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[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		PAGE
West African Mails	66	The Rumoured Return of Captain Glover as Administrator.....	68
African Steamship Company.....	66	Cape Coast Female Native School	70
Brutal and Cowardly Assault on a Native Agent of the "African Times".....	66	Amounts due to "African Times" received from Africa	70
The New Sierra Leone Ordinance.....	66	Christmas-day and New Year's-day	70
Superior General Education at Sierra Leone by the Church Missionary Society	67	Fibres—China Grass	71
Non-Improvement in Education at Cape Coast	67	Appeals from Sierra Leone—Abolition of Trial by Jury	71
Military Officers sitting as Judges or Magistrates	67	Rhea, or China Grass	72
African Climate v. Brandy Bottle	68	Miscellaneous	72
The Awoonah War	68	Appeal Cases from Sierra Leone—Judgments.....	73
		Native Africans Customs—Advantages of British Protection.....	74

RHEEA OR CHINA ("GRASS") NETTLE.

(*Boomeria nivea*; *Urtica nivea*; *U. tenacissima*.)



a, Female Flower; b, Cluster of ditto; c, Male Flower; d, Seeds, natural size; e, ditto magnified.

Important
(Africa)

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The African Company's steamer *Mandingo*, Captain Lowry, arrived at Liverpool on Monday, 10th December, at noon. She brought 2,000 ounces of gold dust, and 2,700l. in specie, together with a large cargo and 35 passengers. Her dates were—Benin, October 26; Cameroons, November 1; Old Calabar, 3; Fernando Po, 4; Brass River, 6; Bonny, 6; Lagos, 9; Accra, 11; Cape Coast Castle, 13; Cape Palmas, 15; Sierra Leone, 21; Bathurst, 25; Teneriffe, 30; and Madeira, December 3. There is no exciting news by this arrival every part of the coast being singularly quiet and free from disturbances. Contrary to general expectation, the accession of the son of King Pebble (who was educated in England) was received with general acclamations, and the peace of the country had been in no way disturbed. The other tribes, who were on the point of fighting the Chagou when the last steamer left, appear to have settled their differences.

At Benin, Fernando Po, Cameroons, Old Calabar, Brass River, and Bonny, the health was good, but trade was rather dull. At Lagos and Accra the health was good, and trade continued brisk. At Cape Coast Castle, Cape Palmas, Sierra Leone, Bathurst, Teneriffe, and Madeira, although the health was good, trade was rather quiet.

AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the offices, 14, Leadenhall-street, on Tuesday, the 4th December; Mr. P. D. Hadow in the chair.

The report of the directors having been read,

The CHAIRMAN, in moving that the report be received and adopted, remarked that since the last meeting the new contract had been obtained, and was now in operation. They had made a provision of 7½ per cent. for depreciation, and if things went on as well as they had, he should like to see that increased. The mail service was in a very satisfactory condition, the steamers were all in good order, and the new vessels had not only started with good cargoes, but had performed their work within the time required by the contract. The time was eight and a-half days less than under the old contract, but though the amount was 10,000l. less he hoped they would be able to work it as satisfactorily, in a pecuniary sense, as they had worked the old contract. There was only one other point to which he need refer, and that was the experimental additional line. The fact was that there were at the present time more goods to be carried than they could well carry. They had been obliged frequently to shut out a considerable amount of cargo. There was not sufficient to justify any prudent persons in putting on vessels to compete with this company, but the company had vessels laid up, and they thought it would be a fair experiment to work them alternately with the others, and try what could be done. If they found the experiment unsatisfactory they should immediately discontinue it. If, on the other hand, it did not pay more than was barely sufficient to cover the working expenses, he thought it would be worth their while to continue it, as there was no doubt that increased accommodation brought with it, in course of time, an increase of traffic. (Hear, hear.) He assured them, however, that no large outlay would be incurred in carrying out the experiment if it obtained the sanction of the shareholders. It would be tried in a favourable season, and the directors had every reason to believe it would conduce to the profit of the concern. (Hear, hear.) With these observations he begged to move the adoption of the report.

Mr. BROWN seconded the motion.

A SHAREHOLDER asked if the vessels to be employed on the extra line were now lying idle.

The CHAIRMAN said they had two of them lying idle. With regard to the *Retriever*, she was coming home, and if she did not require much repair, it was proposed to employ her in carrying coals from Swansea or Cardiff to their vessels at Liverpool, by which they could effect a considerable saving. If she required much repair they should sell her.

The report was then adopted.

The CHAIRMAN moved that a dividend be paid at the rate of 8s. per share, free of income-tax, for the half-year ending 31st October.

The motion was seconded by a SHAREHOLDER and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. BOLSTER said he found by the balance-sheet that they had a sum of 33,000l. to their credit after providing for depreciation and meeting all the claims against them, and he suggested that this sum should be employed either in giving the shareholders a bonus, or in making the shares 13l. paid, so as to reduce their liability from 10l. a share to 7l.

The CHAIRMAN said the question had been fully considered by the board, and the conclusion which they came to was that just at the commencement of a new contract it would not be wise or

prudent to adopt either of the courses suggested. With regard to the liability on the shares, he had no doubt that many proprietors would be glad to see it reduced, but it should be remembered that this company was not like other companies, which might at any moment be compelled to make a call on their shareholders. It was not so with this company. They had as many ships as were required to carry out their contract and to spare, so that there was no prospect of a call being made. The liability of the shareholders was merely nominal. (Hear, hear.)

A SHAREHOLDER said that if the profits of the company enabled a larger dividend to be paid, he thought the shareholders ought to get it. (Hear.)

The CHAIRMAN reminded the meeting that the directors were amongst the largest shareholders, and they were as anxious as any of them to receive a large dividend if they saw that it could be paid with safety.

A vote of thanks was then given to the chairman and directors and to the secretary, which concluded the proceedings.

BRUTAL AND COWARDLY ASSAULT ON A NATIVE AGENT OF THE "AFRICAN TIMES."

Letters from Bathurst give the following particulars of an infamous assault on the agent of the *African Times* at that place. On the evening of the 24th November Dr. Oakes, P.M. Officer from Cape Coast, en route for England by the mail steamer *Mandingo*, then in the river, and Elliott, Staff-Assistant Surgeon, called at the shop of Mr. Harry Finden, to whom Elliott said, "Is this Finden's shop?" and then, "Are all the black niggers well?" Finden asked what he meant, when he repeated, "Are all the black niggers well?" adding that he had seen Finden's name many times in the *African Times*, as well as the signatures of many other black niggers. Finden told him he was no gentleman, or he would know better, and finally requested him to leave his shop. Elliott then, standing by the doorway, struck Finden with his fist and with a stick, and then, seizing him by the shirt-collar, dragged him into the street. Finden then returned the blows, and the two were fighting, when Dr. Oakes came behind Finden, and, with a bludgeon or heavy riding-whip, cut open his head. A Mr. Foster, hearing the uproar, came to Finden's assistance, and finding he could not otherwise make Dr. Oakes desist, succeeded, after a struggle, in wresting his bludgeon or riding-whip from him, but for which Finden's head would have been smashed to pieces by him. Finally, on a constable coming, both the army doctors took to their heels, calling out for a file of the guard. Finden applied immediately to Mr. Melton, the acting Police Magistrate, and got a warrant for their apprehension. The letters being closed soon after, to save the mail steamer for England, do not say whether the warrant could be put in force; but it certainly could not as regards Dr. Oakes, who appears to have got on board and returned to England in the *Mandingo*.

We make no comments at present on this shameful act of violence. We shall bring the whole matter before the Secretary of State for War, and, if necessary, before the House of Commons. We wait the arrival of further particulars, and of depositions on oath.

THE NEW SIERRA LEONE ORDINANCE.

Extract from Ordinance No. 4, 1866 (16th November), entitled "An Ordinance to make further provision for the Administration of Justice within the Settlement of Sierra Leone, and its Dependencies."

Art. XI. That in any action at law in the said Supreme Court, when the parties, plaintiff and defendant, in any such action shall join issue on any matter of fact, the trial of such issue or issues shall and may be by one or more of the Judges of the said Court without a jury; and the decision of the said Judge or Judges in every cause or action tried without a jury, shall be of the same effect as the verdict of a jury, and shall be taken and adjudged to be, and shall be recorded as, the judgment of the said Supreme Court; and the proceedings upon and after such trial, as to the power of the Court or Judge, the evidence, and otherwise, shall be the same as in the case of trial by jury.

Art. XIII. In any action tried in the said Supreme Court by and before any Judge thereof in which the damages assessed by the said Court or any Judge thereof shall be less than one hundred pounds, the said Court or such Judge is hereby empowered either to refuse costs to the plaintiff, or to reduce such costs to any amount he may deem proper.

PROGRESS OF POPULATION IN SIERRA LEONE.—The population in 1811 was 4,500, of whom 2,500 were liberated slaves. In 1833, it was 29,764; and in 1861, 42,000. The number of slaves liberated between 1819 and 1833 was 27,167.

SUPERIOR GENERAL EDUCATION AT SIERRA LEONE BY THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

November 19, 1866.

Sir,—At last there will be a college for general education in Western Africa, under the auspices of the invaluable Church Missionary Society. A Mr. Alcock has been sent out as principal of Fourah Bay College, to open it not only for students of divinity preparing for holy orders, but for students to receive a general education.

Mr. Alcock, so far as I could observe, is truly a good man, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, and does not entertain a prejudice to colour. How these good qualities of his will withstand the heat of the climate, and the biased statements of the ill-disposed, the future will tell.

It is now time for the local government to take the initiative, and establish Regius professors. It is high time to abolish that system of school-boy's teaching, and let a professor be appointed to one or two subjects, and let him give by lectures the results of extensive readings and researches. The subject will be better mastered by the teachers themselves, and the students will reap largely the benefit. Lectures should be given in theory and practice of education, classics, mathematics, natural philosophy, mensuration, and bookkeeping; English language and literature, French, German, Hebrew, history in general, natural history, geology, mineralogy, physiology, zoology and botany, chemistry, moral and political philosophy, civil and commercial law, drawing and music, besides the various subjects in divinity.

That Fourah Bay College should be opened to all the country, was the general cry for the last fifteen years. Now that it is about to be realized, I hope it will be well supported by the well to do in the colony. It is further of the very highest importance that a medical school should be attached to this college, for not until such a school is established will the Africans be able to oppose with energy and force the wild doctrines of modern anthropologists.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

AN AFRICAN WHO LOVES HIS RACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 10, 1866.

