

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 CARRINGTON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, AUGUST 2, 1866.

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THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The extra steamer Retriever, from the West Coast of Africa, Tenerife, and Madeira, arrived at Liverpool January 30. The news from the Coast was unimportant. The stations were healthy. The French fleet was at Madeira. The news of the running down of the barque Brutus by a French frigate at Madeira is confirmed. The captain and nine of the men of the barque were drowned. Six of the survivors came home in the Retriever. The regular monthly mail arrived on the 1st February.

VALUABLE KINDNESS ON THE PART OF A FRENCH NAVAL OFFICER.

A British merchant at the Gambia returning to Bathurst from England by way of Bordeaux, found himself in great difficulty lately on arriving at Goree, as in consequence of the prevalence of yellow fever there the French packet boat quarantined the shore, so that there seemed no other course open to him than to go to the Brazils! But fortunately the French Admiral came alongside, and seeing how serious the difficulty was, gave the British merchant shelter on board his own ship, and afterward sent him down to the Gambia in a French vessel of war.

We are glad to have to record this act of a French naval officer, and endeavour to believe that a British Admiral would under similar circumstances have shown the like courtesy to a merchant of France. It is an act certainly worthy of imitation.

THE ASSAULT ON MR. HARRY FINDEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, January 17, 1867.

Sir,—I see by your statement in the *African Times* and your letter to me concerning Dr. Oakes, P.M. officer, and Staff Assistant-Surgeon Elliott, that you are waiting for further particulars and depositions on oath, in order that you might lay the matter before the Secretary of State for War, and if necessary to present the same before the House of Commons at the next session.

I gave you some account of how the case was settled in my long document sent you last mail; however, I shall relate to you again about the decision of the court only, as follows:—

The case was to be heard on Monday, the 26th November last; Administrator D'Aroy postponed the sitting that day for hearing the case until the 27th. He (D'Aroy) summoned Mr. Melton, the Acting Police Magistrate, and Mr. Kneller, the Collector of Customs, at a Council meeting, the very Monday, the 26th. An ordinance or act was then made, and put immediately in force, that one magistrate was sufficient to hear and judge the case between me and Dr. Elliott. (Mr. Brown, merchant and Acting Chief Justice, exempted himself from attending that meeting of Council, as he would not consent to such a proposal.)

We went to court on Tuesday, as aforesaid. I was not sworn, neither any of my witnesses examined.

Mr. Melton, the Acting Police Magistrate, said to Dr. Elliott, "Are you guilty or not guilty of the charge brought against you by Mr. Finden?"—"Yes; I am guilty, and have done very wrong to Mr. Finden."

The sentence passed at once, Dr. Elliott fined the sum of 1*l*. and 1*s*. costs; the court dismissed. I was given to learn that such as my case requires *two sitting magistrates*, and that then the fine must have been severe. For this and other reasons Administrator D'Aroy made this act or ordinance already mentioned on my account.

I hope and trust according to your statement that justice may be done.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. FINDEN, Agent *African Times*.

P.S.—No notes have been taken down in court, or record kept on the books.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Gambia, January 18, 1867.

Sir,—Your favour of the 23rd ult. was duly received and contents noted.

I am sorry to inform you that there were no depositions on oath taken at the police-court, Dr. Elliott having admitted the charge, pleaded guilty, and was let off for a trifling fine, the only Acting Magistrate being W. Melton, Esq., *Acting Police Magistrate*, who is book-keeper at Messrs. Forster and Smiths—who would not hear any words from me or any of my witnesses, stating that it was unnecessary, the prisoner having pleaded guilty.

The decision of the court was a subject of great talk in the colony; even the Hon. T. Brown himself informed me that there was no justice given me at the court. The matter was to be heard on the Monday following the assault. But his Excellency the Governor, having repeatedly sent to me to drop the matter, and finding that I would not accede to his request, ordered that the court should be postponed until the following day, Tuesday morning, for the purpose of making an act, which was enforced the same day (Monday), that a single magistrate was sufficient to decide a case. The Acting Police Magistrate (the aforesaid Mr. Melton, decided the case in a most unsatisfactory manner. Many serious cases of such a nature have been got over in some such a manner here. Previous to the establishing of your valuable paper, we had been suffering to a greater extent, but, thank God, at present we have one whom we can resort to for exposing such deeds. I am sorry that I could not succeed in getting a copy of the depositions taken on oath at the office of the Acting Police Magistrate in the evening of the assault, before he consented to issue a warrant of apprehension against Drs. Oakes and Elliott. On applying to Mr. Melton for the same, he refused to let me take a copy, telling me that it is not considered a public property, and he should not give it up or let me take a copy from it. The statement is, however, made as near as possible.—

I remain, yours obediently,

H. FINDEN.

HOW MEMORIALS TO GOVERNMENT ARE OBTAINED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, River Gambia, November, 1866.

