant-Surgeon Johnstone, Chief Justice Hackett, Cape Coast Castle; Mr. Drake, Lieutenant Byron, 4th W.I.R., Sierra Leone; Captain Bernard, 4th W.I.R., Gambia; together with one deck and seven fore-cabin passengers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, River Gambia, August, 1866.

Sir,—Please allow me a small space in your columns to show how poor people who are importing Kola nuts from Sierra Leone have to suffer the loss of their property from the bad management of the Custom-house. There has been a constant grumbling among the poor people, till they were made to know that they have a right to redress from the Colonial Government. One or more people complained of the total loss of their baskets of Kolas, which were landed from on board the mail-steamer; marks and numbers taken by the tide-waiter, and stored in bond at the Customs warehouse till the next day, which was the time appointed to receive duties of the Kolas. After such duties are paid, the people could not find their Kolas; and why? Because the Customs officers would close their eyes, and refused to see that they ought not to have allowed anybody to take away their Kolas at a rush, without appointing a proper officer to deliver them out to the parties claiming them, with proper permits from the collector showing duties had been paid. Instead of this, the collector would only concern himself to collect the duty for the quantity of Kolas found on the manifest, and would not concern himself at all with regard to the management of delivery afterwards. Can this be the right mode of performing Government duties, subjecting poor people to the loss of their property? Could not Mr. Collector of Customs put a stop to this by employing some tide-waiters to superintend the landing and delivery of goods in bond-store, according to marks and numbers specified on permits, and also to take marks and numbers of goods stored in bond on the arrival of steamers, and thereby exonerate owners from the constant loss of their property. Loss of Kolas was also complained of, which I understood from the collector himself was owing to the insecurity of the store within which Kolas are kept, which gives an opportunity to dishonest persons of opening baskets and drafting away a good quantity of Kolas. Why is not a proper store erected on the beach as a warehouse, which need not cost more than about 100*l.*—a sum which can be collected *in one month* from the Kola duty alone?

I am sure that every one will agree with me, that should a proper warehouse be erected on the beach, even at such a small cost, it will terminate the losses constantly complained of. By another mode that 100*l.* could be saved, perhaps, and this is that the colonial steamer Dover, now condemned for navigation (as I am given to understand), should be made a store-ship. Then, on the arrival of the monthly mails, all imported goods might be transhipped on board of her from alongside the steamer at once, saving thereby the time the mail-steamers are obliged to stay in order to discharge their cargo, besides having, in many cases, most inconveniently to carry to the coast of England some goods that should be landed here. If these suggestions be listened to, it will be doing justice to both whites and blacks.

I trust, Mr. Editor, you will give publicity to this, and excuse me for thus trespassing so large in your valuable columns; we have no other way to get what ought to be done.—Yours *in petto*,

KOLA.

GAMBIA APPOINTMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

London, October 10, 1866.

Sir,—Please give publication to this letter as an encomium to the Administrator of the Government at Bathurst, River Gambia, for the recent appointment of Thomas Johnson (negro Second Writer in the Colonial-office) to be Acting Colonial Engineer, vice late Acting Engineer Hurst, deceased. Why should not the educated negroes enjoy the same privileges as the Europeans? I am eagerly expecting to hear when that long-standing Colonial Chaplain's appointment, which is still held by a negro reverend gentleman as *acting*, will be made permanent, and subject to be relieved at a certain period by another from Sierra Leone. Since the African climate is most dangerous and disagreeable to Europeans, let the educated negroes be appointed to fill up some of those vacant appointments, and let it been seen whether they are not qualified to hold responsible posts in the Government service. What can be said of Dr. Horton, whose ability and qualification none dare to gainsay, and which, in some respects, have closed the mouths of the negroes' antagonists? But alas! "the scar of the severe wound in the negro race is still visible," which evidently prevents Dr. Horton from being P.M.O—that is, *prejudices of colour*. I need not say much on this point, as the Administrator, Colonel D'Arcy, at the Gambia, has now turned over a fresh page and entered upon a new mode of administrating the Government. I will only congratulate my friends in their new appointments, hoping to hear more of their welfare, and say also that the Administrator is now doing his best to foster the civilisation of that colony under his control, and for which he deserves every praise. Should things be continued in the Gambia as at present, Colonel D'Arcy will never lack praise from the negroes and their European friends in the colony.—Yours, &c.,

JOS. W. F. REFFLES.

TO PRESERVE SHINGLE ROOFS FROM FIRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—An African friend informs me an incendiary lately tried to set his house on fire whilst his family were asleep in their beds, by placing on the shingles a piece of burning canvas, which had been previously soaked in oil. The diabolical act was only prevented being successful by an opposite neighbour seeing the burning canvas in time to prevent the ignition of the wooden shingles, which happily were damp with dew; and as he further informed me that fires are often very destructive among African towns, by fires originating in the wooden shingles, I beg to call the attention of your readers to the following very simple plan of rendering wooden shingles fireproof, and which has been for many years used with success in the State of North Carolina in the United States of America.

They grind the native carbonate of iron—that is, the common black lead—with linseed oil, to the consistency of paint, with which they paint the wooden shingles of their houses, and even their best wooden buildings. This simple plan, provided two or three coats of it are used, is so effectual, that buildings painted with this preparation have been purposely exposed to the full heat of a large fire for a considerable time without their sustaining any injury.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

AMICUS AFRICANUS.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DESTROYING THE BUG-A-BUG OR WHITE ANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—I have been told that British Combo would produce large crops of unequalled ground-nuts but for the ravages of the bug-a-bug, that fearful insect plague of Africa, the destruction caused by which is one of the hindrances to agricultural progress there. I believe that if some *dry chloride of lime* were thrown into or otherwise placed in the ants' nests, it would destroy all the inmates. I hope some of your African readers will try this on some white ants' nests near them, and watch, and communicate the results of the experiment to you.—Yours, &c.,

AMICUS AFRICANUS.

SIERRA LEONE.

We are compelled to defer Lord Chief Justice Turner's elaborate judgment in the case of Rolot *v.* the Queen and John Shaw until our next.

COPY OF PETITION OF THE KING, CHIEFS, HEADMEN, ETC., ON THE GOLD COAST, TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Cape Coast, September, 1866.

To his Excellency Major Blackall, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of Sierra Leone and Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast of Africa.

The humble Petition of the undersigned King, Chiefs, Headmen, and other Residents on the Gold Coast under the British Protection,

Humbly sheweth,

That your petitioners, having taken into consideration the present unsatisfactory state of affairs on the Gold Coast, and of Cape Coast in particular, arising from the present mal-administration on this Coast, have unanimously resolved to address your Excellency with the view of drawing your Excellency's attention to the same.

That your petitioners sincerely deplore the undignified ill-treatment to which his Excellency Colonel Conran has at various times subjected the King of Cape Coast. On the occurrence of a vacancy, from whatever cause, in this place, a King is elected, by the suffrages of the majority of the people; and John Aggery, on the last occasion of such vacancy, was so elected, by those who had a right so to do; and this election was confirmed by the then Governor.

That on the 28th of March, 1866, Mr. Charles Bannerman, acting under the instructions of his Excellency the Administrator, prosecuted King Aggery, in a magistrate's court, for alleged cruelty, in putting two of his own people in irons for disobedient and refractory conduct. The court was held by two military officers of the garrison. The King was arraigned as a criminal, and although the charge of unnecessary cruelty was not proved, he was subjected to a severe and unnecessary reprimand, with a warning that if another case be brought against him he should be punished as a common malefactor. Such conduct can only have one result—the subversion of all rule amongst the mass of the people, by lowering the King's dignity and authority. The office of the king as chief magistrate is the regulating the differences that arise among the mass of the people, in which their own laws, customs, and tradition are concerned—in fact, the domestic government of the people in those details that it would be impossible for any European to cope with, unacquainted with the native laws, customs, and traditions of the people. In a country like this, where nineteen-twentieths of the people are in a state of nature, wrongs will be committed, differences will arise, which could not be dealt with from a European point of view; and it is only under the penalty of the native laws and customs that evil-doers among the mass of the people are kept in check, because the mass understand their own laws and customs; not to say that they do not appreciate the Queen's courts, for as a rule the people gladly avail themselves of the law courts, but in a community of a half-million of uncivilised men, we say that circumstances frequently arise where native custom is of more avail than British laws. We must say the truth; the people cherish their own customs, revere their own laws, because they have been hallowed in their minds by tradition, whereas European customs and laws, however much they may be superior and transcendent to native laws and customs, are to the masses as yet only an extraneous growth, and for them to be fully and universally appreciated is a work of time.

We do not complain of the efforts that have been, and still continue to be made, to civilise our country; God forbid; but we do complain of the wholesale sweeping away of those means and appliances which tradition has prescribed for the good government of the masses of the people, before they are in condition to appreciate a better rule. A state of anarchy will be the certain result of such violent transition.

That on the 19th April, 1866, the King was invited to be present at the Government House, by occasion of new charter being read and the Administrator sworn into his new office; the King, with a retinue, repaired to Government House at the appointed time. On his entrance on the premises, he was met by the Acting Secretary (Captain Cary, of the 4th West Indian Regiment) and Mr. Samuel Wood, the Government Interpreter, and commanded to leave the premises, as the Administrator did not desire his presence. That on the 23rd of June last, the King of Cape Coast was invited to Government House, the message of his Excellency the Administrator being, that he had received letters from head-quarters, and that his Excellency was desirous of coming to a proper understanding with the King and being again on terms of friendly footing with him. The King, accompanied by the King of Gomcoah (chief of a large and populous district), and some of the respectable personages of the town, repaired to Government House. The party were met at the foot of the steps by his Excellency the Administrator, and the King was saluted with a volley of language unbecoming his position, or the dignity of the Queen's representative.