Sir,—I am indeed thankful for the communication which reached you in September last, and doubly so to my unknown friend "R.," who gave you such a truthful account of the case Oakes v. Finlason. One omission, however, I feel called upon to supply, as it is most material. The case that Captain A. H. Hall accuses me publicly on the bench of having "uttered a gross falsehood in," was one in which I appeared as advocate for a client who thought it right, through me, to complain to the Chief Justice against Captain Hall, for having dismissed a case without giving the plaintiff due notice according to law. This was all the crime I committed, and for which a British magistrate, sitting in a British court of justice, used the language above stated, forgetting that what I had said before the Supreme Court against him, as a petty dispenser of justice, I had a right to say, he having in my opinion forced me to appeal (which the law allows) to a superior court. I say, and so will every honest man, that Captain Hall had no right to revenge himself personally on me, when he was quite aware that on the bench I dared not have retaliated.

It is universally admitted that Captain Hall was the aggressor on this occasion; he admitted it himself to the Judge in open court, which caused his Honour to make the remarks he did.

After this, it does seem hard that I should be punished in the way I have been, for by Judge Hackett's judgment (as rendered by the clerk of the court) I am not allowed to act even as an attorney or agent for the term of my natural life—that should any one invest me with a power of attorney the courts on the Gold Coast would not permit me to act. Surely the Secretary of State for the Colonies would never sanction such an extraordinary judgment? If I had put myself in contempt of court (which I deny), the law says fine or imprisonment is the punishment; but why should the law be strained to the unheard-of limit it has been in this instance?

During the many years I have had the privilege of practising in Her Majesty's courts of law on this coast, I have never once been in contempt of court; and to prove how much my conduct must have been appreciated, I was appointed to do the duties of Queen's Advocate during the trial of three men charged with murder, who were duly convicted and executed a few months ago. Besides, this it is well known that I enjoyed the confidence of nearly all the principal merchants and inhabitants of the Gold Coast, whose interests I largely represented in Her Majesty's courts of law. These interests have suffered most severely, and I must say unjustly, because I consider the justice of the case might have been met, and Captain Hall's dignity (?) upheld, by fining or imprisoning me, according to the common and usual course of law in such cases made and provided. I

maintain that, if punished, I ought to have been punished in conformity with the wording of the order used by Judge Hackett, which runs thus:—

Supreme Court, Cape Coast,

Monday, the sixth day of August, 1866.

It is hereby ordered that William Charles Finlason, of Cape Coast, do show cause, within four days from date hereof, why he should not be committed for certain trespasses and contempts against Her Majesty's Stipendiary Magistrate on the Gold Coast. (Signed) WILLIAM HACKETT, Chief Justice.

Failing to comply with the above order, what would naturally be expected? I leave it for you, Mr. Editor, to answer for me.

I would not, Sir, have written you just yet on this subject (having every confidence in Governor Blackall's sense of justice, to whom I have made an appeal, and I trust not in vain), but for the letter signed "R." appearing in your valued journal, and your independent remarks thereon.

Dr. Oakes, I forgot to mention, obtained judgment for the full amount of 12l. 12s. at the hands of his friend and brother officer. Of course I did not appeal, but paid the money.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully, WILLIAM CHARLES FINLASON.

NON-IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—For some few years Cape Coast was much commended as to the education given in the Government School. But things are sadly changed. This same Government School, which is the only school, except the Wesleyan Missionary's, on the Gold Coast, is now a playhouse. It has pleased his Excellency the Administrator to introduce discharged soldiers (such as Brown and E. Bayne) into this school as schoolmasters. The latter, who is the present schoolmaster, is undeniably ignorant of the English language; he really speaks no other language but Oquoo. For instance: asking a boy for his book, he says, "Were nar book," &c. I am at a loss to imagine the reason why Colonel Conran could place such persons in this school as schoolmasters (whether from motives of favouritism or benignity), the pupils in which (from the previous instructions given them by a European schoolmaster, John Burns, who was really capable of imparting instruction) are indubitably smart. These boys are now suffering under the hand of the unqualified master, Bayne—a man dull of apprehension, who, fearing his scholars will shame him if he continues them in the school, threatens them with expulsion. His assistants were once astounded to find him arguing with a boy as regards the word *efface*. When the boy used this word, he told him that he never heard it before, and that it is not an English word, and continued arguing till the boy proved the existence of the word by an English dictionary. This may be all very well, but I cannot refrain from telling Colonel Conran through you, as well as the Superintendent, the Rev. Mr. Blake, that it would have been better had his Excellency practically reflected on the orders given from home in matters of education generally, and not become the antagonist of civilians and collegians, who seem to be all especially odious to him.—I am, yours faithfully, AFRICAN.

MILITARY OFFICERS SITTING AS JUDGES OR MAGISTRATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Nov. 12, 1866.

Sir,—Unexpectedly, and I may say most unaccountably, Captain A. H. Hall, of the 2nd West India Regiment, and lately acting Stipendiary Magistrate at Cape Coast, left this place to-day in the Royal mail steamer *Mandingo* for Liverpool.

He cannot boast (I am afraid) of having left an enviable notoriety, for it is really a matter of the greatest surprise that he did not meet with the fate of Baron von Kettelholz, of Morant Bay. One thing is certain, that the poor Baron could never have carried oppression and injustice to the absurd pitch that Captain Hall has done here as Stipendiary Magistrate.

In fact, in no community but the *Gold Coast* would it have been tolerated. Poor helpless natives have been cast into dungeons with iron chains on their legs for unknowingly infringing a *novel* tax. Gentlemen's houses have been unceremoniously entered, to satisfy the *personal animosity* of Captain Hall and the agent for Messrs. Forster and Smith, and property sold without the *vestige of authority*, save the Queen's uniform that clothed the men who carried out the orders of the above gentlemen, in their *actual presence*. At one of the above sales the agent referred to very nearly lost his life from a serious accident which was occasioned by his being thrown out of a carriage he bought at the sale. This accident confined him to his bed or house for several weeks. It is to be hoped that the *driver* of this conveyance and the *African climate* will not be denounced as the cause of this sad catastrophe. Africa requires better examples

than these are to elevate her in the scale of civilization. Captain Hall's illness must not be put down to the *climates* of this country.—Yours truly,
AN EYE-WITNESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 12, 1866.

Sir,—The Governor-in-Chief has sent a reply to the petition of King Aggrey and the chiefs of this place. I will give all the account next month. The King was sent for to Government House, and treated much as usual of late. What is said to have been Governor Blackall's reply was read, but a copy was refused. None of the prayers in the petition were answered; the Governor-in-Chief said it only contained objections and abuse, and that we are not sufficiently qualified to have self-government here, &c., &c.

I am afraid the way in which Governor Blackall supports Colonel Conran's evil acts against the interests of the people here may one day bring on a revolution, or the people will pray the Queen to remove her protection from them, as they would do better without it. The people see nothing that the Governor is doing for them, except imposing license and other duties, and fines, and that oppression and vindictive feelings have full play against them.

No doubt you must have heard that the King of Ashantee has sent messengers down here to tell the Administrator that he never had proposed terms of peace with the Government, but that it was the Colonel who proposed peace, and that if he did not send him the refugee Gaynin he had better send to him no more.

Full news of all this next month. In haste, yours, O.

AFRICAN CLIMATE v. BRANDY BOTTLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 10, 1866.

Sir,—What a pity that "One who has Escaped the Jaws of Death" does not, after so narrow an escape, speak candidly.

A great many officers died here, it is true, but does the above gentleman mean to say that the brandy bottle was not the cause of half the deaths in Cape Coast and the Gold Coast generally? If so, I can prove to his satisfaction that nearly all the victims to fever here assisted their exit materially by use of the brandy bottle. The Gold Coast is the healthiest part of Western Africa. I have been out nearly eight years, and I have never been seriously ill.

I have been out for four years this voyage, and I never enjoyed better health than I am doing now, but I must inform you that I am no friend to the

BRANDY BOTTLE.

THE AWOONAH WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Christiansburg, Accra, November 10, 1866.

Sir,—There is a good deal of sensation here on account of the still existing Awoonah war. The Governor left here on October 4, in Her Majesty's ship Obero, in company with Messrs. Irvine and Briandt, to Jellie Coffee, about this troublesome affair. The Awoonah people expressed some desire that peace should be made, but would not comply with the terms proposed by the Governor—namely,

1. That Geraldo, being the sole cause of this quarrel, should be given up.

2. That indemnity of 2,000 dollars be paid by them, to be distributed amongst the greatest sufferers in this war.

To which they answered as follows:—

1. Geraldo is a stranger here, and a native of Ahquay, and we cannot deliver him, this being contrary to the laws of Awoonah to give up strangers.

2. We have been the greatest sufferers, having lost 1,000 killed, and property destroyed, and are not able, therefore, to pay any indemnity.

The Governor left them, and came to Accra, and left the same evening for Cape Coast.

But while we all are waiting to know what the Governor intends doing, reports have reached the merchants and residents here that some of the tribes allied to the enemy have occupied the opposite banks of the Volta, as they did last year; have caught eighteen people belonging to us, men, women, and children; the former, we have heard, have been already executed. We have addressed the Governor on this subject, and are waiting for his final reply. In the meantime the people are preparing to take the field again.—Yours, &c., B.

DOWNING-STREET, DEC. 6.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint George Blankson, Esq., to be a member of the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast Settlement on the Western Coast of Africa.

* The signature appended to a letter in the *Times* denouncing the climate of Africa, and to which we alluded in our September Number.—Ed. A.T.

THE RUMOURED RETURN OF CAPTAIN GLOVER AS ADMINISTRATOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, November 8, 1866.