It is rumoured in this town that Administrator D'Arcy is begging that the inhabitants of this town will be pleased to give him a good character paper, as he is about leaving them shortly.

Administrator D'Arcy seems quite to have forgotten that in December, 1865, he ordered field-pieces, loaded, and rocket guns to be placed in every direction in Bathurst streets, to blow up the whole town. Had it not been for the mercy of the Almighty, who knows that the inhabitants have not the slightest thoughts of rebelling against the whites, he would not have the bare face to seek for a character now.

Major Ireland, of the 3rd West India Regiment, is the man such character is due to, because he is the man that saved our lives from bullets and rockets, and our houses from being burnt to ashes; as he, Major Ireland, said, he knows the inhabitants for some past years, that they are not addicted to such brutal thoughts of slaughtering.

D'Arcy and the gaffer, Mr. Campbell, drew out some kind of testimonial, the latter took it within the gaol, then he began to seize people in the streets, calling them into the gaol begging them to sign.

We are sorry to say that a good many do not know what they have signed, and a good many are foreigners, and there are also a lot of false signatures; women also seized to sign what they don't know of; and they are all foreigners. When Governors are about leaving, they never beg for character, but the inhabitants always give one without being asked. He (D'Arcy) knows that it is very hard for him to get one faithfully. When he heard that his kingdom was about to be taken away from him and given to another, he commenced by calling the inhabitants to bring their grants for town lots to write on them for the discontinuance of the half-crowns as taxes to be paid yearly, as the proper inhabitants did not sign that testimonial for him. We hope it will be of no use.—Yours, &c.,

GOVERNOR BLACKALL AND THE AFRICAN TIMES.

(Extract of a letter from the Gambia, January 18, 1867.)

"There has been an awful shine here about the letter sent by Mr. Johnson, with Colonel D'Arcy's speech, inserted by you as an advertisement in your November number. Mrs. Colonel D'Arcy got awfully vexed at it, and spoke with the Governor-General, Major Blackall, about it, he being up here at the time. You will remember that in the same number you so justly exposed the cruel waste of the revenues of Sierra Leone and the appointment of young Mr. Blackall to the utterly needless office of Inspector-General of Police, with a large salary, while only 290*l.* a-year could be spared for the general education of the people.

"The Governor-General called up Mr. Johnson, and gave him a regular blowing up for sending such an article to a newspaper, telling him that as a Government officer he had no business to write to the papers, and that whenever he finds him do such a thing again, he will dismiss him from the service. Mr. Johnson replied that Colonel D'Arcy requested him to send it, which Colonel D'Arcy very properly confirmed. The Governor rejoined, that he ought only to have sent it to you without saying he was ordered to do so, leaving it to your discretion to insert it or not, and continued, 'Let me catch you writing again to that nasty paper, that beastly paper, and I will show you that a Government officer cannot do it with impunity.' He calls it the nasty and beastly paper, of course, because it has exposed his mismanagement of the Sierra Leone revenues. Colonel D'Arcy, who was present the whole time, took it all very quietly, and said afterwards that the reason why the Governor-General was so bitter against the *African Times* was on account of the article about his son's appointment as Inspector-General of Police. You have done good service to Sierra Leone by that *expose*; but from what I hear of the people there you must not expect any visible gratitude for it, as they are awful cowards, and dreadfully afraid of the Government, which goes secretly to work to menace them."

SIERRA LEONE NEWS.

The all-engrossing subject of political importance for the past month, has been the now notorious Ordinance for abolishing trial by jury in civil actions which was forwarded by the Executive two months ago for the Royal sanction. This is the Ordinance of 1866, No. 4, which was accompanied to England by the Protest of the natives against its confirmation. The petition which it was stated in the Protest would be sent, setting forth the grounds of the inhabitants for praying for the non-confirmation of the Ordinance, will be sent by the Governor to the Secretary of State, to whom it is addressed, by the present mail. The petition was presented to-day (January 12) to his Excellency, when he took

occasion to inform the gentlemen who presented it that No. 4 was the offspring of the late Secretary of State, Mr. Cardwell, and Mr. Chichester Fortescue, immediately after the Select Committee on the West Coast of Africa had closed their labours in 1865, and was adopted by the Earl of Carnarvon. The abominable odour which attaches to his Excellency on account of this Ordinance is then undeserved by him; and besides, as his Excellency says that it was not done out of any party spirit by those gentlemen but simply because the same policy will be carried out with respects to the other settlements on the West Coast, we hope the public in their next step, if necessary, against this Ordinance, will bear in mind this fact.