That on the 24th of the month of July, several canoes, sixteen or more, belonging to the company of fishermen in this town, were seized and stored in Gothic House, and the land belonging to the said company of fishermen was appropriated by the Government, and a building is now in course of construction—report says a future bonded warehouse—upon this same land; this land has been the property of the said company of fishermen time out mind. We do not object to any improvement that his Excellency the Administrator may deem necessary to effect in this our town, but we do most certainly protest against that arbitrary rule that forfeits and seizes men's property, without licence, leave, or law, without consent of the owners, or offering any compensation for the private injury thus perpetrated.

That your petitioners earnestly pray that the pigs' law lately established by his Excellency the Administrator may be revised and modified; that in its present condition this ordinance presses with undue severity on the poorer classes of the community, whose only means of livelihood is the rearing of these animals for sale, and these means have been virtually forfeited by the unequal operation and pressure of the above-named ordinance.

That in all countries, civilised and uncivilised, certain customs prevail at certain seasons of the year which had been hallowed by tradition in the minds of the people, but whose origin are veiled in the misty obscurity of ages, such as Lord Mayor's show in London, the Lenten festivities in Paris and other cities, the yaughernaut* car in India, and harvest custom here. These customs take place annually about the harvest-time; and for the more barbarous practices which formerly prevailed, the blank firing of muskets was many many years ago substituted. This firing of salutes takes place in convenient places in the town; that this year the companies were ordered to perform these ceremonies on the military parade-ground, or near the Salt-pond. His Excellency the Administrator, well knowing that on these very spots many a battle has been fought between the different companies when differences have unfortunately arisen—how the very facts of their being ordered to go to these spots for the firing of their guns was almost tantamount to an order for the people to go and massacre themselves, as the excitement of the time, and some, perhaps, being inflamed with liquor, and bodies of holiday-making men being armed with muskets, and massed on the very spots where serious encounters have unfortunately but too frequently prevailed, the consequence would have been, no doubt, that several lives might have been lost.

Under these circumstances, the King ordered that no firing of arms should take place; and the people carefully obeyed him, because they know and acknowledge him as their king. But for this, it would, perhaps, have been our painful duty to record scenes as shocking as what took place on the night of the 4th of September, 1865, but with this material difference, that the people would have been their own butchers, instead of being slaughtered like sheep by the soldiers of the 4th West Indian Regiment, a record of which was forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

That your petitioners, perceiving, with exceeding concern and regret, that for some time since a degree of indifference and want of cordiality seemed to have arisen between our King and his Excellency the Administrator, and which was and is still working detrimentally to the interests of our country, and of this community in particular, after patient deliberation determined to nominate a representative, a native gentleman of ability, experience, and prudence, and one who at this time was well received at Government House, and whose presence at this time always appeared welcome to his Excellency the Administrator. The object of this nomination truly was, that the real wishes and the intentions of his Excellency the Administrator might from time to time become more fully known to the King and his people, and more amply explained, than had been possible in the short and formal usages which until then had existed, and which even the most primitive etiquette could not dispense with. Our representative, in a communication, informed his Excellency of his appointment (see enclosure). After some delay, a reply was vouchsafed, and Mr. Samuel Wood, the Government Interpreter, was despatched to the three refractory and disloyal chiefs of this town (and one of whom was by his Excellency the Administrator publicly reprimanded for his disloyal conduct to his superior chief, the King of Cape Coast, in pretending to set himself up as a second king), and asked them if they also had any hand in the nomination of a representative, to which they replied in the negative. About this time your petitioners' representative

* Juggernaut.

forwarded a despatch (No. 2 enclosed) to his Excellency the Administrator, informing him of the approach of the annual customs, and in accordance with ancient usuage, the reply (No. 3 enclosed) we submit to your Excellency without further comment.

That on his Excellency refusing to acknowledge our representative and the King, on the plea of the negative answer he received from the three refractory and disloyal chiefs, the headmen of the community addressed a letter to his Excellency the Administrator as per letter No. 4. This letter was conveyed by four companies' captains of the town. His Excellency the Administrator, after having read the letter, uncourteously drove away these deputies in a most disgraceful manner. No 5 letter came from his Excellency the next, and letter No. 6 was the reply.

That at the sitting of the Committee of the Right Honourable and Worshipful the House of Commons in Parliament assembled last year, the King and his Councillors, with consent of various kings and headmen of this protectorate, despatched delegates to represent their interest at the said Committee, they agreeing each to contribute his quota to defray the expenses of the said delegates; that on their return, and forwarding their bill of expenses to the King, he (the King of Cape Coast) called on all the chiefs and headmen to redeem their promise, and contribute to pay the said bill. His Excellency the Administrator hearing of this, despatched special messengers and issued a proclamation forbidding the various kings and chiefs of the protectorate to contribute to the said fund, which arbitrary measures have worked to the prejudice of your petitioners.

That with regard to the alleged peace with Ashantee, your petitioners consider that his Excellency the Administrator has been ill-advised in the measures he has taken to bring about that desirable result, and have cause to fear that the public mind may yet be disabused as to the seeming tranquillity and peace which now prevail. And finally, that your petitioners, in laying these facts before your Excellency, beg to assure your Excellency of the rooted love, and respect, and veneration, with which they regard and cherish the prestige of the British rule in this country; that they are actuated by no motive of personal ill-will or ill-feeling towards his Excellency the Administrator, whom they will willingly believe is personally desirous of effecting some good for the country; that they cheerfully record their testimony that Colonel Conran, with crippled resources, on his accession to office, has done more for the sanitary improvement of the town of Cape Coast than any previous governors during the last twenty years; that very appreciable improvements have been made in the markets and their regulations; that the streets have been much improved, and unwholesome nuisances extinguished; that the frightful desecration of the Sabbath that formerly existed has been, if not as yet entirely done away with, at least very much reduced and modified; that material progress has been fostered, with all these and many other material advantages which Cape Coast has enjoyed. We regret to state—and this is the cause of our present complaint—that a system of arbitrary rule, a system of general policy whose only object seems to be the determination and abrogation of the real authority of the chiefs and headmen, the elimination of all moral influence, and consequent disorganization of the protectorate, are surely and steadily progressing; and our desire is to co-operate with the Government cordially and respectfully for the general improvement and progress of the whole community.

That our rights and privileges be recognised, and that before any radical changes be introduced in future, that our interest may not be sacrificed to the will of the few whose only interest in the country is the value of the appointment they receive, and mete out their measure of affection for the same accordingly.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

John Aggery, King of Cape Coast; Cudjoe Ayee, Cofee Ebboo, Quah Tawrah, Quah Ashun, Quabina Aryeusoo, Quaw Adooarcoo, Cudjoe Arbahkah, Cofee Ahin, Quabina Sacoom, Cofee Mensah, Quacoe Mensah, William Tobee, Cudjoe Arquahteabbah, Cofi Ashun, Quasie Amarahere, Quaw Mensah, Quasie Indooumah, Captain J. C. De Graft, John Hooper, Elias Hooper, Quacoe Boyah, Cudjoe Otoo, Quacoe Daddie, Cofi Abbrabrah.

N.B.—The correspondence is unavoidably postponed until next month.—ED. *A.T.*

The following is an extract from a private letter received from Her Majesty's ship Bristol, dated Ascension, August 28: "Our engines are broken down, and we leave here to-day for England in company with the Leander, which has put in here from the Pacific on her way to England. The Leander is to tow us across the calms on the line, and we expect to be in England the first week in October."

WHOLESALE HUMAN SACRIFICE IN BRITISH TERRITORY ON THE GOLD COAST!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa, August 10, 1866.

Sir,—In my last I informed you briefly of the death of Quow Daddy, the King of Aquapim, at Akropong, the capital of that country, about the end of June. The exact day of his decease is uncertain, as in these parts the death of a chief is kept secret for days, and frequently *months* after it takes place.

The death of King Quow Daddy was the signal for the *sacrificing of some thirty-five to forty men and women* connected with his household. Such a wholesale slaughter of human beings within the jurisdiction of the Government of the Queen of England has not been known or heard of, even in the remotest or most savage and uncivilised regions of this protectorate, for the last *sixty* years.

In Akropong the Basle missionaries have numerous large establishments. Immediately on the death of the King being made known to them, their principal, the Rev. Mr Widmann, despatched an express to Lieut. Brett, the chief civil commandant of Accra, through Mr. Müller, the agent of the Basle missionaries at Christiansborg, informing him of the occurrence, and of the certainty of great disorder and irregularity, if the Government did not at once depute some officer or important commissioner up there to preserve order and keep in check any such desire on the part of the people. This friendly and timely warning of the Basle missionaries was treated with that contempt with which the British authorities on the Gold Coast invariably treat information coming from sources not entirely and strictly official; which latter, be it observed, almost always proves to be corrupt, false, and manufactured to suit official despatches. The result of this apathy is, that many poor victims have been ruthlessly slain to accompany Quow Daddy to the next world; amongst the number four young females, his wives. Several of the intended victims fled to the different residences of the Basle missionaries, and were afforded refuge by the Rev. Mr. Widmann and the Rev. Mr. Madre. Some of these are still in the hands of these missionaries, others who were being smuggled to Accra for better protection were discovered and killed. Some, again, who reached Accra in safety, were pursued and actually seized in *Jamestown* under the very walls of the ruined Fort, and would have been carried away had not several of the residents forced the matter on the notice of the Commandant, who with the utmost reluctance interfered, and *fined* the offenders 12*l.* —twelve pounds!