Sir,—Since Captain Glover left this place and a substitute (*pro tempore*, as it is now said) arrived, the inhabitants were remaining at ease, being satisfied with the recent change. But alas for the fickleness of the English Government! Since Admiral Patey's arrival as Administrator, we have had only one cause for complaint, and that is, his robbing Peter to pay Paul. New roads are being made throughout the town, order and decency are enforced, and sanitary improvements have been pressed forward. Public wells are better arranged; they have roofs over them, and are furnished with implements to facilitate the drawing of water. All this is to his praise. But what for the poor people whose houses the Executive has ordered to be broken down, and who are turned out of their humble huts for the benefit of the public, without hitherto any remuneration? As a Christian Administrator, we expect him to show humanity as well as vigour. Profession without fruit is a mockery; and we trust he is making arrangements to compensate the poor people with such sums as will enable them to put up other houses against the next wet season. We do not know much of Admiral Patey, but since his arrival here the Government House has been cleared of many abominations. Heretofore, it was the seat of every vice imaginable. The satanical Tappa made it once the inner chamber of his fetish, and the Mohammedans their mosque; but at present it is the seat of religious principles and morals, and there has not been anything between the local Government and the surrounding chiefs to cause alarm.

On the eve of the 24th ultimo, however, we were alarmed with an unusual salute from the Mohammedan quarter, when we learned for the first time that Captain Glover is expected to return here next month,* and that Admiral Patey will leave this for the Gambia. If this be true, we have indeed reason to regret the change. Captain Glover, then, we suppose, was only called home till trade should revive, and now he is to be returned, with his odious staff of officers—those who, in conjunction with him, inflicted so much injury on Lagos. It is understood, however, that one of that staff, a Mr. U., is to be Administrator for Cape Coast; but others it seems are to come back.† We see our destiny. Shame to the English Government! Fine Christian and moral examples they send us; but what do they care? We will not, however, believe the report. It cannot be true. If, after all the exposures in your valuable journal of Lieutenant Glover's maladministration, Her Majesty's Government has decided to send him here, we have reason to be afraid; and the prosperity of Lagos may be altogether destroyed. The worst had passed away, we hoped, and Lagos was reviving; but alas for the future! Are we to be looked down upon again as a host of savages, to be ruled by a Mohammedan prince? Are we not the subjects of enlightened England? We solemnly protest against Captain Glover coming back to this place. We love to live at peace, and to be quietly governed. We are no slaves. "The dog will never take the water if you begin by throwing him in." We want gentle encouragement, and not to be so severely dealt with as under that maladministration which so long existed. A woman in pregnancy was then known to have received castigation from the Mohammedan police till abortion ensued. Respectable farmers were shamefully handcuffed at their farms, and brought in a perfect state of nudity through the town for nought; class-leaders had been threatened with imprisonment for keeping their Sabbath morning classes; men and women had been sold to hopeless slavery by one of the Governor's pets stationed to keep up the blockade; petty hawkers' property had been known to be pilfered in the markets by the armed police without censure; these, and a host of other enormities had been perpetrated, and if not all, many at least of these have been exposed. Merchants and traders were restricted in the transaction of their business. And is all this to be re-commenced?

The speech of the Earl of Carnarvon that you quote from was never meant for us; it applies to Europeans, and no one else; this is not the time for us to put our trust in such a speech. The Secretary of State has been changed, but the Office remains the same. We certainly could not complain while there is no cause; and when there is, and we do so, there is no effect. Have we not memorialized the Secretary of State now and again of the injustice we poor Africans have suffered from the tyrannical hands of Lieutenant Glover? Mr. Editor, we say again we do not believe the report of his coming back here. What would be the feelings of the Yorubas and Egbas? The Mohammedans, Kosoko and Tappa, would of course rejoice greatly that their charms have effected their end. It is said that Captain Glover, too, has

* Captain Glover went out by the October mail, to resume the Government of Lagos.—Ed. A.T.

† We shall keep our eye on all appointments made.—Ed. A.T.

a great belief in charms, as a preventive to ill-fate; and it was currently reported, when the Governor-in-Chief came down from Sierra Leone to make us a visit, that cowries and bullocks were given to the Mohammedans for charms and sacrifices to prevent the Governor-in-Chief from listening to any complaints. But very grievous complaints were forwarded by farmers and traders to Governor Blackall, who promised them redress. Where are the redresses? Are they forthcoming? We do not see them. The oil and cotton season is fast approaching; and the mere name of Glover is enough to blast every hope of business. Merchants are now afraid to give out goods to their customers for Abeokuta, because every one is expecting the roads to be closed against trade as soon as Captain Glover reaches here. We have all been striving in business labour, and anticipating our reward at the next season. We want to pay off our debts, which we incurred, not from want of prudence on our part, but from the hostile administration of this Government since the session. We aspire to live like African gentlemen; but the news of Glover's appointment paralyzes our hopes. For seven years we have been suffering from war and bad feeling. Is it not time for us to enjoy peace and a good peace policy? The wise man says, "A time for every purpose under the sun." If you were here you would pity the missionaries; for they do not spare their breath in declaring against tribal feelings; and through their admonition, Sabbath after Sabbath, tribal feelings begin to die away, and unity and peace begin to exist. And is all this to be destroyed? I have written nothing but the truth, and it cannot be denied. Keep away Captain Glover and his people from us.—Yours, &c., LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, November 9, 1866.

Sir,—We have been hitherto silent, and consequently are being duped. The fault is not on you, who have manifested a willingness to expose whatever wrongs are done to the Africans, and to take up their cause warmly, in spite of threat and censure, if they but lay their injuries before you; this we have left undone, because our conclusion was that truth, like light, cannot be hid; right will surely defend itself. We supposed this conclusion was eventually correct on the arrival of Rear-Admiral Patey to take the administration of this Government; and to his credit we state that things are going on quietly and steadily, notwithstanding that for the sanitary improvement of the colony roads are being made which swept away the dwellings of many of the inhabitants and caused them no little inconvenience, *while no compensation is yet made*; yet the judicious manner in which the Administrator worked obliged the people to acquiesce. His neutrality as regards tribal feelings, and the success which follows this in the revival of legitimate commerce, point him out as a model for administrators, not omitting his religious example, which combined, make him beloved by all. Had not the extravagance of his predecessor rendered it impossible to grant compensation at present to owners of premises, the affection of the public generally would, to an unlimited degree, be centred on him. We had anticipated that he would long be spared and continued to carry out his good intentions; but, to our surprise, it is rumoured, shortly after the arrival of the steamer, that Captain Glover is again appointed to resume this Government. I leave you to imagine the sensation which this news excites. Permit me, however, to ask these questions: Has it not come to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government that the re-appointment of Captain Glover would be regarded as a calamity to this country? Is England using her power and influence to press us down when she bids us publicly stand up? Which of the qualifications of Captain Glover merits this appointment? Is it his extravagance and partiality, or is it his irreligious and hostile disposition? Surely if the occupation of Lagos by the British Government is mainly to suppress the slave-trade and to encourage legitimate commerce and to make it a nucleus for the Christianization and civilization of Africa, Captain Glover's appointment is an error; he is not "the right man in the right place."

Those tribal feelings which Captain Glover nourished while he was Lieutenant-Governor of this colony, and which were apparently dying out after his departure, from the absence of his fostering hand, are now reviving at the bare news of his re-appointment. You will be surprised and alarmed at the *clashes of persons to whom he communicates these tidings; the meanness of their position, and the villainy of their character*. These are his cliques, his coterie, and his pets; they are Mohammedans and heathens, all of whom are now vaunting the success of their charms, to which they attribute Captain Glover's appointment. We have now not only to wait to understand what the Secretary of State, the Earl of Carnarvon, means by what you inserted in italics in your September number, but we have also to express our feelings against him, in appointing a man (if it be true) who is antagonistic to our interest as well as to that of Her Majesty's Government. We look upon such appointment as a specimen

of his administration, and if he is sincere in his speech, we will expose our grievances, believing that you personally, and by means of your journal, will always uphold us. But we prefer this maxim, "Prevention is better than cure." If the ministers of Her Majesty's Government will make *cure* their policy, that being primarily detrimental to our interest, our request will be (i.e., if there is any probability of its being granted), leave us to ourselves; we do not want your protection to effect the suppression of the slave-trade; a steamboat stationed in the roads, cruising off and on, with a few gig boats stationed one each at the different points in the lagoon, will suffice, and will greatly retrench the Imperial expenditure. Give us a reinforcement of missionaries, and, by the help of Providence, by self-perseverance, we will rise to your standard. But some say that by recent arrangement Captain Glover has no *carte blanche*, his prerogative is curtailed; but I ask, will this affect his bigotry? It is easier for an Ethiopian, by washing, to change his skin, and the leopard his spots, than for him in any-wise to devise schemes which will result in the bettering of our condition.

I have occupied a long space in your valuable columns, for which I apologize, but I trust you will insert it.—Yours sincerely, E.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

Fernando Po, Santa Isabel,

Calle de Amero, October 31, 1866.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Perhaps no community has been blessed by the British colony of Lagos more than Fernando Po. There is no individual in this island who does not appreciate this boon. People here always repaired to Lagos for the recovery of health, as it is the place where medical aid can be easily procured. And the present generation of the colony owe their intellectual improvement to her sons. The writer was engaged for the period of three years in training up the present young men and women under the auspices of the Baptist Missionary Society, previous to their expulsion from the island.—I am, Mr. Editor, yours truly, THOMAS R. PRINCE.

THE ILL-FATED LATE AFRICAN FLAG STEAMSHIP BRISTOL.—A lighted candle, incautiously struck against the side of the screw steam frigate Bristol, 31, under repair in Keyham steamyard, charred one of her beams. Serious consequences might have ensued had it not been discovered in time.

MARTIAL LAW.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* states that a committee has been appointed for the purpose of considering the application of martial law under certain circumstances, and to define the duties of the civil and military authorities where disturbances may arise. The committee consists of Sir Edward Lugard, Lord William Paulet, Sir Henry Storks, Mr. Elliot, Under-Secretary for the Colonies; and Mr. Vernon Lushington, Deputy Judge Advocate-General.

THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA SQUADRON.—St. Helena: Greyhound, 5, Captain Charles Stirling, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore G. Phipps Hornby; Ranger, 5, Commander W. A. Cambier. Sierra Leone: Dart, 5, Commander Marcus Lowther. Bights Division: Mullet, 5, Commander C. A. P. V. Robinson; Pandora, 5, Commander Edwd. Stubbs; Griffon, 5, Commander D. G. Davids; Jaseur, 5, Acting Commander W. G. Scott; Oberon, 3, Lieutenant Commander Henry Rand; Antelope, 3, Lieutenant Commander John Bruce. South Division: Espoir, 5, Commander M. S. L. Peile; Landrail, 5, Commander N. L. A. L. Maitland; Speedwell, 5, Commander J. E. Erskine; Torch, 5, Commander G. A. Douglas; Snipe, 5, Commander N. A. Trollope. Ascension: Flora, Captain W. J. R. Grubbe; Dromedary, Staff Commander J. H. Allard. Jella Coffee: Vindictive, Master Commander H. W. C. Wise.