The public health is good.—*The African Interpreter*. The petition alluded to above has come over by the last mail. It has been signed at public meetings throughout the colony, and has 800 signatures, every principal native merchant, trader, &c., in the colony having signed.

DOGBERRY JUSTICE.

(Not from Shakespeare.)

Mr. Belgrave started a Sierra Leone newspaper—not a Government organ—and sent out circulars stating terms, &c., to the principal people, the Governor, Mr. Ashwood, Acting Clerk of the Council, &c., &c. No. 1 paper is sent to Mr. Ashwood, and to the Governor, among others. This is repeated as regards Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, Mr. Ashwood on one occasion sending his servant to the newspaper-office to exchange a wrong number for a right one: Bill for half-year's subscription is sent in. Mr. Ashwood tells the messenger he will settle it when he comes from office. But somebody found a better mode for him, and two days later he returns it, saying, "Not a subscriber, and shall only pay for the five copies." Is summoned for the half-year's subscription, 10*s.* Sierra Leone is blessed with a military police magistrate, an officer of the garrison, Captain Bravo, of a West India Regiment. Plaintiff contends Mr. Ashwood must be considered a subscriber, and must pay. The following is part of the dialogue in Court:—

Military Magistrate Bravo: You say that acting on the adage silence gives consent, you sent your papers to Mr. Ashwood?

Plaintiff: Yes.

Bravo: Then supposing you wrote me a letter, calling me in that letter a rascal and blackguard, and I did not choose to take any notice of it, by your reasoning I should be a rascal and blackguard—you would consider me so, since you say silence gives consent?

Can it be disputed that military magistrates possess a happy talent for striking illustrations?

The magistrate decides that Mr. Ashwood is not a subscriber, and is not to pay, and should not have offered to pay even for the five copies.

There is no appeal. This decision will govern all other cases. Fifteen minutes after this decision the following note was delivered to the publisher, who was still at the magistrate's office:—

To the Editor of the Interpreter.

Government House, December 29, 1866.

Sir,—I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to request that you will discontinue to send copies of the *Interpreter* to Government House, as his Excellency has not subscribed and has no intention of subscribing to that publication.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, G. BEESFORD PRIMER, Private Sec.

The same publisher is summoned before Magistrate Bravo for wages due. The publisher contends he is not liable, the man never having performed any duty for the money he claims—and further, that under a certain colonial ordinance he having been convicted and fined for having refused or neglected to perform his duty, could not recover wages, even had such been due.

Magistrate Bravo: O, that is your dodge—you say you don't owe anything at all?

Defendant: Yes.

Magistrate: Well, I must tell you, Mr. Belgrave, that that won't wash here. I am not going to suffer such nonsense at all. The ordinance does not apply to this case. Besides, you say I fined that man, now I never did any such thing.

Defendant: I beg your worship's pardon. You did fine that man in the amount of a day's labour, besides condemning him in costs.

Magistrate: I did not fine him. I particularly avoided using the word fine. Did you hear me say that I fine that man, Mr. Metzger?

Metzger (Police Clerk): No, Sir; you made an order.

Defendant: As your worship says you did not fine the man, will you be good enough to let me know what you did do—what was your decision in the case?

Magistrate (throwing himself back, and with great emphasis):

Yes, I will tell what I did do. I condemned him in costs and "mulcted" him the amount of a day's labour.

The Police Clerk bowed assent.

Defendant: Well, I was not aware that there was any difference between fining and mulcting.

Magistrate: O, yes, there is a legal difference; so you see that ordinance does not apply.

Defendant: I submit that, even if, as you say, you mulcted the plaintiff, and did not fine him, still he is disabled from recovering any money, if it were even due to him, by this ordinance, because he was condemned in costs by you, and, as you say, mulcted besides, and this was convicting him of refusal and neglect of duty.

Magistrate: I say that the ordinance does not apply, and you very well know that. You are so much in the habit of misrepresenting the truth that when it is put plainly before you you can't see it. You know that I never fined that man, and you merely misrepresented what I did so as to misrepresent this ordinance, and make it apply, although you know very well that it does not apply. I will not have you to distort the truth here in this manner.