Akropong is only eighteen miles from the seat of Government in Accra. It is a country very easily accessible through good roads made, not by the Government, but by the German missionaries. Aquapim, of which country Quow Daddy was supreme chief or King, has, ever since the Danish Government transferred it to the British in 1850, been most thoroughly under the control of the Commandant of the Eastern District. Even "*de Rwigues,*" whose only faults may be summed up in these two words, lazy tyrant, caused the dignity of the Government to be upheld there in a manner that did him credit. On one occasion he went up to Akropong with twenty men of the Gold Coast Artillery, and seized Quow Daddy in the midst of his guards, and surrounded by five thousand more armed men. His summonses were never disregarded in Aquapim as they are now.

No one can imagine what possible excuse the local authorities can frame for looking on with their hands in their pockets whilst these wholesale public murders are being committed under their very noses.

I am at a loss to conceive by what means the Governor purposes to bring down King Ageman as a prisoner from his native inaccessible forests in Akim, and transport him for an *imaginary* offence, when he, by his apathy, admits that he is utterly incapable of bringing to punishment the chiefs of Aquapim, who are within a day's easy march of *the ruins* of James Fort, and who are clearly guilty of the most atrocious of crimes. Akropong is about eighteen miles from Accra. King Ageman's capital is just 118 miles from Accra. I shall make no other remark upon this state of affairs, than to say that you may expect to hear next month that human beings have been sacrificed in front of the Basle Mission-house at Christiansborg, to accompany King Dowoonah to the other world, that chief being now in a state of health which admits of but small hope of recovery.

I must not omit to inform you that after much pressure had been brought to bear against him, Lieut. Brett, the civil commandant, despatched a person to Akropong to represent the Government and to watch proceedings in that country. But instead of sending some respectable man of influence, or even a steady and trustworthy man of his own, he despatched one of his constables, a notorious scamp and ragamuffin, whom he himself had dismissed from office only three days before for incorrigible conduct, and who had been dismissed at least ten times before. This *representative of the British Government*, so far from attempting to put a stop to human sacrifices, actually made use of his authority, and his ragged, seedy uniform, to aid and abet in the seizure of victims! Those executions that have as yet taken place are supposed to have been *private;* but when the Grand Custom for Quow Daddy takes place in January next, there will be a considerably larger number put to death *more publicly* unless the expiring Government interfere.

The late King, Quow Daddy, on the day he gave up the ghost, called his principal wife to his room and delivered over to her charge a large quantity of gold dust, telling her that it was his desire that as many victims should be sacrificed for him as possible, and that as he knew from experience that the "white men," meaning the Government, like the money, she was to keep the gold to pay to the Government any fine they might impose on his people for sacrificing human beings to accompany his exit from this world. Subsequent events have proved that this chief was wise in his own generation, and did not reckon without his host—*i. e.*, the Civil Commandant of the Eastern Districts. There can be no mistake as to these facts—for facts they most indisputably are. The Rev. Mr. Madre, the Basle missionary from Akropong, recently paid a visit to Accra, and he told the English Commandant a great deal more respecting these murders than he liked to hear. But beside the trustworthy evidence of the Basle missionaries, we have that of numerous other eyewitnesses, including Government constables who, while at Akropong on other duties, were present when people were killed in cold blood on account of the King's death. One of these constables reported to the Commandant, in the hearing of several of the merchants and residents of Accra, and in open court, an instance that he actually witnessed, and he only received a reprimand for his officiousness.—Yours, X. Y. Z.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Krepee, August 6, 1866.

Sir,—I think it right you should know the state of affairs here, which those whom it concerns ought not to delay to have investigated. The moment I arrived here the sad news came to my ears, which was against the Asabee King, who had treacherously received from the King of Ashantee the following goods—viz., 360 heads of cowries, 1 fine country cloth, and 12 double flasks, or 6 gallons of rum; and he has promised the King of Ashantee, after receiving the above-mentioned, that he will run away from Krepee, on British Protectorate, to join his subjects with all his men; meanwhile to attack some of the adjacent territories, and to plunder them away to Ashantee. This is his agreement with the King of Ashantee. Surely a wolf cannot refuse a bone. The said Ashantee King, sent him word that he will soon send for him; and soon after the King sent about thirty men, including executioners, with another present, to bring him up to Ashantee. At the moment the men reached to Asabee before the King and delivered their messages, the said King absconded to his relative town (adjacent town), Boso, for protection; whereat all the Krepees, so as to put away flies from their ears, at once agreed, and delivered the Asabee King to the Ashantee men, who were easily sent for him. What they have done with him nobody knows; although they did not solely satisfy themselves with the King nor his family; and perhaps they will ask for the whole of Krepee by-and-bye.

Now are not the Krepees under British protection? so that they may make known to the Protectorate of such King's misbehaviour, and that they may have a decided answer to give to the King of Ashantee.—Yours, &c., D.

CURIOUS AND IMPORTANT RESULTS OF EARTHQUAKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Gold Coast, September 7, 1866.

Sir,—The season has, and still continues to be, very unfriendly to the native farmers. On the 17th of March last, a most destructive drought, which had continued for many months throughout the Accra districts—I do not here include the entire eastern districts, but the Accra districts only, situated between the rivers Sekenn and Volta—was happily broken up by a fine shower of rain, which was followed by other showers at intervals until the 13th of May. They then ceased until the 16th of June, when a light shower fell. We then had no more rain until the 31st of July, and then only a light shower. There has, in fact, been no proper rainy season in the Accra districts this year, and the consequence has been a failure of all the crops of corn, yams, cassada, ground-nuts, &c., which were growing near the Coast. This will probably occasion a great scarcity of food among the Coast populations about the end of the year.

This irregularity of seasons is doubtless connected with what may be termed our earthquake atmosphere, which evidently still continues to exist. There have been two very distinct shocks of earthquake here during the past three weeks; the latter shock occurred on Saturday morning last, the 1st inst.

You are doubtless aware that tropical Africa, or rather I should say torrid Africa, abounds in ants throughout all its forests and cultivated tracts, and that they construct monster ant-hills, rising frequently to ten or twelve feet in height, or even more, and having many of them a singularly castellated aspect. Since the great earthquake in 1862, which was so destructive to the houses in the Accra capital, these millions of ants have almost entirely disappeared from the western parts of the Accra districts—that is, they are not now found as usual on the surface of the ground, and are probably down some way under the surface. They partially appeared during some showers of rain last year, but they are now entirely out of sight; and the traveller may now walk for many miles without seeing one train of ants crossing his path. This singular fact has probably some connexion with our present earthquake atmosphere and influences.

The drought still continues, with the sun's rays extremely powerful and parching during the middle part of the day, and the nights unusually cool. Occasionally a strong breeze blows from the south-west, so intensely cold for this climate, that a fire becomes agreeable.

It is frequently the case that the latter rains commence here towards the end of September, and continue through October; should it so happen this year, it will be a great benefit to the country, and enable the farmers to grow a crop of corn, and other vegetable food; but should the latter rains also fail us as the former have done, there will necessarily follow a great scarcity of food, and much suffering among the people.—Yours sincerely,

N.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, September 11, 1866.

Sir,—When a Queen's representative issues proclamations informing the inhabitants of the place he rules that certain events have actually occurred, all are bound to believe what is so published.

Colonel Conran, the Administrator of this Government, issued certain proclamations to the effect that he had arranged a peace with Quacoe Duah, the powerful King of Ashantee—that, in fact, this monarch had sued for peace, and that he had done nothing more than accepted that offer.

Now what is the truth? Why, that it was no such thing; and Quacoe Duah is so indignant at the statement, that in all probability his Majesty is now on his way, or is preparing, to make another invasion of the so-called British Protectorate.

The King says that Colonel Conran, through Mr. Blankson (a member of the Council), came and begged him for peace, and that on his hearing what Mr. Blankson had to say, he sent down ambassadors and consented to a peace provided Ganen was given up, or his head sent to Comassie. Does this look like the King suing for peace? No end of difficulties will arise now in consequence of this extraordinary and unfounded statement of the Administrator, made with all the solemnity of an official proclamation. Colonel Conran knows how to drill men, and make roads and sheds, and do many other good things, but he has shown he is not the man to conduct the political affairs of a country like this, where nothing but courtesy and diplomacy will do. Colonel Conran's undignified and extreme harshness to the kings and chiefs of the protectorate have made his very name odious to the people he ought to endeavour to conciliate and persuade by a gentle and courteous demeanour, and who would then have shown great gratitude for the material benefits he has secured to them.

The King of Cape Coast was most shamefully treated the other day, and I am quite confident that if he rightly represents his case to the Home authorities in Downing-street he will obtain some redress. Here is a man, acknowledged by a previous Governor and Commander-in-Chief as King of Cape Coast, a salute of seven guns is fired from Her Majesty's fort, and a guard of honour composed of Her Majesty's troops, commanded by European officers, present arms and salute him, while Her Majesty's band played the national air of "God save the Queen." This man is kicked or turned ignominiously down Government steps, after he had been invited to Government House to hear the new charter read. Really this is too bad. Unless Her Majesty's Government wish to drive these people to acts of violence, they ought at once to put a stop to this unheard-of tyranny.

The night of the 4th September, 1865, left great bitterness behind it, and what then occurred ought to have the light of day thrown upon it. Let those deeds which cry aloud for justice be investigated, and surely Mr. Buxton and others will denounce them. It is time that something should be done. As the advocate of the poor African, you ought to urge that it be done at once. ONE OF THE OPPRESSED.

HAYTI.—On the 18th September the arsenal of Port-au-Prince was blown up by an explosion. Two hundred adjacent houses were destroyed.

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

Mrs. Joseph Moseley acknowledges gratefully the following donations:—

Amount already published	£295	3	0
His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury (2nd don.)	5	0	0
The Dowager Lady Buxton (2nd don.)	10	0	0
Mrs. Henry Kemble, Camberwell (2nd don., with promise, D.V., of 10*l.* 10s. for 1867)	10	10	0
A Friend to Africa's best Welfare	5	0	0
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The African Times.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1866.