LATEST NEWS FROM DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The following intelligence has been received: "After fifteen days at the confluence of the Rovuma and Niende with the chief N'doude, the party marched westward, through the country between the two streams, keeping out of sight of both, and passing for three days a desolate forest cleared of people through slave-hunting. The first villages reached were those of the Walolo, a sub-tribe of the Makoa. Several days were spent in passing from village to village of these people; the country became more elevated as they advanced, and the mornings proved quite chilly to the natives of the expedition. Another band of desert land was passed, and they then came to the Rovuma, which they followed on its south bank for some distance. To the north the Mazita had carried war and desolation. Leaving the Rovuma, Dr. Livingstone passed among large villages of the Waiao tribe, by whom he was well received. When last seen he had set out from the village of Mataka (where he had abundance of food, including rice and beef, for the people have large herds), on route for Lake Nyassa, distant four days' journey. Livingstone was well and making onward progress when last heard of."

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

Mrs. Joseph Moseley acknowledges gratefully the following further donations:—

Amount already published	£366	1	6
Rev. Mark French	2	2	0
E. W.	0	4	4
A. Wellwisher	5	0	0
Proceeds of a Meeting in Trinity Chapel Schoolrooms	1	10	5
Friends in Reading	0	6	0

The African Times.

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WILLIAM EDWARDS, Financial Agent,
4, Coleman's-buildings, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. REFFLES' letter re "The Assault on Harry Finden" in our next. We are sorry that want of space this month compels us to defer many important matters. Our Correspondents will please to accept this intimation.

The African Times.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1866.

AMOUNTS DUE TO "AFRICAN TIMES," RECEIVED FROM AFRICA.

<i>Through Messrs. Pratt, Sierra Leone.</i>			
Mr. Is. J. Lake, Walpole-street, F., Sierra Leone	£0	12	6
Mr. D. H. Davidson, Charlotte-street (to July, 1866).	0	7	11
Mr. John Meheux, Sheriff	0	13	4
Mr. J. B. McCarthy, Garrison-street.	0	13	4
Mr. Benjamin Pratt, Little East-street	0	3	9
Mr. W. T. Taylor, 947, Blackall-road, Kisey (to November, 1865)	0	5	0
Mr. T. F. Valentino, George-street	0	10	0
Mr. Syble Boyle, Trelawny-street	0	18	9
Mr. Lewis Nicol, jun., East-street	0	6	3
Mr. Thomas Bright	0	13	4
Mr. T. G. Lawson, Charlotte-street	0	3	9
Mr. Joseph M'Foy, Oxford-street	0	13	9
Rev. J. May, Westmoreland-street	1	1	3
Rev. J. Waite	0	5	0
Messrs. W. H. Pratt, Sons	0	5	0
Peter E. Cole, Pademba-road	0	5	0
G. W. Dougan, ditto	0	5	0
Rev. J. Quaker, for three papers (one year)	0	15	0

J. R. Prince, Sta. Isabel, Fernando Po, previously omitted (two years)

<i>Through J. C. Briandt, Esq., Accra.</i>			
Mr. Julius C. Briandt (donation)	5	5	0
Captain Carl Meyer (subscription)	1	0	0
— Weytingh, Esq., Dutch Commander (ditto)	0	10	0
Mr. George Lomo (ditto)	1	0	0
Mr. Francis Wolff	0	10	0
Mr. W. D. Briandt	0	5	0
Mr. R. F. Fry	0	5	0

CHRISTMAS-DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE return of the day set apart by Christians in commemoration of the advent of the Saviour of the world, and of that which declares another year passed into the ineffaceable register of eternity—another annual revolution of the earth commenced—naturally beget searching thoughts as to the progress of Christ's kingdom upon earth, to the degree in which we have fulfilled the charge laid upon us all to prepare ourselves and the world at large for the glorious re-appearing of that same Saviour as Judge of all men, and for that end of time which (as regards all the works of man upon this earth as now constituted) is infallibly approaching.

The year that will have closed before this paper can reach the hands of our African readers has been one marked by great and important events in Europe, which, as the chief field of Christian profession, may naturally be expected to undergo startling and terrible visitations as the world draws nearer and nearer to that end to which we have pointed. Among the political events we

are inclined to regard that which has cast down thrones in Germany, and seems to be culminating in a new German Empire, as chief in menace and in promise. It has roused strong animosities, and may lead to new combinations of powers for working out those changes which are coming upon the earth. We have no prophetic spirit—we do not profess to know what even a day or an hour may bring forth; but we feel, and we hope that all our friends both in Europe and in Africa will feel with us, that these are times in which we cannot be too zealous in the performance of those works which have been given us to do. We know that our work is to bring all the forces that we can command to bear for promoting and furthering the *Christian* civilization of Africa. And if this duty is ours, how much more evidently is it that of every educated African. There is no hope for Africa but in *that* civilization, as there is scarcely an educated African anywhere who does not owe the education he has received directly or indirectly to Christian effort on behalf of him and of his race. The governing authorities would have left him everywhere in the thralldom of ignorance and degrading superstition, even when freeing him from absolute bodily slavery to his fellow-man; but various Christian organizations have, in obedience to the Divine command, come forward in his behalf and to his rescue, with results which are scoffed at and derided only by those who would have used his race for ever as victims of their interests, and of all those evil passions by the indulgence of which they who are not Christ's work out the devil's work on earth. This very fact, even supposing no love of Christ in his heart, no religious feeling to have been generated in or brought home to him with the knowledge he has received, ought not only strongly to impress every educated African with a sense of duty, but to show him clearly and unmistakably in what direction his path of duty lies. In striving to advance his own individual earthly interests, whether in science, trade, commerce, agriculture, or manufacture, let him keep constantly in view that all he has received by which he has been made to differ from the most filthy and degraded of the savages of his race, is the fruit of advancing *Christian* civilization, and of that alone; and keeping this in view he will not, and cannot, fail in combining with exertions for his own personal advantage and aggrandisement, equally constant and strenuous efforts for the spread of that same civilization on the continent and in the islands which he inhabits. European Christians have begun the work among the Africans, and they will not abandon it; those to whom we now write are the first-fruits of that work; but to spread widely abroad among their race the Christian civilization which has been to them individually as the breath of life, raising them up to stand before the world as fellow-men, and vindicate their claim to the equal possession with others of every land and hue of those mental endowments which divide, as by a line of eternal fire, man from the brute—to spread widely abroad this Christian civilization among their fellow Africans, is the task manifestly allotted to Africans. It is on this ground, among others, that we advocated and enforced in our last the assuming by the community of Sierra Leone of the expense of that educational work among them hitherto at the charge of the Church and Wesleyan Missionary Societies, that the funds now thus appropriated by those societies may be set free for commencing similar work in other West African districts. And it is on this ground also that we are so anxiously endeavouring to stimulate them to the production and demand among the natives of new articles for commerce. All civilization must have material resources upon which it may feed, by which it may be supported and strengthened. Christian civilization, and bodily filth and misery as the characteristics of the whole mass of the people, cannot co-exist. As the former progresses, the arts of civilization and the ameliorations of civilized existence must go with it; and these cannot go with it unless the earth is made to "yield her increase" by the application to it of a certain organized industry, which it will never receive except under the impulse of a trading demand. The natural riches of Western Africa are enormous, and are such as will sooner or later support a commerce to which that at present existing on the Coast is merely fractional; but for this the means must be employed by those whom God is manifestly raising up for the work. And lastly, it is on this ground that we call upon all the European *employés* of the British Crown in Africa to use the means and power of their position for helping on the educated Africans in that propaganda of civilization of which we have been treating. The Parliamentary Committee of 1865 has declared in favour of the preparation of Africans for self-government; and whatever may have been the opinions previously entertained by governors and others in authority on the Coast, from that moment it has become additionally their duty to bring the educated Africans into consultation and into participation in power, as regards the revenues to be raised among them, and the mode in which and the objects for which those revenues shall be spent. With Christian friendly greeting, we wish the best compliments and enjoyments of the season, and a year of productive usefulness, to all!

FIBRES.—CHINA GRASS.

IN our number for October we gave a plate representation of the *Boemeria Puya*, one of the Rhea species, which produces a very fine fibre. We regret that unavoidable circumstances have hitherto prevented our furnishing the short treatise on this interesting plant which when publishing the plate we promised for November. In this present number we present a plate of the *Rhea*, from which is derived the valuable fibre now largely imported in Great Britain from the East under the name of *China Grass*. The result of inquiries we have been making for some time past in Western Africa is that these important species of *Nettle* exist almost everywhere in abundance; and, as might be expected in such climates, that they are of fine size and quality even in their wild state. But, like almost all other plants, they may be very greatly improved by cultivation; indeed, to make them what they ought to be for the best manufacturing purposes (which means fibre that will bring the highest price) cultivation is indispensable. The importance of this discovery, that these nettles are indigenous in Western Africa, ought to be very great. *China Grass* fetches a high price in British markets. The *Rhea* from which it is derived, being a native of West Africa, may be easily cultivated there; the cultivation and preparation do not require any very exhausting amount of labour, and three or four crops a-year may, we are told, be obtained. Here, then, we have an article that by demand and encouragement on the part of merchants, and the efforts of the civilized Africans, traders and others, along the coast, may be made not less important to the progress of legitimate commerce in Africa than palm oil has been; while its production will be a great civilizing step in advance of the palm oil culture and preparation.