Defendant: I did not know that you never fined that man, nor do I know that the ordinance does not apply. I submit that it still applies, and I must say in my own defence that I do not think it fair, nor do I think that you have any right to sit there on that bench and grossly insult me in this way, by telling me that I habitually misrepresent truth, that I "know" the ordinance does not apply, and that I have misrepresented you so that I should apply it; in short, telling me, in so many words, I am a liar. I am the same professional man as you, and am equally bound to defend my character.

Magistrate: You a professional man?

Defendant: Yes, the same as you, of a different profession, but still a professional man.

Magistrate: Well, let me tell you that you are not on a level with me in any respect.

Defendant: That is a matter of opinion.

Magistrate: And I must inform you that I will not have you to be addressing me here in that manner.

Defendant: I am bound in defence of my character to address you in the manner I have addressed you, when you sit there and in so many words call me a liar.

Magistrate: Very well. Now, as you would not shut your mouth, and let me settle the case as I was going to settle it, I will show you that you shall pay this man; I will make you pay him.

Defendant: Your worship can do as you please—you will only bear in mind the objections I have taken.

&c., &c., &c.

EMIGRATION TO LIBERIA.

Six hundred emigrants for Liberia sailed from Charleston, S.C., in the ship *Golconda*, 21st November, 1866. Among them were two native Africans, each 100 years of age, and one patriarch of 108 years, with his children and grandchildren. There were other 632 persons waiting to emigrate till the Colonization Society could assist them to do so.

During the present session of the Legislature of Tennessee, Dr. B. Frazier, senator from Knox County, has introduced a bill to establish a State Board to aid and encourage the coloured people of Tennessee to emigrate to Liberia.

THE PETITION OF THE KING OF CAPE COAST TO HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

The King was arrested before he could attach his signature.

(Copy.)

Cape Coast, 7th December, 1866.

The humble petition of John Aggery, King of Cape Coast and its Dependencies on the Gold Coast of Western Africa, to the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Sheweth—

That your petitioner is the legally constituted King of Cape Coast and its dependencies.

That your petitioner on his coronation was honoured by a salute of guns from Her Majesty the Queen of England's fort at Cape Coast, on the 13th day of February, 1865.

That a guard of honour, composed of Her Majesty's 4th West India Regiment, were ordered out as a guard of honour to your petitioner, and presented arms to him in recognition of his position.

That the full band of Her Majesty's said 4th West India Regiment attended your petitioner's coronation, and played the English national air of "God save the Queen," while the soldiers presented arms to your petitioner.

That after the usual procession your petitioner was most cordially received at Government House, and hearty welcome was given him by his Excellency Governor Pine, who stated publicly that he welcomed your petitioner, in the name of the Queen of England, as the King of Cape Coast.

That at that meeting, or at any subsequent one, your petitioner was never (as usual) requested to take the oath of allegiance to the Queen of England.

That this most important omission confirmed your petitioner's idea, and that of his brother kings, that Her Majesty the Queen of England desired that the principal native kings on the Gold Coast would endeavour to prepare themselves for self-government, so as to relieve the British Government of a task which they seemed so anxious to get rid of.

That your petitioner has been since confirmed in his opinion from the result of the last parliamentary committee held in England on the affairs of the settlements on the West Coast of Africa.

That your petitioner, acting under the recommendation of Her Majesty the Queen of England, instituted courts of law, which were greatly appreciated by all his subjects, and without egotism your petitioner begs to assure your lordship that the last quarter 175 cases of importance were settled in his court without a single appeal to the English courts.

That your petitioner humbly submits that he could not possibly adduce greater proof than this: that in the majority of cases the natives of the Gold Coast prefer their own courts for the adjustment of their affairs than any other.

That your petitioner has great cause to complain against the conduct of Colonel Conran, the present Administrator of the Gold Coast, and petitioned the Governor-General at Sierra Leone against the continued ill-treatment himself and people have been subjected to from him; copy of the said petition is hereby enclosed for your lordship's perusal and consideration.

That your petitioner has not received the slightest satisfaction from the Governor-General at Sierra Leone, who, in answer to your petitioner's prayers, simply referred him to the party against whom he had complained.

That your petitioner cannot believe that a good Christian Government, like that of Great Britain, would sanction such proceedings as have taken place lately on the West Coast of Africa.

That your petitioner (himself a Christian and a member of Christ's Church) is desirous by all the means in his power to elevate his country, and, by good example, endeavour by God's grace to convince his brother kings of that light which has been of so great a blessing to your petitioner.