ROLOT v. THE QUEEN AND JOHN SHAW.

The decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as delivered by Lord Chief Justice Turner in the case "Rolot *v.* the Queen and John Shaw," is worthy of more than common notice. The colony of Sierra Leone is, we fear, about to be burthened with the expenses of this appeal case—expenses which cannot fail to be enormous when compared with the revenue of the colony. And this is not the worst. There are, it seems, two other appeals to the Privy Council against decrees pronounced by the same *judge (!)* at Sierra Leone, in which the same Mr. Shaw, Acting Collector of Customs, is the defendant. We should not be surprised if a sixth or an eighth part of the entire revenue of the colony for the current year were to be thus swallowed up. The taxpayers of the colony have no control over the public expenditure. They have only one representative in the Legislative Council; and the power to dispose at will of their money is in the hands of the Governor and of officials who see with the Governor's eyes and vote with the Governor's tongue. This is a very serious matter. Here is a colony in which the public health is constantly suffering through the want of sanitary improvements, the non-execution of which is a disgrace to the mother country—a colony in which so little comparatively has been done for the convenience of commerce, that the existing state of things has been made a reproach to the African community by decriers of the negro race—a colony in which agriculture cannot be promoted, and some of the most necessary aids to civilization and progress cannot be introduced, for want of adequate public funds—a colony in which the Government neglects education, because it would cost money to bestow it—a colony already impoverished by other profligate expenditure, now to be mulct in perhaps a sixth or eighth of its annual revenue, because the old system is persisted in, of appointing as officials incapable Europeans or other strangers—people who care not one straw for the progress and future welfare of the colony, instead of educated natives who may be found fully competent, who are interested in the prosperity and well-being of the place and the community, and who would be in some degree amenable to public opinion in the discharge of their duties.

But the evil which is at the root of all this lies not only in the appointment of such Europeans as Mr. Shaw to offices such as that of Collector of Customs, but in the judicial system as worked in Sierra Leone and other West African colonies and dependencies; and in the participation of the chief authority in the proceeds of fines and seizures. Who is the *judge* whose decision is in these cases appealed against? Who is this Deputy Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone, whose competency as a judge is clearly about equal to that of Mr. Shaw as Collector of Customs? He is a legal man, of course? Even though he may be, like the Queen's Advocate at the same place, only some local attorney in an obscure West India Island translated to a post of legal eminence in poor Africa, he is of course a man of law? Oh, no; that is not at all necessary in such an out-of-the-way place as Africa, and among such *creatures* as the Africans. Have we not lately found it necessary to remark upon the placing of lieutenants and captains of West India Regiments upon the Bench as judges of the Supreme Court at Cape Coast? Mr. Deputy Judge Nicholls is Chief Secretary of the Government at Sierra Leone. He is no lawyer; a few years ago he was a clerk; and now, such is the glorious system of appointments in force for the West Coast of Africa, he is a deputy judge, in which capacity he pronounces judgments under which the Governor whose chief secretary he is becomes entitled to one-third of the amount recovered. Truly the West Coast of Africa officials, from the highest authority downward, are a privileged body. Of course, they are immaculate; of course, they are incapable of being influenced to do and judge and decree wrongly because money is to be got for it; but, as Cæsar's wife, so also judges and governors should be not only pure, but above suspicion. The whole system on the West Coast of Africa is radically wrong. It is unjust to governors and other officials that they should be placed in positions in which it is *possible* for improper motives to be attributed to them. They ought not in any case to be sharers in what may be obtained through their own acts and decisions. So much per head for slaves liberated was all very well; but anything more than this is opening the door to abuse and discredit. The salaries of all officials ought to be such as to render it unnecessary that they should receive any portion of what may be derived under fines and judgments. It cannot be denied that while they are made participators in the pecuniary results, they are judges in their own cause. Not another word need be said in condemnation. Nor can it be urged against us that unless they had such an interest they would be lax in the performance of their duties, because this would be bringing at once a charge which we have not brought—viz., that they *are* capable of being governed and swayed by their own pecuniary interests in the discharge of their duties. We are glad to see the African judgments coming under revision of the Privy Council, and Mr. Rainy has done good service to Sierra Leone in advocating them there with so much ability. But the colonial revenue cannot afford many such decisions as that in Rolot *v.* Shaw; that is, if the colonial revenue is to furnish the money to pay the piper. If the Treasury of Sierra Leone were supplied from Imperial funds, and not almost entirely from local taxation, it would be another matter. But the moneys levied in the colony ought not to be disbursed by parties having no responsibility whatever to the contributors. Thanks to the admirable efforts of the Church Missionary Society, and the growing wealth and intelligence of the native population, there are sufficient elements out of which to form a small legislative body which should have effectual control over the expenditure. The Parliamentary Committee recommended that the people should be prepared for self-government. Let them begin by having a real voice in the expenditure of their own money.

THE AFRICAN CLIMATE.

We alluded in our last to the furious attack then making upon the West Coast of Africa, in the British newspapers, in consequence of the sickness and mortality from yellow fever on board H.M.S. Bristol. We ourselves gave an account of several deaths at the Gambia caused by the same disease. All the old stereotyped denunciations of the fatal climate of the West Coast of Africa have been reproduced, and copious extracts have been made from evidence before the Parliamentary Committee of last year to prove that there are fevers on the African Coast, and that the want of towns and of civilised society aggravates and intensifies the effects of the climate to such a degree, that no ships of the Navy and no West India regiments ought to be sent on West African service. All the sickness and mortality resulting from the unfortunate Ashantee expedition—that fatal encampment at Prahsu—has been classed as the ordinary rate of sickness and mortality in regiments on the Coast. Now, we are not about to contend that the African Coast is a healthy one for Europeans, or even for West India blacks until after acclimatization, which seems to be almost as severe for them as for Europeans. We are compelled but too often to notice the fatal effects of the climate, in recording the deaths from fever, dysentery, &c. What we complain of is that in these attacks Africa is spoken of as if the yellow fever (which by the way is not frequent in its visits*), and dysentery and other bad fevers were to be found *exclusively* in Africa. The yellow fever is almost always in activity in some one or other of the West India Islands; and if we refer to old records, we find that those islands were at one time considered as fatal to European life as the West Coast of Africa is now. But in them much has been done for enabling the European to live there, while in Africa nothing has yet been attempted. We do not hesitate to say, because it is our firm belief, that if the Protected Territories, for example, had been *settled* by Englishmen, &c., as Jamaica, &c., have been; if roads and such changes as have been made in Jamaica, Trinidad, &c., had been made there, the Protected Territories would not have been at this day one whit more insalubrious than are the islands above mentioned. But we chose, during a century and a-half, to depopulate the Protected Territories, that we might fill the West India Islands with slaves; that we might *clear* those islands for cultivation, we handed over the said territories to the bush, and consequently to all those climatic influences which in a tropical country are fatal to the life of natives of the temperate zone. We are, therefore, greatly answerable for that of which we now complain. But, it will be said, that does not alter the fact that those countries now are pestilential, and affords no reason why British lives should now be sacrificed there. None, except that our former guilt has entailed on us a legacy of watching and of partial occupation from which, grumble as we may, we cannot disengage ourselves until the slave-trade is utterly extinct, and until we have raised the people of the several colonies and settlements to the capability of self-government. With regard to the Navy, we say unhesitatingly that nineteen-twentieths of the deaths from climatic influences in the African squadron might be avoided by an improved system of reliefs; and as regards the complaining officers of the West India regiments, we may, perhaps, be permitted to remind them, that service in these regiments has been sought because of the rapid promotion resulting from a greater mortality in them than in European regiments, and because (as see the appointments monopolised during the last two years by officers on the Gold and Cape Coasts) of the many adventitious emoluments falling to their lot. At the same time, we shall gladly hail with them the period when the West India regiments may be withdrawn from service on the West Coast of Africa. If the policy at present pursued on the Coast is to be continued, there will be but little need of their presence there in any considerable numbers. A native police will prove much more economical, and may be organised so as, in a great measure, to replace them. But we repeat our assertion that there is no reason why the African Coast should not be made at least *as healthy* as the West India Islands. As civilisation progresses, many of the causes of disease will disappear; and every year adds to the number of educated Africans who are destined to be the active promoters of that civilisation. If England would do her duty, by as liberal an expenditure on useful and sanitary works on the West Coast of Africa as she has made in other more favoured dependencies, that civilisation would now be rapid; and the material results would be such that England as well as Africa would have reason to rejoice at what had been effected.

* We have shown last month that the deaths in the Bristol were the result of bad management; and the yellow fever at Bathurst, River Gambia, with the bad fever prevalent at the same time among the natives, is supposed to have been caused by the putrid effluvia from the dead who were slain in the late expedition from Bathurst, as the principal scene of slaughter was only three miles from Bathurst, and the wind was blowing direct from there to Bathurst at the commencement of these fevers and during their prevalence. The aggravated common fever which is also destroying the black population in great numbers may be traced to equally recognisable and unnecessary causes, such as would have produced in England at this time a cholera as fatal as the fevers at the Gambia.

THE CHORISTERS' SURPLICE QUESTION.

We were clamouring and praying for some time, and the chief authorities there were doing the same, for a British chaplain to officiate in the church at Cape Coast Castle. That one would be sent out some day or other was certain, and Colonel Conran having given much greater efficiency to the Government school at Cape Coast, the pupils, under proper instruction, were preparing meanwhile for service as choristers, whenever the happy day of the advent of another Colonial Chaplain should arrive.