It is rather remarkable that while we have been prosecuting our inquiries during some months past as to the capabilities of Western Africa for producing and supplying the British market with this much-desired and valuable fibre, the planters in the South-East African colony of Natal, which has made such rapid strides in industry and wealth, should also have been inquiring into and experimenting upon the production of it there. They seem to have been suddenly awakened to a sense of its great importance. In p. 72 will be found an extract on this subject from that very clever and useful colonial paper the *Natal Mercury*; and although the planter there will labour under the great disadvantage of *frosts*, which will retard sowing or risk the loss of the crop, we feel little doubt that, under the temptation of the high prices paid in Europe for China Grass, the cultivation will be attempted. But in Western Africa there are no injurious frosts. West Africa possesses all the peculiarities of climate most favourable to the production of these nettles, and consequently of fibre, of the best quality. The short outline of the preparation required, as detailed in the extract above mentioned, will suffice for our African friends' experiments on the wild plants, until we can give them fuller and better instructions for separating and preparing the fibre so as to avoid those deteriorating processes so often resorted to in Japan and the East generally, and which greatly diminish the value. But we cannot help expressing the hope that no time will be lost. The disadvantage of the high rates of freight ruling along the West Coast, and which acts as a bar to the profitable shipment of low-priced produce, will not affect so valuable an article as the China Grass. We therefore entreat our friends to give this matter their immediate and earnest attention; and should the result, after a few years, be a large commerce in this article along the West African Coast, we shall have reason to thank God that He has honoured us by making our efforts instrumental in aiding the progress of that Christian civilization which we so ardently desire for Africa.

APPEALS FROM SIERRA LEONE.—ABOLITION OF TRIAL BY JURY!

FOUR celebrated cases, tried before a judge at Sierra Leone *without a jury*, have now received the final judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Two of these we have already published in part; and the others, with the completion of the former, appear in our present number. Taken together, these Sierra Leone appeals exhibit other remarkable features in addition to those we last month exposed. They are, indeed, worthy of most especial notice, whether we look at the large amount of property involved in two of them, the very serious expenses attendant upon the appeals, the official ignorance which led to the results, or the tenacity with which Mr. Rainy, the advocate for the appellants at Sierra Leone, has fought for his clients through every stage of the proceedings. In the case of *Rolet v. Shaw*, our readers will not fail to remember the strong term which Lord Justice Turner applied to the seizers. His lordship cast aside Mr. Shaw's evidence as worthless; and the calm atmosphere of the first of legal tribunals has rarely exhibited such an indignant sense of official incapacity and public wrong. The large property seized and condemned by the lower court, as forfeited nominally to the Crown, was ordered to be restored to the appellants, with damages,

and costs for the illegal seizure and condemnation. In the second case, arising out of the illegal seizure of the Ricardo Schmidt, an Italian vessel, the property of the Prussian Consul-General at Genoa, for being, as was alleged by the seizer, equipped for the slave trade, and therefore seized while lying in the harbour of Sierra Leone, the Lords of the Council deemed the seizure to be a gross violation of the sacredness of the laws of commerce. The conduct of the seizer (who acted under the advice of Mr. Huggins, Queen's Advocate at Sierra Leone) was stongly censured; and damages and costs were granted to the appellants. Powerful officials were thus severely rebuked by the Lords Justices, who in the third case were called upon to condemn, and did condemn, a still greater violation of the very elements of British rights. A pauper, named George, had been sentenced, *WITHOUT BEING ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY DEFENCE*, by the Vice Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone to pay a penalty of 300l. for an alleged infraction of the customs laws. The Lords of the Council graciously allowed this victim to appeal *in forma pauperis*, thereby establishing a precedent very important in African cases, and indignantly quashed what may well be termed *the stolen judgment*, with costs; the amateur judge who had ventured at Sierra Leone to decide a case under such circumstances receiving some polished censure from Lord Justice Cairns. In the fourth case there are remarkable features, inasmuch as in it the seizer was defeated in the lower court, which had dismissed the suit, and ordered the property to be restored to the owners, Wilson and wife, but without costs, on the ground that there was probable cause for the seizure. The appeal, therefore, was for damages and costs, as far as the Wilsons were concerned. But one Cole, a merchant, who had been improperly proceeded against in the suit, joined also in the appeal for his costs. The facts as set forth were, that Cole, who seems to be a respectable native merchant at Sierra Leone, sold two barrels of rum to the wife of Wilson, and sent his clerk to pass the property through the Customs for the purchaser, who was too ignorant to be able to do it herself. Shaw, the acting collector, was apprized by Cole of the sale of the rum to Wilson when the entries were made at the Custom-house; but in his opinion the property was illegally dealt with by the Wilsons after the entries had been passed for them, and he seized the rum. The value being only 8l., and the Wilsons too poor to be proceeded against for penalties, Shaw ignored the Wilsons altogether, treating Cole, who is a wealthy man, as the owner, and sued him for 200l. penalties, and for the condemnation of the rum. But the Wilsons intervened, setting forth that they were the owners, and that their servants, and not Cole, were responsible for the illegal removal of the rum from the Customs Wharf. Mr. Rainy, in his argument before the lower court, seems to have exposed the dodge of improperly making Cole the sole party to the suit, and demanded costs for Cole, as well as damages and costs for the Wilsons for the detention of their property without their having been made parties to the suit. The judge in the lower court appears, however, to have dealt with Cole alone, dismissing the suit, and restoring the property, but denying costs, on the ground that there was probable cause for the seizure. This judgment was appealed from by Cole for his costs, and the Wilsons for damages and expenses as before. Here was surely full ground of appeal. Shaw had clearly made Cole a party to the suit with a view to his share of the penalty, should the court pronounce for it. But in all courts the stream of justice is occasionally impeded by a mere technicality; and so in this case the Lords Justices were precluded by one of their own rules from hearing Mr. Cole's advocate upon a question of costs alone, however improperly they might have been withheld by the court below. If Shaw had succeeded in getting a decree for 200l. penalty from the lower court against Cole, there can be no doubt that Cole, like poor George, would have obtained a reversal of it with costs. The appeal of the Wilsons was dismissed with costs, on the ground that there was probable cause for the seizure. The decree of the lower court restoring the rum, and dismissing Cole from the suit, remains in full force, not having been in any way affected by their lordships' decision respecting costs.

We have entered more fully now into these cases than we should have done because of one important fact—viz., that if the cases out of which these appeals have arisen had been tried (as similar cases are tried in this country) before judge and jury, the Colonial Government would have been spared an enormous expense and a deep humiliation. And yet it is at such a time, when Sierra Leone judges have proved themselves to be miserably deficient in every qualification that would have enabled them to deal correctly with questions of *fact*—it is at such a time THAT TRIAL BY JURY IS ABOLISHED IN SIERRA LEONE, and the whole power of judging both of the law and facts, *even in cases of libel*, is vested in these judges—judges, we repeat, who have given the most flagrant proofs of their utter incapacity to deal justly with them. Yes; while the Lords of the Privy Council were reversing the judgments of Carr and Nicols, the legislature

of Sierra Leone were busied in passing with closed doors an ordinance giving to those proved incapable a tenfold power, by enabling them to discharge the double functions of *jurors* and *judges*. Certainly no time could have been worse chosen by Governor Blackall for this violation of the most sacred principle of our constitution — the abolition of trial by jury in Sierra Leone.

We do not know whether we are justified in expecting that when Governor Blackall sees thus placed before him in bold relief, side by side with his unrighteous ordinance, the decisions of the Lords of the Privy Council showing how worthless his judges' opinions are when these men are uncontrolled by the plain common sense of twelve jurors, he will repeal that ordinance which robs the African on his own soil of every vestige of citizenship. A former occasion is fresh in our memory, when we denounced as it merited a flagrant purposed invasion of public right, and Governor Blackall showed a becoming shame and a tardy repentance. An ordinance had then been passed, requiring poor African plaintiffs to give security for costs before they could be allowed to seek redress in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone for wrongs done to them by powerful European officials; but we nipped the iniquity in the bud, and the ordinance remained a dead letter from the very time of its ignominious birth. Perhaps we may see a similar repentance now with regard to this still more flagrant attack on the public rights and liberties. We hope to see it. This is a strange beginning of preparation of the people for self-government, as recommended by the parliamentary committee. To delay establishing the jury system in a colony may be necessary, but to subvert it when once it has been established is a most grievous wrong. And what reason or excuse for this is put forth? Absolutely none whatever. We have the ordinance now lying before us; there is no preamble with one word of justification or excuse. Trial by jury is still continued in criminal cases. But if one portion of the jury system is allowed to be "ordinanced" away, the remainder will soon follow. Our Sierra Leone friends must be up and doing. We cannot believe that the two unofficial members of the Legislative Council committed so suicidal an act as to give their vote for such an ordinance, making the Supreme Court a tribunal before which no gentleman of legal position would condescend to plead. One of the two has only recently been vindicated, both in person and property, by a gentleman of the English bar lately practising at Sierra Leone. Such men will be sought for in vain if such an ordinance becomes operative, and every portion of society, from the humblest African to the highest European merchant, will have cause to lament it. This ordinance strikes at the root of all progress on the West Coast. Surely some peaceful but powerful display should be made by all the educated people of Sierra Leone against it. It ought never to have been allowed to reach England without an accompanying earnest, unanimous, mighty protest, especially against clauses XI. and XIII. We hope that such a protest will come by the next mail; but if not, we again call upon all to be up and doing, and send over to the Colonial-office without further delay an energetic denunciation of this attempt made by unscrupulous local officials to rob the colony of its position and character, and its people of their cherished rights and privileges. We are ready to show the hollowness of every argument that might be attempted in justification of it. It is full of evil, which we have not space now to expose. It is an unmitigated slander, insult, and wrong; and infamy ought to attach, and will sooner or later attach, to every one concerned in so nefarious a proceeding.

RHEA, OR CHINA-GRASS.

(From the *Natal Mercury*.)

Among fibre-yielding plants the *Urtica* or nettle family have a conspicuous place, and as this class flourishes in Natal, we desire to direct particular attention to it. So much attention has been given to flax as a commercial exportable staple, that other sorts of fibre have not had the attention given to them that they deserve. May it not be that we have been too exclusive in this respect, and that had part of the time and money devoted to flax, with it must be confessed but small result, been applied to other plants, far larger measures of practical good would have been done?