They attained, we have every reason to believe, a creditable degree of proficiency, for on occasion of what but for the absence of surplices we might call a dress rehearsal at St. Mary's Church, the Governor and others were so much pleased, that a collection was made for the vocalists. The amount collected was, at the instigation of their clever instructress, Miss Grace Hughes, devoted to the purchase of white surplices for these young native choristers. While the surplices were in course of stitching or sewing, the expected chaplain arrived. The fact of the existence of a band of choristers was made known to him. He asked, it seems, about the extent of their acquirements, whether they could sing and chaunt the principal portions of the service commonly so executed. Satisfied on this head, he asked where the surplices were kept. They were not yet quite ready, but in due time the manufacture was completed. Now, then, St. Mary's was to boast the great attraction of native choristers in white surplices. But clergymen of the Established Church are nothing now, it seems, if not critical, and, we were almost about to add, there is no end to their vagaries since High Church and Low Church have divided their ranks. When the fact of the surplices being ready was communicated to the Rev. Mr. Blake, some dire change seemed to have come into the current of that gentleman's ideas. Whether it was that he had scruples as to the employment of surpliced choristers in other than a cathedral church (of which dignity pretty St. Mary's cannot boast), and feared a reprimand from the Bishop of Sierra Leone, who it seems has no choristers in his church, or whether he had altogether renounced surplices for choristers as improper, we know not—but first, "He had something to tell the choir before they should wear the surplices," and then he objected to the surplices altogether. This was of course a sad blow. After having expended the money collected for them upon the purchase and making of surplices, so that these poor native boys might present themselves always uniformly respectable in the house of God, to be debarred from using these spotless garments was naturally considered by all concerned to be a great and grievous wrong. The degree to which this feeling prevailed may be gathered from a perusal of the letter on this subject, in our page. The choir remonstrated. The chaplain replied, "They were ignorant," and gave them three days to consider whether they would sing without surplices. Meanwhile, the letter says, "The choir was threatened with excommunication from the church, and imprisonment in the administrators goal, for not doing as the chaplain wills." The choir succumb to these powerful persuasives. And what is the issue? Eventually, "All singing and chanting by natives in the church has been stopped by Mr. Blake," who is training some West Indian soldiers in their stead.

We deeply regret all this. Of course we have heard nothing from Mr. Blake, and are ignorant of his motives; but we should have imagined that a clergyman going to do duty on the African Coast would have been only too happy to encourage the natives in assisting at the services of the church, and if there was something in their mode of doing it which did not satisfy him, to endeavour to correct it, without offending the susceptibilities of those who were thus willing to do service. What has occurred is, however, a bad beginning for Mr. Blake, unless he wishes to confine his ministrations to the garrison of Cape Coast Castle only, or to them and the few European or educated native residents. And if this be the case, we could have desired a man of a different stamp for such a place as Cape Coast.

PROPOSED SENDING OF YOUNG AFRICANS TO ENGLAND "TO LEARN MECHANICAL ARTS AND LEGAL PRACTICE."

In the *Church Missionary Record* for June last, some account is given of a proposal by Governor-General Blackall "to send over promising young men, at the expense of the colony, to be trained in mechanical arts and in legal practice, if the Church Missionary Society will be answerable for their moral and religious superintendence while in England." This proposal looks at a first glance so attractive, so favourable, so beneficial for Africa, that we deeply regret to feel it to be our duty to protest against the adoption and carrying into effect of any such plan. It is not that we believe *no* good could accrue to Africa from its adoption, but that more evil than good would result from it. With regard to the "*legal practice*" portion of the proposal, we have no hesitation in giving it our unqualified condemnation. We cannot imagine a greater curse to any community than the existence among them of a class of poor, greedy, and almost necessarily subservient, legal men. We presume they would be poor men, because it cannot be proposed to send sons of the more opulent natives to England for legal training at the public expense, such a course being at the same time unjust to the taxpayers and unnecessary. There is now sufficient wealth among the native traders and merchants at Sierra Leone, Lagos, and wherever lawyers are required, to admit of their sending sons to England for legal education, so that there is no such necessity as could alone justify burdening the meagre revenues of the colonies with expenses for such a purpose. The legal prizes of the Coast ought to fall, for a time at least, almost exclusively into the hands of sons of native merchants and traders who have been able to give them a suitable education. This is the natural course—and the natural course is in such things the right course.

Dismissing, therefore, this part of the proposal without further remark at present, we come to that which refers to mechanical arts. Of the necessity of gratuitous instruction in these there can be no doubt. Both in mechanics and agriculture it is at present a great want; but again we do think that the want ought not to be supplied in the way proposed. It is of course very unpalatable to Imperial authorities on the West Coast or in England to be taught in anything by a native of Africa. But, unless we very much mistake the measure of African capacity, they will have to receive many such unpalatable lessons. There can be no doubt about the preference to be

given as regards advantage to Africa and Africans, to the proposal of Dr. Africanus Horton over that of Governor-General Blackall. Dr. Horton, in his clever little work, "The Political Economy of British Western Africa,"* lays down clearly the proper course to be pursued in this important matter. He says: "There should be formed an industrial establishment at the mountain village of Gloster, under the supervision of the Church Missionary Society, paid from the Imperial chest, where paid carpenters, shoemakers, masons, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, &c., are to be continually kept at work. The superintendent should be a practical German mechanic, a type of those of the Basle missionaries at Accra. The recruits should first be sent to the Normal School at Kissy, where, after learning to read and write for one year and a-half, they should be sent to the industrial school at Gloster to be put to a trade, and be kept for four or five years, and so these useful arts might thus be taught with great advantage to the colony."

Dr. Horton shows how the establishment may be made partially self-supporting. And we contend that some such course as this is the one proper to be pursued. We are not insensible to the advantages derivable from a visit of some of these mechanics to Europe. But we would have this great favour, if it is to be granted at Imperial or colonial cost, bestowed on the most proficient workmen of the Gloster (if Gloster) establishment. A free passage to and from Europe, with a moderate allowance while there for a year or two in aid of his labour wages, and certain employment for him in some of the best workshops during a portion of the time, should be a prize open to competition every year among the workmen; and the best man should be allowed to win it, without favouritism—fairly and impartially. This would give a stimulus to exertion among the workmen in the colonial establishment, and the temporary practice of such prize workmen in England would bring them up to the Imperial standard in their respective branches of industry. There can be no doubt of this being the course most advantageous for Africa, and we think it must appear to every one to be that which is most fair to the Africans themselves. We therefore claim for it the serious consideration of the Government. We are sure that there is evil in sending over a number of pet young men to England, while, if done at colonial expense, it is unjust to the taxpayers. To make the English visit a prize open to competition among men already well grounded and practised in their respective trades is quite another affair. There would be a manifest advantage to the colony, as well as to the individual who had deserved it by his proficiency, industry, and general good conduct. We do not want any *petting* for the Africans. Where there is any aid to progress in civilisation which they cannot themselves supply we think it ought to be found for them—but in all other respects we would have them treated as you would treat Europeans.

GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Eastern Districts, Krobo, August 4, 1866.

Sir,—Though one of the readers of your valuable paper from the beginning, I had not yet the honour of writing to you, notwithstanding that I was very much interested in it, and have been a long time in this country, and residing and travelling in different places. Your paper is no doubt a great boon for all of us, and I have felt it so; but being formerly engaged in a similar enterprise, and under similar circumstances out here, I got rather tired of writing for newspapers, and gave myself more up to direct work in this country and for it, in translating the Bible, &c. I feel it is not quite right, for the apathy of proper fellow-labourers brought our own paper to a close, and is a most annoying thing for an editor in such a case. Still, even this first time I write to you, I do it according to a German proverb, "I never come, except I want something." Your paper is read not only by many Europeans in out-of-the-way places — for instance, like here—but also by many an aspiring native, assistant missionary, trader, &c., by some native kings—for instance, the chief of this place, &c.—who never or seldom see or read any other newspaper, and still by their education or otherwise are interested in the things of the outer world, especially Europe and America. Moreover, your paper generally manages to arrive in due time, and is of the newest date, while we Europeans often do not get our European newspapers, or get them a fortnight later than the arrival of the mail, not knowing whom we ought to blame for it. Could you not for the benefit of such readers add, say one column, "Epitome of News of the Last Month," up to your date, and enhance the value of your paper very much? Though I write this quite for myself, I am not only sure that I express the wish of hundreds of your humblest readers, but just of those for whom you especially labour, that is, the natives of this country who are able to appreciate a newspaper, but also that you hereby would confer a great boon on many of us. I think it of great importance that the Africans get acquainted with the principal events of the large human family to begin themselves to feel a part of it, and I am sure you will earn the thanks of many, and venture to hope you will further the interests of the paper itself, by this step.

Just now I have not much news to write you from these parts, except that I think I am right in believing that every peacefully-inclined person in these places on both sides of the river Volta — chiefs, merchants, missionaries, and other people — would be exceedingly glad to have our small war palaver settled and peace established again, if not on a better, at least on the same state as before the war. I think it would have been more easy to hinder it, but as that is now of no use, and no party has been conquered, and there is not the least hope that a new war would bring a better issue, except the English Government would undertake it with their power by land and sea out here, which it seems is not to be expected, we should make the best of present circumstances. Everybody who knew the localities and the people could predict such a result before. Experience has confirmed this, and the fact should not be lost. Open roads, an open river from Ada* to the borders of Asante,† and friendly relations and order between the inimical tribes is all we can expect, and I think also all the Government wish for. According to sure information from the Anglaw (Awoona) and Akwamu side, they wish as much for it as anybody else. There are over the river five large missionary stations, with about twenty European missionaries, at present nearly cut off from us, from the sea, and from each other, besides mercantile establishments, the newly prospering cotton trade, &c. There are ten missionary stations, with about forty European missionaries and their families and peoples on this side, all suffering more or less under this state of things. If they all unite with the merchants and well-inclined natives, I am sure they are able to bring about an honourable and lasting peace, which the Government will accept; if not, the trade is ruined, the missions suffer, murder, man-stealing, robbery, and disorder of every kind will continue till the war breaks out again. Some of us are therefore resolved to try the blessed work of peacemaking, and God grant that we may be able by next mail to report a happy accomplishment of this aim! A look on the map of the Basle Mission, the only one now existing of these Eastern Districts and neighbourhood, shows that except the English Government take possession by force of the sea towns east of the river Volta, there is not the least hope of accomplishing anything against the Anglaws, how much soever they may suffer, because first there is a wild river to cross, and then one day's journey of uninhabited grassy desert, or at the seaside with sand, swamps, and lagoons, before reaching them; and then the beginning of the war was certain by misbehaviour *on both sides*, rough people as the Anglaws are. If there is a tolerable peace, they are far more easily to be kept in order, because they are a trading people, and freely mix with us; *only you must not try to treat them according to English law, except you make them first English subjects.*—I am, with the best wishes for the prosperity of your endeavours for Africa, yours truly, J. Z.

* "The Political Economy of British Western Africa, with the Requirements of the Several Colonies and Settlements, &c., &c." By Africanus B. Horton, M.D., Edin. S.A.S., &c. Johnson, Fleet-street, London. Price One Shilling.

STATE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa, August 10, 1866.

Sir,—Our district continues in the same disturbed and unsatisfactory state as the last mail left it. If anything, it may be said to be altered for the worse, as from what has been occurring of late one cannot make sure how soon he will be seized and executed for the purpose of accompanying some deceased chief in some capacity or another to the world after the present.

The kings and chiefs are still on the Volta, where they are determined to remain until they can muster sufficient force to enable them to take advantage of the approaching dry season to wipe out the disgrace attached to the late campaign, and at the same time to wipe out the Awoonlahs or be themselves rubbed out. The three principal kings of the Eastern Confederacy, Jackee, Cudjoe, and Dowoonah, deserve great praise for thus sticking to their post after having been left in the lurch by the Government that pretends to protect and assist them.

They have made Addah their head-quarters, and since the termination of the first campaign in April last they have by their own personal exertions succeeded in gaining over to our side all the doubtful tribes on the left bank of the Volta, besides overawing the Aquamboes to such an extent that they are now suing for terms. Even the Awoonlahs are mightily disturbed by their

* Commonly "Addah."
† Commonly "Asbantee."—ED. *A. T.*

so obstinately sticking to Addah, knowing that it augurs no good for them. *They* also would treat for peace, but they do not know how to go about it; and it is not certain if they would agree to give up Geraldo and pay the expenses of the war, or at least a part. The kings have also opened the path to Crepée; and cotton, gold, and ivory begin to come down again in small quantities. Panyarring, however, renders the roads very unsafe; and there is no obtaining redress for any wrong committed one yard outside the ruins of James Fort. If a person sends goods to Crepee, or even to Aquapim, and his goods are panyarred and his agent is seized and sold into slavery, he appeals in vain to the British authorities for protection and satisfaction.

A British merchant takes his ship to Pram Pram, which is twenty-two miles east of Accra, or to Addah, fifty-five miles east of Accra; he lands goods at each of those ports; he is made to pay the sum of 9*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* at the former place, and 52*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* at the latter, in the name of Custom dues to the British Government, *for protection*. His factory at Addah is attacked and plundered; at Pram Pram he has trusted goods to parties who avail themselves of the general supineness of the Government to refuse payment; he proceeds to the nearest British Court, James Town, Accra, and lodges a complaint against the thieves at Addah, and takes out a summons against the Pram Pram debtors; the Civil Commandant refers the more serious affair of Addah to his superior the Governor at Cape Coast. In the meantime he disposes of the lesser matter, the Pram Pram debtors, thus: *He declines to issue a summons against the parties*, for reasons best known to himself, which reasons he declines to furnish the creditor with. The reply from the Governor about the Addah robbery is as follows: "Sir, you will please inform Mr. Rudesheimer that if he chooses to risk his property in such remote out-of-the-way places as Addah, where Her Majesty's Government cannot afford protection, he must stand the consequences. P.S.—You will further have the kindness to make this *person* pay up the balance of his duties for the goods he landed at Addah, and you will ascertain from him if he has landed any goods at the small intermediate ports, where we cannot afford to place collectors of customs, and if so make him pay duty on such goods also." This is no romance; it is not even overdrawn. A search through the Accra records will prove the truth of it, if a reference to the deluded merchants be not deemed satisfactory evidence. They hold receipts for their duties, and letters from officials declining to afford them protection.

Again, with the poorer condition of the natives, Bushmen and the like. One "Jaychay," sword-bearer to the late King, Quow Daddy, of Aquapim, is in danger of his life. He flies to Accra; he takes out a summons against the aggressor in Aquapim; he pays for summonses, warrants, constables' expenses, &c., close upon 6*l.*; he remains loafing about the purlieus of the court for *four* months, waiting in vain for the defendants. At length the defendant (who has heard that in Accra now-a-days there is a new Commandant with every change of the moon) writes a friendly letter to the Commandant, and tells him that "Jaychay" is a liar and a bad fellow. "Jaychay" is called up, the defendant's letter is read to him, there is an end to the matter. Poor "Jaychay" is still to be seen at Accra, especially on court days, trying to attract the attention of some magistrate. He is afraid to go up to his country. He is a ruined man. He has sold some of his relatives to pay his heavy expenses at Accra. There are three cases of this very nature that have been brought to the notice of the authorities in Accra, and absolutely nothing has been done after receiving the poor fellows' money for costs.

And this is what they call *protection—government!* I have always been a firm supporter of the Government, and trust I shall still be so, if I possibly can. I have ever been of opinion that even a tyrannical Government, if administered by capable men, consistently and without regard of persons or colour, would be better for the present state of this country than the rule of the native chiefs. But no Government at all is preferable to the existing farce. The natives generally prefer to be under a European Government—that of England first, that is supposed to be strict to all alike, and to administer justice without delay. I repeat, that they would submit to much of what in other parts ought be termed grinding tyranny, provided they see it consistently practised and justly meted out to all alike; and, above all, they like a Government that is able to protect, as well as to punish, and one that can punish offenders in Akim and Aquapim as well as in Accra and Cape Coast.

The natives of these parts, chiefs and people, are exceedingly tractable and submissive to the authority of the whites, moreover, patient and long-suffering. There is also a good understanding always between the European merchants and the native chiefs and principal people, who listen to the advice of the former. Were it not for these circumstances combined, they perhaps might have long ago kicked against the pricks. I trust things may soon change for the better, though I confess I see no hope of it at present.—Yours truly, ACCRA.

P.S.—I inclose the remaining portion of our petition (not sent in May); also copy of correspondence between Colonel Conran and Mr. Irvine on the subject of King Ageman's request for powder. I regret to say that the letter in which Colonel Conran calls Ageman "a scoundrel," &c., is missing. The copy Mr. Irvine had has been stolen from his office, and the original has disappeared from the Commandant's office! I send also copy of a letter from Captain Peile, R.N., the then senior officer in the Bights, to the chiefs of "Jellee Coffee." This letter, or rather a copy of it, was sent to Mr. Irvine as chief of the petitioners, by Colonel Conran, through the then Civil Commandant, Captain Drouet, of the 2nd West India Regiment. We suppose the Governor's intention in sending this letter to the petitioners was to prove to them that the squadron *did not assist the enemy*, but on the contrary. In fact, this *was* his object, but we think it would have been much better for him if he had kept it quiet to himself, as the only thing it does prove is that the Government actually *did* promise to destroy the Awoonlah towns by means of the naval force in the Bights, if the Jellee Coffees aided them in any way. And this we pointed out in our petition, and Colonel Conran in his reply denied. ACCRA.

ENCLOSURES.

Copy—No. 1.

Accra, May 4, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency, Colonel Conran, Administrator of the Government of the Gold Coast—

That this morning I received a message from Chief Agamin, of Akim, to say that Ashantees in considerable numbers had appeared in his plantations and plundered them, and, as he was not aware what their intentions were, he considered it his duty to report the same to the Chief Civil Commandant of the Eastern Districts.

He was of opinion, from the proceedings of the party of Ashantees who had been seen, that their intentions were hostile and not peaceful, therefore he thought proper to prepare for the worst. He also begged to inform the Government that he had no ammunition, and requested that he might be supplied by the Government with a small quantity of powder and lead bars to enable him to resist any attacks which might be made on his part of the British Protectorate.

In answer to these requests, I replied that, considering the friendly standing the Government were on with the Ashantees, that it was impossible for me to grant these requests until I had first communicated with his Excellency.

I would humbly beg you will take the earliest opportunity of laying the information before his Excellency, as, in my opinion, it would strengthen Chief Agamin very much—the very fact of the Government supplying him even with a small amount of ammunition, with a strict injunction only to be used in case of his being attacked or his territory invaded, and would tend greatly to prevent any further encroachments by the Ashantees.

—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) NICOL IRVINE,
Chief Civil Commandant Eastern Districts.

To the Hon. Alphonso Cary,
Acting Colonial Secretary, Cape Coast Castle.

Copy—No. 2.

James Town, Accra, May 14, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 11th inst., in reply to my communication to you of the 6th inst., relative to Agamin, Chief of Akim, Swadroo. I perceive with great regret that your Excellency entertains so bad an opinion of this important chief as to brand him with the epithet of "scoundrel," and that your Excellency expresses surprise at my recommending any encouragement being given to this chief in the way of supply of ammunition for the defence of his boundary of the Protected Territory in case of invasion. I have been resident in Accra for the last eleven years, during five of which I have been in the Commission of the Peace, and I can assure your Excellency that this chief has been always looked upon with such great and universal respect that he is considered by the whole of the Eastern Districts as the trustworthy guardian of this frontier against Ashantee. I was quite unaware, until I had the honour of receiving your Excellency's letter, that Chief Agamin "provoked the last Ashantee war," and that he was desirous of again provoking hostilities.