China-grass, or, as it is often called, *Rhea-hemp*, grows well here. It is obtained from the Snowy Nettle, "the *Urtica*, or *Boehmeria nivea*, a plant abundant in China and India," and which grows in the United States. The name is caused by the white tint of the under side of the leaves. The commercial value of its fibre is great. Mr. Squier sets it down at about 100*l.* a-ton, but taking a more moderate estimate, and accepting rather the results of inquiries made by persons living in Natal we may set the market value of it down at from 50*l.* to 80*l.* per ton. A gentleman living near Verulam, who knows something

of the local growth of the plant, says that he would give the preference to it almost over every other product of the same kind, and that he has ascertained from large manufacturers at home that there is an indefinite market for it. Mr. R. Clarence at one time cultivated a patch of it, and harvested a stack, but want of labour at the time to manipulate it prevented his pursuing the enterprise further. As we write we refer to Morgan's Trade List for May 2, where the last quotation is to be found, and there *China-grass* is quoted at 80*l.* to 85*l.*, so that the above figures are by no means wide of the mark. We are assured by practical growers that the plant flourishes here. It is susceptible to frost, and would have therefore to be planted early in the spring; but so far as a rough experiment justifies a judgment, the results of *Rhea* or *China-grass* culture would well repay the endeavour to establish this staple. This is what Mr. Squier has to say in regard to this valuable nettle:—

"The plant seems to be easy of cultivation, and three crops a-year may be taken at intervals of about two months, the second growth yielding the finest fibre. The treatment of the crop varies, but in general resembles that of hemp, except that the fibres are peeled from the stalks by hand, and then exposed to the dew by night and the sun by day, avoiding rain. In other cases they are soaked in lime-water, or boiled in a slightly alkaline solution; sometimes again the fibre is spun and even woven before it is bleached. The plant is now cultivated largely in various parts of India, and bids fair to become a most important article of commerce. Archer, in his 'Popular Economic Botany,' observes of it: 'At present our mode of extracting the fibre is not sufficiently perfect, but we are making rapid improvements and may hope that grass-linen, equal in quality to that of China, will ere long be as cheap and plentiful as that made from flax.'

"In the London Exhibition of 1851 were exhibited fibres from the Neilgherry Nettle (*Urtica heterophylla*), as also from the *U. cannabina*, which furnishes fibres fit for cordage, and the *Bahmaria puya*, which gives the *Poale* or *Puya flax* of Nepal and Sikkim.

"There is a variety of this plant (*Urtica baccifera*) indigenous to Cuba, where it is known as *Chichicaste*. It is chiefly found in the western departments of the island, growing in rich soils. The stem rises to the height of from nine to ten feet, and is about two inches in thickness, covered with prickles. Its leaves are green on their upper surface, but paler beneath, with needle-like spines marking their veins, rendering contact with the plant most distressing. Its bark yields a strong fibre, which is used locally for cordage."

MISCELLANEA.

NEW SIERRA LEONE NEWSPAPER.—We have received the first number of *The African Interpreter and Advocate*, which seems to be intended to fill the place formerly occupied by the *Sierra Leone Observer*.

PROGRESS OF LAGOS.—A new industrial company has commenced operations, "The Lagos Steam Sawing and Ginning Company, Limited." They have commenced operations with a 10-horse engine and circular saw bench with saws 42 inches in diameter. Buildings will soon be commenced for cotton cleaning. We earnestly desire for them a large measure of success.

THE LAGOS ACADEMY.—The Lagos Academy, an institution for the promotion of literature, art, and sciences, was opened to the subscribers, &c., on Wednesday, the 24th October. The Bishop of Niger presided. Again we congratulate our Lagos friends on their progress.

The Bishop of Sierra Leone has returned to his duties in the colony.

We are sorry to have great complaints of the Rev. Mr. Blake, the chaplain at Cape Coast, who is said to carry matters with so high a hand at Christ Church that all the Church of England people at Cape Coast are grievously discontented.

ABYSSINIA CAPTIVES.—By late advices these unfortunate gentlemen were still undergoing a rigorous captivity. The detailed account of a great battle, reproduced by the *Times* from a French newspaper, and which we alluded to briefly in September, turns out, as we supposed, to be a fabrication.

Fernando Po is to receive additional European settlers. A letter from Madrid says: "In Catalonia arbitrary deportations are going on upon a large scale, and it is not many days since Captain General Gasset had 180 men put on board a war ship sailing for the Canary Islands and Fernando Po."

The late Judge of the Supreme Court at Cape Coast, who has been made Recorder of Prince of Wales's Island, has also been knighted, and is now Sir William Hackett, Knight.

We are glad to learn that W. A. Parker, Esq., advocate of the Scottish bar, who has gone out to Cape Coast as Judicial Assessor and Stipendiary Magistrate, bears an admirable character in Edinburgh as an ardent worker for benevolent objects. We hope he will justify this reputation on the Gold Coast.

APPEAL CASES FROM SIERRA LEONE: JUDGMENTS. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL, Nov. 2. CASSANOVA V. OUR SOVEREIGN LADY THE QUEEN: THE RICARDO SCHMIDT.

Present—Lord Westbury, Sir James W. Colville, and Sir Edward Vaughan Williams.

This is a case of a foreign vessel, an Italian merchant ship, seized in the English harbour of Sierra Leone, on the ground of having violated the provisions of the statute 5 George IV., cap. 113. It has been assumed throughout that this statute authorizes the seizure of a foreign ship in British waters, if its provisions have been violated. That having been admitted, and taken as the basis of the whole of the proceeding, their lordships do not think themselves under the necessity of giving any opinion on the point whether that construction of the statute be right or not.

It is necessary to bear in mind that this seizure can be justified only on the grounds that are furnished by that statute. The learned judge in the court below has decided, and very rightly, that there was no cause for the condemnation of the vessel; but he has refused to award damages or costs under the power given him by the 35th section of the statute, because in his judgment the seizure and the prosecution were, under the circumstances of the case, justifiable. Whether there was, or was not, a probable ground for seizure must depend upon the state of the law as it stood at the time of that statute, and as it is embodied therein. By a subsequent Act of 5 William IV., which is not applicable to the seizure of foreign vessels in British harbours, but applies to the capture of foreign vessels on the high seas, a particular rule of evidence is given—viz., that the fact of there being on board the vessel an unreasonable quantity or number of water-casks, shall be considered as furnishing such a *presumptio juris* that the vessel was intended to be employed in the slave-trade, as to require the judge, even if the vessel be not condemned, to refuse any damages or any costs to the owner of the vessel as against the captor; provided, however, that the effects of the circumstance to which I have referred shall be neutralized or annulled if the ship have a certificate stating that security has been given that the casks should be only used for the reception of palm oil, or employed in some other lawful trade. Now, the learned judge refers to that statute as enabling him to arrive at the conclusion that the existence on board this ship, the Ricardo Schmidt, of an unusual quantity of water-casks is a circumstance of such grave suspicion as to justify the seizure. The learned judge was not at liberty to use the rule of evidence introduced by that subsequent statute as applicable to the case before him. It was perfectly competent to him to refer to that statute as an Act that recognized the fact of having an unusual number of water-casks on board as a circumstance of suspicion; but the learned judge was not at liberty to take that circumstance *per se*, as a judge applying the Act of 5 William IV. might have done. He was bound to take it in conjunction with all the other circumstances of the case; for the rule that he had to abide by, the law which he had to administer, provides distinctly that costs and damages shall be given when it shall appear to the Court that the capture, seizure, or prosecution shall not be justified by the circumstances of the case. All the circumstances, therefore, were to be taken into consideration, and no peculiar weight or force ought to have been borrowed from the Act of 5 William IV. and attributed to the circumstance of this unusual number of water-casks.

The *bona fides* of the employment of the ship in trade is a thing established by the judgment; and this *bona fide* employment of the ship was also, we think, manifest, or might have been manifest, to any person going on board the vessel. The vessel is a very large ship, of a registered tonnage of about 600 tons, but capable of actually carrying a cargo of 900 tons. Such vessels are not of the class commonly engaged in the slave-trade. The vessel, at the time she was seized, had previously been examined, and for some time detained by the Custom-house authorities at Sierra Leone. They were satisfied by the result of their examination, and they accordingly released the vessel. In that state of circumstances, Lieut. Dunlop, being an officer apparently accidentally at the harbour of Sierra Leone, not holding any official position, or having any official employment there, takes upon himself to visit the vessel and to seize her. When he visited the vessel, what did he find on board her? He found on board the remainder of a considerable outward cargo, a cargo fit for the purpose of trading upon the African coast. He found upon and within the vessel evidences of the fact that she had been engaged in such trade. He found the actual results of a *bona fide* commerce in the shape of some thousand gallons of palm oil, which had been already stored on board the vessel. He found plainly that the casks which had been used for the oil on board the vessel were of the same general description and character with the casks that were empty. Of the 111 casks that he found empty, 65 appear to have been clean, new casks; the others appear to have been previously used for the purpose of

carrying oil. He received from the mate of the vessel (the captain at that time being on shore) the ship's papers. He immediately after the seizure had an interview with the captain, and obtained from him satisfactory intelligence with regard to the history of the ship, the ownership of the ship, and letters were produced to him that could have left in no reasonable man's mind any doubt of the ship having been originally fitted out for, and employed in, the ordinary purposes of commerce. He afterwards received from the Custom-house the other papers of the ship. He had, from the captain, information that at the time of the seizure he was engaged on shore in the sale of the residue of the outward cargo to a gentleman of the greatest respectability in the colony, Mr. Heddle, to whom the captain had brought letters of recommendation, and also in purchasing from Mr. Heddle 40,000 bushels of ground-nuts, which the letter of the owner shows it was his original intention, and part of his instructions to the captain, to buy for the purpose of filling up the ship with a return cargo.

In face of all these circumstances, Mr. Dunlop detained the ship; and the question is whether, as the law stands under the 5th George IV., the mere fact of these empty casks being found in the hold of the ship is sufficient to weigh down at once all the other external manifest appearances of the ship being a *bona fide* trader, of her having gone forth as such, and been employed as such up to the time of her arrival in the harbour of Sierra Leone.

But in addition to the water-casks, Mr. Dunlop says that there were other suspicious circumstances. One of them is that the vessel had a second deck, which, he says, might have been used for a slave deck. Now the vessel is one of very considerable depth, and the evidence shows (what no man acquainted with the subject can doubt) that a vessel of that depth, carrying 900 tons, could not be loaded without the additional deck in question. The evidence is distinct that vessels of this size are furnished with a second deck. The evidence of one of the witnesses is even more positive, that a vessel of this size, inasmuch as if loaded she would not be safe without a second deck, could not obtain insurance if she had not that second deck. The second deck, therefore, instead of tending to create suspicion, tends to give confirmation to the conclusion that the vessel was *bona fide* intended to be engaged in trade and to be used as an ordinary ship of burden in commerce.

Mr. Dunlop further refers to the existence of a considerable quantity of cooking utensils on board the ship beyond what, in his judgment, the crew would require; but there is evidence upon that point, that in the opinion of two or three disinterested witnesses the amount of the ship's vessels for cooking was less than the ordinary wants of the captain and crew of such a vessel rendered necessary.

We have therefore no circumstances here to which any particular weight or force is to be given by law, as under the 5th William IV. would be the case, but we have a case to be judged of under all the circumstances, whether any person going on board a ship lying in the harbour of Sierra Leone and examining her—going over her—could, from the mere circumstance of the number of water-casks, be warranted in arriving at the conclusion that this ship was intended to be engaged in the slave trade.

I need not point out, what was very well commented upon by one of the counsel for the appellant, that there may be great necessity for laying down clear and definite rules, as they are laid down in the 5th William IV., for the purpose of guiding captors at sea, for there the transaction is of necessity a hurried one, admitting of no very minute examination; and the Legislature therefore defines certain things in that statute which, if they are not plainly accounted for, shall constitute an amount of *probabilis causa* sufficient to exempt the captor from consequences, even if the vessel be not condemned. But when you come to the case of a ship quietly lying at anchor in a British harbour, and having been there for some time; not manifesting the smallest indication of anxiety to quit the harbour, but actually and plainly engaged in *bona fide* trade within the harbour; the obligation on a seizer to justify what he has done is a very strict obligation, and one that cannot be discharged by a reference to circumstances which *per se* have not an overpowering weight on the mind at the time when the seizure was made. It appears that on the very day on which this seizure was made, not only was the captain on shore bargaining for cargo for his vessel, but some of these very casks, being no longer required for the ordinary requisitions of the trade in palm oil, were being sold, and had been sent on shore for the purpose of sale by the captain of the vessel.

With regard to the casks, there was another circumstance which ought to have been looked to before the seizer ventured upon such an act as the seizing of the vessel; we mean, an inquiry whether the casks upon which his suspicion lighted were or were not to be found in the manifest of the vessel, and whether that manifest was accompanied or not by any proof that the ship had sailed with the knowledge of the proper Italian authorities that part of her stores consisted of these empty casks. Now, without deciding

that the documents produced would, if the case had arisen under the statute of William IV., have amounted to a certificate of security having been given, yet it is clear, and it is a proof of the *bona fides* of the master of the ship, that he had drawn the attention of the authorities of his country to the fact of part of his lading consisting of these water-casks, and that his ship had been cleared by the authorities with a knowledge that these empty casks were on board. These papers were produced to Lieutenant Dunlop at or immediately after the time when the seizure was made. There was the fullest desire to give him information. The history of the vessel's proceedings he might have read from the log. The nature of her ownership was manifested by the documents that he received; the character of her antecedent employment was evidenced by the palm oil she had on board; the desire of carrying on *bona fide* commerce was evidenced by the very employment in which he found her, the captain being at that time engaged in procuring cargo on shore.

Now, we would ask, how is it possible for any merchant ship to visit the coast of Africa, and a British harbour on the coast of Africa, for the purpose of legitimate commerce, if under circumstances such as these she is liable to be seized merely upon the ground of her having certain articles on board, actually required for the purposes of the trade in which she professes to be engaged, and in which it is proved that she had for some time previously been actually engaged?

Their Lordships are therefore of opinion, that as to the existence of the water-casks, that circumstance is weighed down, explained, and its force entirely taken away by the other circumstances that were manifest and apparent; and that under the statute of the 5th George IV., that simple fact, adding to it the slave-deck, adding to it the cooking utensils, did not, under the circumstances, constitute a reasonable *prima facie* case for concluding that the vessel must be condemned unless those things were explained. There was no *probabilis causa* for seizure.

Therefore, taking all the circumstances of the case, as they appeared, or might and ought to have appeared, to the seizer at the time, there was nothing that justified the seizure, and on these grounds their Lordships will humbly advise Her Majesty to reverse so much of the sentence as holds that the seizure and prosecution were justified by the circumstances, and to declare that the vessel ought to have been restored, together with damages and costs; and they will recommend Her Majesty to make the usual reference to the Admiralty Registrar, together with merchants to be associated with him, for the purpose of ascertaining the nature and amount of damages which, under the circumstances, ought to have been awarded to the appellant.

Their Lordships are glad to find that the officers of the Crown have been directed to attend in support of the case of the respondent. They think, however, that the national honour requires that damages and costs in this case should be given to the owner of the ship, and to them must, of course, be added the costs of this appeal.

DEC. 10.

Present—Sir W. Erle, Lord Justice Cairns, Sir J. Colville, Sir E. V. Williams, and Sir R. T. Kindersley.
GEORGE AND SHELLING v. THE QUEEN.—ALLEGED SMUGGLING AT SIERRA LEONE.

This was an appeal from a decree of the Vice Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone, pronounced in June, 1865, by which a canoe and a barrel containing rum were condemned and held forfeited to the Crown, on the ground that the barrel of rum had been landed at Borbor, and the canoe illegally employed in the removal. George, the owner of the rum, was condemned in a penalty of 300*l*. Shelling was the owner of the canoe declared to be forfeited.

The case occupied their lordships until the end of the sitting on Saturday, and was resumed to-day.

Mr. Mone, Mr. Rainy (who appeared at the Vice Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone), and Mr. Pater were for the appellants; the Attorney-General, the Queen's Advocate, and Mr. Hannen were for the Crown.

The case presented some remarkable features, one of which was that the appellants had been allowed to appear *in forma pauperis*, which had been refused in the court below. The appellant, James George, the owner of the rum, is a British subject, and is a trader in the colony, and the other appellant, Harry Shelling, the proprietor of the canoe, is also a British subject, a boatman. He is considerably advanced in years, and had let and chartered the canoe to one Kong Cresper, who was navigating the same. It was alleged that the deputy judge (the Hon. Mr. Nicol) of the Vice Admiralty Court had refused to hear the parties as to the claim and the security for costs, and also the application to appear *in forma pauperis*.

Mr. Rainy, the counsel at Sierra Leone, now opened the case, and contended that there had been a denial of justice, and appealed to their lordships that justice might be done. The canoe had been declared to be forfeited, and George had been condemned in

a penalty of 300*l*. It was submitted that the conduct of the deputy judge, considering the humble position and poverty of the parties, was a denial of justice.

The Attorney-General proceeded to address their lordships on the part of the Crown, contending that the judge was justified in the course pursued, and that there was no ground for the appeal.

Lord Justice Cairns thought it hard that a man should not be heard until he had given security for costs, when from his poverty he could not give it.

The Attorney-General admitted that it might be harsh. The Queen's Advocate was also heard on the part of the Crown. The penalty would be given up on the part of the Crown.

Lord Justice Cairns: You have exercised a wise discretion (a laugh).

Mr. Rainy replied, having had the management of the case in the court below, and asked their lordships to revise the decree, the whole proceedings being contrary to law.

Sir W. Erle gave the opinion of their lordships. The decree of the court below as to the penalties would be reversed, and retained as to the remainder. Their lordships allowed costs to the appellants.

DEC. 11.

Present—Lord Justice Cairns, Sir J. Colville, Sir E. V. Williams, and Sir R. T. Kindersley.

WILSON AND OTHERS v. THE QUEEN.

This was another appeal from Sierra Leone respecting some rum that had been seized. It was, however, released; but no damages or costs were given. The parties appealed, and Mr. Rainy, who conducted the case in the Vice Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone, was one of the counsel engaged. The case was opened yesterday, after the appeal in the case of George v. the Queen, and was resumed this morning.

Mr. Moore, Mr. Rainy, and Mr. Pater were for the appellants; the Attorney-General, the Queen's Advocate, and Mr. Hannen for the Crown.

Lord Justice Cairns stated to-day that their lordships would hear the appellants' counsel on the question whether there had been any probable cause for the seizure. The deputy judge had given a certificate that there was probable cause, and that the parties were not entitled to damages or costs.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Rainy addressed the committee, and urged that it was a vexatious seizure.

The Queen's Advocate was not called upon to reply.

Lord Justice Cairns, after a consultation with their lordships, pronounced judgment. Their lordships had heard the case at considerable length on the several points in courtesy to the appellants. Their lordships were of opinion that with regard to the appeal of Cole it was for costs, and as no appeal was allowed for costs only the appeal could not be allowed. His lordship then proceeded with the appeal on the part of Wilson and his wife, and lucidly reviewed the facts as to the seizure of the goods, and said, from the evidence of the appellant's witness their lordships were of opinion that there was not only probable ground for the seizure and detention, but that the officer would have been guilty of a dereliction of duty if he had not seized the same. Their lordships would therefore humbly recommend to Her Majesty that the appeal be dismissed with costs.

Sir W. Erle, who presided yesterday, was absent to-day, from, it was understood, a domestic affliction.

NATIVE AFRICAN CUSTOMS.—ADVANTAGES OF BRITISH PROTECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Abekobi, November 8, 1866.

Sir,—At Aburi a woman was murdered some four months ago, and nobody knew who was the culprit. The relations of this woman, who were of another town, Mampong, urged the King of Aburi to find out the murderer, else they would come and fight with the Aburi people. To find that person out they made shea butter hot and put it into a wooden bowl. A silver ring, which they put into the hot oil, had to be taken out first, by a representative of every family. The one whose hand was swollen was considered guilty, and that family brought to the ordeal man by man. It happened that the king's family was pointed out, and that four or five men of this family had swollen hands. They, of course were considered guilty. There was an order made before they tried this ordeal that nobody was permitted to rub himself with lemon juice. Now, there was a man who said, that in the the night before the ordeal somebody had rubbed him with lemon juice; he did not know who it was, and could not help it. This was suspicious, and being closely questioned, his answers were not satisfactory. At length it turned out that he was the murderer, and not those men pointed out by the ordeal. He confessed his guilt to the missionary who visited him, and showed the place where he did it, and where a few bones were found, all

that remained from the poor woman. This man was an Ashantee man, slave of a family at Aburi. So the family had to pay the costs of the trial and the value of seven slaves as reconciliation. The costs amounted to about 200 heads of cowries, or 20*l*. The murderer was sent down to Accra, to be judged by the Government. But our people say that the Queen has sent out orders not to hang any murderer, so they do not believe he will be hanged. This is the consequence partly of the slow manner in which justice is administered, partly because some murderers have been let free, because there was not sufficient evidence.