On reference to my letter to your Excellency of the 6th inst., I find that I submitted to your Excellency what, in my humble opinion, was the necessity of Chief Agamin's hands being strengthened by the Government by the supply of a small quantity of ammunition, with strict injunctions that it should only be used in case of his being attacked or his territory invaded.

In Lieutenant Herbert's illness, I, at his request, forwarded Chief Agamin's application to your Excellency. I have now

the honour to acquaint you that I have forwarded your Excellency's letter, with its enclosure, to Lieutenant Herbert, who will doubtless follow your instructions in the matter, reserving to myself a copy of your Excellency's letter of the 11th inst.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) NICOL IRVINE, J.P.

To his Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Gold Coast.

Copy—No. 3.

H.M.S. Espoir, Jellee Coffee, February, 1866.

Sir,—I write this letter to tell you that his Excellency the Governor of the Gold Coast has determined to punish the people of the Angola tribe for having invaded the country of the Addah people, for having burnt and destroyed the property of British merchants, and for stopping lawful trade carried on by the merchants and people at Addah; and for that purpose is sending a large army of soldiers, white men and native tribes under the Protectorate, towards the Volta. I warn you of this, as I believe the chiefs and people of Jellee Coffee have invariably been loyal people to the Queen of England, and well and kindly disposed to Her Majesty's Navy and all white men, and I therefore should be very sorry indeed to see either the town of Jellee Coffee destroyed, or its inhabitants in any way injured. Let me advise you, therefore, to take no part whatever in the war; for should the Governor find out (which sooner or later he is sure to do) that you have given, lent, or sold either men, arms, powder, or food to the enemy, or afforded them any assistance whatever, you will have to answer for it at your peril, and will get yourselves, your women, and your children into such trouble that it will not be forgotten for very long.

Trusting you are all well, and wishing you every success in legal trade, I am, obediently yours,

(Signed) M. S. L. PEILE,
Commander and Senior Officer Bight Division.

To the Chiefs and Mr. John Tay at Jellee Coffee.

True Copy (signed), E. Conran.

Cape Coast Castle, June 2, 1866.

Sir,—May I request that you will be pleased to forward this copy of a letter from Captain Peile, R.N., to the Hon. Nicol Irvine, J.P., of Accra, whose name heads the petition of the 5th from sundry merchants and traders.

(Signed) E. CONRAN,
Colonel and Administrator.

To Captain Drouet, 2nd W.I. Regiment
Commanding, at Accra.

Note.—We very much regret that this and other Gold Coast letters now inserted, &c., dated August, by some accident, did not reach us until after our September number was ready for press.—ED. *A. T.*

ABEOKUTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bashorun's House, Abeokuta, September 6, 1866.

I have the honour, by command of the *Bashorun, President-General of Abeokuta*, to request that you shall enrol his name in your list of yearly subscribers for the *African Times*. The Bashorun hopes that you will publish the enclosed ordonnance, and will always be delighted to receive communications from the "Egbas United Board of Management," lately formed for the Egba nation.

The Board of Management is established on purpose to direct the Native Government, forward civilization and promote the spread of Christianity, together with the future protection of the property of European merchants and British subjects, which have been of late so shamefully and disgracefully abused, on account of there being no proper Government to manage the misunderstandings between this place and Lagos.

The Bashorun trusts that you will always find space in your valuable journal in commenting upon the resources of this country, and the benefits to be derived by merchants and good men who may see the necessity of supporting this newborn Government, thereby fulfilling the great promise of hastening civilization, and strengthening that Christianity for which your journal speaks, month after month, on the West Coast of Africa. And knowing Abeokuta to be the very centre for commerce and fortune, and the place where Christ's Gospel has already been most firmly planted, it is the intention of this newborn Government to ring the bell round for the support of merchants and good men to aid in spreading the same far and wide among the surrounding tribes.

The Bashorun trusts that you will not be slack on your part in doing justice, by setting forth the advantages which this newborn Board of Management offers, through the assistance of the Almighty, who they trust will give knowledge and understanding to the members thereunto belonging. Tell England that their efforts to civilise and Christianise Africans by sending missionary after missionary can have but very partial success until they become convinced that something more is wanted besides sending missionaries and putting men-of-war in the water, and that is to encourage the forming of a proper Government among educated Africans, which must go hand in hand in the great work. Alas! I am also instructed to inform you, Mr. Editor, that the word "truth," in reference to the relations of Lagos and Abeokuta, has been over and again discussed by sensible men on this side of the world; and the conclusion is that to open the doors for civilization and Christianity in these parts of Africa, the Lagos Government must put away all hostile spirit and the use of might for right, and endeavour to cultivate peace and friendship with the Egba Government, in order *to secure general peace among the surrounding tribes*, which will tend ultimately to the heaping up of property between themselves. Then this part of "Africa shall soon stretch forth her hands unto God."—Your most obedient servant,

By command, GEO. W. JOHNSON,
Secretary and Director of the Egbas United Board of Management, Abeokuta.

ORDONNANCE OF THE EGBA GOVERNMENT, ABEOKUTA, IMPOSING CUSTOMS DUTIES.

"Africa shall rise."

"The Egbas United Board of Management" is established in the fourteenth year of Shomoya, Bashorun, President-General of the said Board of Management. At a special committee held on Friday, the 6th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and an adjourned meeting on Wednesday, the 11th day of the said month of October, it was proposed and agreed unanimously to authorise the levy of an export duty on all goods and produce leaving Abeokuta for Lagos and elsewhere. And whereas it would be for the civilization and improvement of this country, and for the interest of commerce and protection on the property of European merchants, native traders, and others, it was therefore enacted,

1. That it shall be lawful for any person or persons (without exception) to have free access in Abeokuta for the purposes of trade, and to export therefrom any goods or produce, passing from Abeokuta to Lagos, by the River Ogun or elsewhere, subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned.

2. That on all goods exported from Abeokuta to Lagos, by the River Ogun or elsewhere, there shall be paid the following duty in cowries or produce, at the time of such exportation—viz., ivory and shea butter, three strings of cowries on every pound; palm or nut oil, one string on every gallon; cotton, twenty cowries on every pound.

3. That all other goods not named shall be charged or chargeable with a duty of 3 per cent. on the marketable value of such goods and produce at Abeokuta at the time of such exportation.

4. That such duty shall be payable and paid at the Customhouse of Abeokuta, on all such goods and produce as shall be intended to be exported by the River Ogun, and that on such payment a permit for the export thereof shall be granted by the collector, deputy-collector, or such other person or persons as shall be duly appointed for that purpose, and that such permit shall be sent with, and accompany such goods or produce, on their exportation, and shall be produced, if required, by any person or persons in charge of such goods or produce; and that the payment of the duty on goods and produce exported overland shall be payable at such place as shall be from time to time appointed.

5. That any goods or produce being exported from Abeokuta by the River Ogun or elsewhere for which a permit shall not on demand be produced to any person appointed for the examination of such permits, shall and may be seized; and on proof before the Board of Management, or any four justices of the peace appointed for that purpose, and the non-production of such permit, the goods or produce shall be declared forfeited; and on sale, the proceeds of such sale shall, after deducting the necessary expenses, be paid as follows—viz., one-third thereof to the seizor and collector, and the balance to the Treasurer of the Board of Management for the use of the Egba Government.

6. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately on the publication thereof.

Passed in the Board of Management this 11th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and confirmed on the 23rd day of March, 1866.

By command,
SHOMOYA, BASHORUN, President-General.
GEO. W. JOHNSON, Secretary and Director.

ABEOKUTA, Sept. 3.—The duty disputes are not yet settled: it is not popular; many evade payment by not shipping their produce at Aro. The oil trade has given employment to our mercantile friends of late; eleven and a-half heads of cowries are paid for the measure of palm-oil, and nine and a-half, in some cases ten, heads, for black oil. There is a greater demand for silver at three heads the dollar; there is an expectation that cowries will fall in value in consequence.—*Ice Irohin.*

The Yoruba Country is not yet settled; the old Yoruba towns are jealous and suspicious of the rising strength of Ibadan."—*Idem.*

There is much war and trouble in the Niger districts in the neighbourhood of Onitsha.

ACCRA MERCHANTS' PETITION.

(Continued from P. 133, Vol. V., No. 60, June, 1866.)

And, if in the latter case, whether they are to appeal to native law for redress.

If British protection is still to be granted, your petitioners respectfully beg that measures may be adopted having for their object an early termination of this Awoonlah war on an honourable footing, and in a measure that will tend to the restoration of commerce in these parts, and a free navigation of the River Volta all along that portion of it which runs through the Protected Territory.

Your petitioners, in the meantime, respectfully suggest that, pending the settlement of these disturbances, a blockade be declared of all the Awoonlah ports from the river Volta to Keggee, as your petitioners have reason to believe that the enemy have recently purchased war stores on a large scale from shipping, especially at Jellee Coffee.

Your petitioners, in conclusion, would desire to call your Excellency's notice to the fact that the King of Aquamboe has not yet been called to account for the insult offered to Her Majesty's Government in assaulting the messengers which your Excellency dispatched to him with directions to proceed to Accra, and also to the fact of this same chief having assisted the enemy in the late campaign in a very material manner.

Your petitioners respectfully beg that measures may be adopted to compel him to render an account of his conduct in the late campaign, and open the navigation of that part of the Volta passing through his dominions.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) Nicol Irvine, L. Hesse, G. T. H. Lyall, J. Briand, W. P. Gunnell, T. B. Freeman, S. Brænner, W. G. Bruce, W. Addoe, J. J. Clayton, and many others.

ABYSSINIA.