There is another bad fashion or custom among our people. If two men have a quarrel together, one of them goes home, takes his gun, and kills himself. Now the other party is also forced to kill himself, or the people will cut him to pieces. At the same time when the above palaver was going on, two men had a quarrel, and their respective mothers did their best to increase it. Now, the mother of the one man urged her son to kill himself, that the other one would be obliged to do the same. So he went to his plantation and made an end of his life. The corpse was in due form brought to the town into the house of his adversary, with the hint to do the same. But he did not like to die, and his brother, who is a Christian, took him to the mission-house (Aburi) for refuge. The townspeople surrounded the house, brandishing their cutlasses, and threatening the missionaries. Fortunately the mission-house stands on a piece of ground where the old town stood, and where the heathen do not venture to go by night, being afraid of the spirits of their forefathers buried there. Thus, when evening came the mob dispersed. In the night the two brothers took flight and went to Accra for protection, which the Governor granted them. Here you see what value the presence of our Governor has for us. Many a life can be saved by us in this way, and I should think that the benefit we are receiving by this protection should induce our friends in England to give us this boon for some time longer.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours, C. L.

ANOTHER YELLOW FEVER SHIP FROM ST. THOMAS.

SOUTHAMPTON, Friday, December 14.—The Royal mail steamship Tasmanian arrived off Netley Hospital this afternoon, and immediately hoisted the yellow flag. She sailed from St. Thomas on the 30th ultimo. Although the weather at St. Thomas was very cold, yellow fever, small-pox, and cholera prevailed. There have been 96 cases of yellow fever on board the Tasmanian, of which five died at St. Thomas and 21 during the passage home. Several cases are still on board, four of which are not expected to live through the night. With the exception of the ship's doctor, who died on the 4th inst., the fever has been confined to the firemen and seamen of the ship. All the passengers are healthy.

SLAVE-TRADE.—MADRID, Oct. 25.—Important measures have been taken by the Spanish Government in view of the complete abolition of the slave-trade and the gradual suppression of slavery. For that purpose a consultative junta composed of delegates from Cuba and Porto Rico will be held at Madrid on the 30th inst.

YOUNG NATAL.—Among the spectators at the burial of two malefactors, recently executed at Durban, was a lad about nine years of age, who kept constantly going in the way of the police. After being warned by the inspector two or three times to no purpose, he addressed him as follows: "Now, my lad, get out of the way, and go home, and always do as you are told; and I hope what you have seen to-day will be a lesson for the remainder of your life." The lad immediately answered, "Ditto."

NOTICE.

BAZAAR for MRS. MOSELEY'S CAPE COAST CASTLE NATIVE FEMALE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—It is intended (p.v.) to hold a large BAZAAR in the month of MARCH, 1867, in aid of the above School. The Bazaar will be held in connexion with the Freedmen's Aid Society. The public are earnestly solicited to render assistance, either by Articles for the Bazaar or in Donations.

Articles for the Bazaar will be thankfully received at—The Freedmen's Society's Office, 102, Fleet-street, London, E.C. The *African Times* Office, 4, Coleman-street-buildings, Moorgate-street, London, E.C.

Also by—Rev. J. Waddington, D.D., 9, Surrey-square, Old Kent-road. Dr. Fredk. Tomkins, M.A., D.C.L., Library Chambers, 3, Tanfield-court, Temple, London, E.C. Miss Burn, 11, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, W.C. Miss Ludlow, The Firs, Wimbledon, S.W. Mrs. Jos. Moseley, 24, Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square, W. Mrs. E. Craft, 12, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith, S.W.

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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.

WEST COAST of AFRICA, MADEIRA, TENERIFFE.

—The African Steamship Company's vessels (carrying Her Majesty's Mails) leave LIVERPOOL on the 24th of EVERY MONTH (except when it falls on a Monday, when the Day of Sailing is the 25th), proceeding direct to MADEIRA, TENERIFFE, BATHURST, SIERRA LEONE, MONROVIA, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, JELLAH COFFEE, LAGOS, BENIN, BONNY, FERNANDO PO, OLD CALABAR, and CAMEROONS.

The splendid new Steamship MANDINGO, R. F. LOWRY, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on TUESDAY, the 25th of DECEMBER, at 11 A.M.

Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the North Landin' Stage at 9.30 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, a shipping note sent with each cart load, and contents of packages described therein.

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

NOTICE.—The ETHIOPE will be despatched on the 10th January, being the first of the bi-monthly Packets, for Madeira, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Accra, Lagos, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Cameroons.

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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Half a teaspoonful, taken in a tumbler of water, contributes more to the refreshment of the body than any known beverage; invigorating and vitalising the blood, it alleviates thirst in a most agreeable manner, and furnishes the system with those saline principles that are essential to health.

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SEA VOYAGES.—It is a very valuable accompaniment, and should on no account be omitted; it instantly allays the sickness.

For BILIOUS CONSTITUTIONS, giving rise to vitiated Secretions, Indigestion, and Eruptions on the Skin—a teaspoonful should be taken daily, with the dinner, in a tumbler of water, and the same quantity on going to bed.

In cases of DIARRHOEA, put as much Magnesia as will lie on a shilling into half a tumbler of water, let this fall to the bottom of the glass, and then stir into it a teaspoonful of the Saline, and drink during effervescence.

In JUNGLE, YELLOW, SCARLET, TYPHUS, and GASTRIC FEVERS, and ERUPTIVE DISEASES, it should be given in teaspoonful doses every four hours, in a glass half full of water, or with an increased quantity of water if the patient suffers from thirst.

W. STREVEN, Esq., M.D. and D.C.L., in a work upon fevers, states that since its introduction the fatal West India Fevers are deprived of their terrors. In the Island of Trinidad alone, out of upwards of One Thousand treated on this plan, there were only eleven deaths.

It is particularly recommended to all who have at any period of life taken Calomel, or Mercurial preparations, in order to their removal. For such it is necessary to take the Effervescent Pyretic Saline for several months in small repeated doses.

N.B.—Keep the bottle well corked, use a dry spoon, and it will retain its valuable properties unimpaired by time or climate.

Dr. Septimus Gibbon, of the London Hospital, in his letter, states: "It is the best preparation of the kind I have ever met with. Its usefulness in the treatment of disease has long been confirmed by medical experience. Its superiority consists in its being rendered thoroughly anhydrous, &c., &c. I speak from adequate knowledge of the preparation, having been in the habit of using it in private practice for many years, and having taken a large quantity with me when I went as physician to the Smyrna Hospital. In hot climates, the preparation is of especial value.—August 7, 1857."

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From G. D. Sawyer, Esq., M.D., 22, Guildford-street, Russell-square: "I do hereby certify with pleasure that I have tested, on several occasions, the efficacy of Mr. LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE, in Gastric and Enteric Irritation, and also in Low Fevers, attended with Derangement of the Digestive Organs."

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A case of Jungle Fever had been treated with the partial contents of one bottle with perfect success; the medical attendant, of considerable repute, likes the medicine much, and wants more.

In another case of severe Vomiting, the patient was relieved after the third dose, and fell into a refreshing sleep.

Mr. Guthrie, Army Medical Director, became a warm advocate for its use in various diseases, and had the Pyretic Saline direct from the proprietor for personal and family use.

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CANTOR and CO., SIERRA LEONE.

WEST AFRICA COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIRECTORS:

HUGH BIRLEY, Esq., Didsbury, near Manchester, Chairman.

THOMAS CLEGG, Esq., Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.

THOMAS BRIGGS, Esq., Manufacturer, Manchester.

JAMES H. WHITEHEAD, Esq., Royal George Mills, near Manchester.

FREDERICK ATKINSON, Esq., Cotton Dealer, Manchester.

JOSEPH LEES, Esq., Lime Tree House, Alderley.

E. H. SHELLARD, Esq., Old Hall, Mottram in Longdendale.

BANKERS: CONSOLIDATED BANK, LIMITED.

SOLICITOR: JAMES STREET, Esq., Manchester.

BROKERS:

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SECRETARY: Mr. J. R. CLARKE.

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This Company being now in active operation, is open to receive Consignments of Produce from native traders and others on the West Coast of Africa, and to execute orders for all descriptions of goods, on the most reasonable terms, which may be known on application to the Secretary.



LAMPLOUGH'S

EFFERVESCENT



PYRETIC SALINE.

Important to English Ministers, British Consuls, and Europeans seeking to reside in safety in Tropical and Foreign Climates. Her Majesty's Representative, the Governor of Sierra Leone, in a letter of request for an additional supply of the Pyretic Saline, states: "It is of GREAT VALUE, and I shall rejoice to hear it is in the hands of all Europeans visiting the Tropics."

Half a teaspoonful, taken in a tumbler of water, contributes more to the refreshment of the body than any known beverage; invigorating and vitalising the blood, it alleviates thirst in a most agreeable manner, and furnishes the system with those saline principles that are essential to health.

SICKNESS, HEADACHE, and NAUSEA are in most cases immediately relieved by taking a teaspoonful in a tumbler of cold water; this can be repeated once or twice in two hours, if needful.

SEA VOYAGES.—It is a very valuable accompaniment, and should on no account be omitted; it instantly allays the sickness.

For BILIOUS CONSTITUTIONS, giving rise to vitiated Secretions, Indigestion, and Eruptions on the Skin—a teaspoonful should be taken daily, with the dinner, in a tumbler of water, and the same quantity on going to bed.

In cases of DIARRHOEA, put as much Magnesia as will lie on a shilling into half a tumbler of water, let this fall to the bottom of the glass, and then stir into it a teaspoonful of the Saline, and drink during effervescence.

In JUNGLE, YELLOW, SCARLET, TYPHUS, and GASTRIC FEVERS, and ERUPTIVE DISEASES, it should be given in teaspoonful doses every four hours, in a glass half full of water, or with an increased quantity of water if the patient suffers from thirst.

W. STEVENS, Esq., M.D. and D.C.L., in a work upon fevers, states that since its introduction the fatal West India Fevers are deprived of their terrors. In the Island of Trinidad alone, out of upwards of One Thousand treated on this plan, there were only eleven deaths.

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