Some French papers have published a long account of a great battle said to have been fought between the armies of King Theodore and the insurgents of Tigné and Choa, two of the principal and most civilised provinces of that country. The two armies are stated at about 100,000 men each. No decided victory was gained, but the King's army remained masters of the field of battle. The killed and wounded in the two armies were estimated at some 70,000! The report adds that the King, "in a rage, had sent an order on the 1st August for the immediate execution of the English captives, Cameron, Rassam, Stern, &c., &c." We venture yet to hope that this is all an invention. Should it, however, prove to be true, we may possibly give the published details of the battle, which are *curious, if correct.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Duke Town, Old Calabar, August, 1866.

Sir,—I do not see that you publish anything about our place here, and I am sure it will do good if you will publish a little. We coloured British subjects are hardly put to it here between the supercargoes and the natives. If any one of us owes a trifle (five or six dollars) to a native, they go to his house and seize all he has; but if a native owes a butt of palm oil to us, he never pays quietly; we are often beaten instead of paid, as they say they don't mind paying the fine. Our lives are always in danger here, though we sometimes get a little protection, as when we had the row with poor Mr. Scholefield, when the King was asked to punish some who were said to have given offence, or if not, to seize them and send them on board the merchant ships, that the supercargoes might flog them; but the King would not, and said they must take the matter to the Supreme Court on the West Coast to settle it; that he could not punish or detain British subjects for them while he did not find any fault in them. This was the King's decision; and he ought to be praised for it.

I have called Mr. Scholefield poor Scholefield because of his sad end. Mr. John H. Scholefield was representative here of a Liverpool house. A Calabar man came on board his ship at nine at night, and asked for goods, as he had some oil to give. S. said, "No, but I will go on shore with you in your own canoe." The man said, "No, captain; take your own." S. said, "No, I go in yours; and if you tell me lies, I shall bring you off and give you a good flogging." (He was a very severe man; he never forgave anything in his own people, though he went to church more than some other supercargoes here, and so called himself a Christian.) He ordered the ship's gig to follow him, and save him if the canoe should capsize. He ordered his Kroo boys not to keep too near the canoe. The canoeman, knowing he had no oil to sell to Scholefield, who would therefore take him back and flog him, capsized the canoe. The Kroo boys who were with him in the canoe were picked up by the gig, but Scholefield could not be found, the canoe not being visible in the darkness (eleven P.M.). In the morning Mr. Scholefield was found dead *under* the canoe, near the road leading to the Court of Equity. He was buried July 12.

The Consul is coming to hold an inquiry into this, and I will send you word all about it.—Yours, ——.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

It is reported that Colonel D'Arcy has been recalled from the Gambia, that the present Administrator at Lagos is to take his place; that Commander Glover, R.N., will resume his post at Lagos; and that Colonel Conran will arrive in England from Cape Coast by next mail, when his successor will be appointed.

The decree for the annexation of Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, and Frankfort, to Prussia, is dated September 20, 1866, and commences as follows: "We, William, by the grace of God, King of Prussia, &c., order, with the agreement of both Houses of Parliament, what follows: 1. The kingdom of Hanover, the electorate of Hesse, the duchy of Nassau, and the free town of Frankfort are, conformably with Article 2 of the deed of constitution for the Prussian State, to be united for ever with the Prussian monarchy. 2. The Prussian Constitution is to come into force in these districts on the 1st of October, 1867," &c. &c.

The Princess Dagmar of Denmark, sister to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, arrived at Cronstadt from Denmark on September 26. Her marriage with the heir of the Russian Empire will take place in November.

Candia is in insurrection against the Turkish Government. It is said that the insurgent Christians have beaten the Turkish and Egyptian troops in several engagements. The Turks deny this.

Peace was signed between Austria and Italy on October 3, and all the former possessions of Austria in Italy have been given up to the French Commissioner, and by him to the Italian authorities. The Italian troops have entered Venice.

The London and Asiatic Bank has stopped payment.

The Bank of Queensland is to be wound up. The loss to the shareholders, it is said, will not exceed 8*l.* per share.

The Empress of Mexico, now in Rome (sister of the present King of the Belgians), is said to have lost her reason, "under the shock caused by so many hopes suddenly disappointed."

A target, 30 feet broad, 30 feet high, 9 feet thick of solid granite blocks faced with rolled iron plates 4 inches thick, erected at Fortress Monroe, U.S.A., was entirely destroyed by eleven shots fired at 350 yards from 16-inch and 12-inch guns! Such is the amazing power of modern artillery.

All the European armies are now being armed with breech-loading rifles.

Mr. Flad goes out to Abyssinia with an autograph letter from Her Majesty the Queen to King Theodore, to obtain the release of Consul Cameron and the missionaries, if still alive. Colonel Merewether will follow Mr. Flad, with suitable presents for the Abyssinian monarch, as far as Massowah, where he will await the result of Mr. Flad's mission before he proceeds further.

A frightful gale occurred off the east coast of Newfoundland on the 22nd of September. A French frigate and several coasters were lost at St. Pierre. Over 150 dead bodies were washed ashore at St. Pierre.

The war contribution imposed by the Prussians upon Saxony is eight millions of thalers, or 1,200,000*l.* sterling.

THE NETHERLANDS.—The King has issued a proclamation, declaring that it is impossible to govern with a Second Chamber constituted like the one which has just been dissolved, as the division existing between Government and representatives occasioned continual changes in the Ministry which were prejudicial to the prosperity of the country.

THE PORTSMOUTH FORTIFICATIONS.—It has been decided by the engineers of the War Department to alter the construction of the Spithead forts from a combination of granite and iron to one entirely of iron of the most massive character.

WEST INDIA MAIL, BY TASMANIAN, October 15.—A good deal of dysentery and fever prevailed at Barbadoes. Two cases of yellow fever occurred on board shortly after leaving St. Thomas, both of which proved fatal.

Yellow fever is still prevalent at St. Thomas.

DIED.

At Krepee, greatly lamented, on the 26th July, Mr. Edward Wallace Bruce, merchant. Many will mourn his loss.

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To be published, price 2s. 6d. each, as soon as 400 copies are subscribed for, the following works, by Mr. WILLIAM RAINY, of No. 3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, London, Barrister-at-law, Author of "The Censor Censured; or the Calumnies of Captain Burton on the Africans of Sierra Leone Refuted":—

No. 1.

The Life and Judicial Acts of His Honour John Carr, Chief Justice of Sierra Leone,

Extending over a Quarter of a Century.

Also, an Inquiry as to what Public Services he has rendered in his capacity of a Member of the Legislative Council in the Diffusion of Education, the Extension of Commerce, or the Administration of Justice at Sierra Leone and its Dependencies.

No. 2.

An Inquiry into the General Administration of the Government of Sierra Leone by Major Samuel Wensley Blackall:

Including the Appointments he has Conferred, as well as the Official Acts he has Sustained.

Also, a Minute Investigation as to the Validity of the Grounds upon which he has endeavoured to Justify the virtual Extinction of Trial by Jury in Civil Actions, by his unconstitutional Transfer of that Ancient Right into the hands of his Stipendiary Magistrates; with some Remarks upon the Cause which Constrained him to Abandon the Ordinance to Compel poor African Plaintiffs to give Security for Costs in Actions for Personal Wrongs before they could obtain Redress in the Supreme Court.

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

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BEADS.—Agras, Seed, Corals, Popopipes, Pounds, and every other description.

PROVISIONS.—Jams, Sardines, Potted Meats, Potted Fish, Potted Soups, Biscuits (tins), Geneva, Brandy, Rum.

SUNDRIES.—Muskets, Cowries, Flints, Glass Goods, Combs, Clothing, Crockery, Stationery.

AGENCIES.—Rimmel's: Pomades, Essences, and Perfumery. Forbes': Provisions of every description. Lamplough's: Drugs and Medicines.

All orders addressed to M. L. LEVIN, 1, Bevis Marks, London, E.C., will receive attention per return mail.

WEST COAST of AFRICA, MADEIRA, TENERIFFE.—The African Steamship Company's vessels (carrying Her Majesty's Mails) leave LIVERPOOL monthly, with goods and passengers, proceeding direct to MADEIRA, TENERIFFE, BATHURST, SIERRA LEONE, MONROVIA, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, JELLA COFFEE, LAGOS, BENIN, BONNY, FERNANDO PO, OLD CALABAR, and CAMEROONS.

Attention is directed to alterations in the ports of call which come into operation by this packet.

NOTE.—The Company's floating depôt at Sierra Leone being about to be removed, goods for that port will meanwhile be landed direct from the Company's steamers at ship's expense, but shipper's risk.

Goods for CAMEROONS must (for the present) be taken from alongside at Green Patch, at consignee's risk and expense, but the Company will shortly provide a small sailing vessel to convey cargo between the steamers at Green Patch and the anchorage at Cameroons, at shipper's risk.

NOTICE.—No passengers, goods, or parcels can be taken for MADEIRA or TENERIFFE until the removal of the quarantine restrictions imposed at those places.

The fast and powerful Steamship CALABAR, 1,208 tons, and 250-horse power, A. J. M. CROFT, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, at 11 A.M.

Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the North Landing Stage at 93.0 A.M. punctually.

Goods and heavy baggage must be alongside the ship at the loading berth, Huskisson Dock, not later than 6 P.M. on the 22nd.

No goods or parcels can be shipped without pre-payment of freight.

NOTICE.—Owing to alterations under the new postal contract in the dates of arrival at Liverpool of the mail packets, it is decided to defer commencing the bi-monthly sailings until January next; thenceforward, the dates of departure from Liverpool will be the 10th and 24th, and the arrivals the 3rd and 17th of each month.

For further information apply in Liverpool to the Company's Agents, Messrs. FLETCHER and PARR, 23, Castle-street, or at the Company's offices, No. 14, Leadenhall-street, London.

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