That every effort made by your petitioner to carry out his intentions has been frustrated by Colonel Conran, the present Administrator.

That your petitioner is convinced that the ill-feeling exercised by Colonel Conran against him has its origin in the fact that, on the 4th September, 1865, Colonel Conran's soldiers, headed by British officers, the Colonel himself at their head, ordered many of his poor subjects to be put to death, amongst them one Quaminah Crenstill, who declared before William Cleaver, Esq., Justice of the Peace, and many reliable witnesses, a few moments before he died, that Colonel Conran had personally ordered him to be killed.

That the dying declaration of the above Quaminah Crenstill was duly filed in Her Majesty the Queen of England's Court.

That since then your petitioner has been informed that the declaration of the dying man was given up by the late Acting Chief Justice Barry to Colonel Conran, in whose possession it is now, unless destroyed by him.

That your petitioner humbly suggests that if Colonel Conran was the accused, he had no right to have been furnished with the original document, which laid the crime of murder at his door.

That since the death of the unfortunate Crenstill, not the slightest investigation has taken place, nor has any justice been done to those poor creatures who have been cruelly deprived of a parent.

That on the same night on which Crenstill was murdered, John Sensaiz was also murdered, and although one of Colonel Conran's soldiers, named King, was tried and convicted, Colonel Conran exercised his prerogative, and commuted his sentence to imprisonment.

That your petitioner maintains, that King was either guilty or not guilty, and if after the jury had convicted him the Crown thought he was innocent, he ought to have been set free, and there could not possibly be a medium in the charge brought and proved against him.

That on the 18th March, of this year, in your petitioner's presence, Colonel Conran, with his own sword, wounded a subject belonging to a brother king, who was on his way to Government House, at the request of Colonel Conran.

That the above unfortunate man has since died from the wounds inflicted by Colonel Conran, and no satisfaction has been accorded to his unfortunate family.

That on the 3rd day of this month, your petitioner, amongst many other prisoners, had four men imprisoned for crim. con., debt, and other causes.

That, without any notice to your petitioner, Colonel Conran ordered his stipendiary magistrate to issue a warrant to release them, which was accordingly done.

That no act of cruelty was alleged or proved against your petitioner to warrant so unjustifiable a course by Colonel Conran.

That such a proceeding as this will tend most materially to weaken the position of all the native kings, and will make it a matter of impossibility hereafter for them ever to expect that the wishes of Great Britain will be attained, in respect to their being left to govern their own country without the aid of their greatest and most humane benefactress, the Queen of England.

That your petitioner furnished Colonel Conran with a statement of the cases against the four prisoners that were released, and prayed that he would reconsider his decision and return them, but he refused to comply with your petitioner's request.

That in consequence of this unnecessary and unusual proceeding of Colonel Conran your petitioner's position and dignity of a king is most seriously damaged, and unless your lordship at once interferes the whole protectorate will be in the utmost confusion.

That at present there is scarcely a district in the whole protectorate that is not in great trouble on account of the tyranny and unseemly conduct of Colonel Conran.

That heavy fines are constantly being inflicted on the kings and chiefs of the protectorate, without any investigation being gone into to ascertain who are right and who wrong.

That your petitioner, and other important kings in the protectorate, are constantly being insulted, and the most gross and ungentlemanly language used towards them by Colonel Conran, such language as your petitioner never heard from the lips of any previous ruler here.

That in consequence of Colonel Conran and his military stipendiary magistrates' harsh and oppressive conduct to those who come before them, the whole protectorate are most dissatisfied, and the utmost confusion prevails.

That unless your lordship averts the calamity, your petitioner fears he will not be able to quell any disturbance that may arise in consequence of the unprecedented and despotic rule that Colonel Conran has established in the Gold Coast, on a people who are not recognised as British subjects, nor are they led to expect even British aid in time of distress.

That in consequence of the false report propagated and published by Colonel Conran in his proclamation, to the effect that he had concluded a peace with the King of Ashantee, will tend greatly to weaken the power of England in these parts, as his Majesty the King of Ashantee has repudiated Colonel Conran's proclamation, and has distinctly told him that he never sought for peace, but that it was Colonel Conran who had sent and begged him for peace by the mouth of Mr. George Blankson, on the banks of the river Prah.

That as long as Colonel Conran remains in charge of this Government it is impossible to expect any settlement of this most serious and lamentable war.

That your petitioner is only expressing the feelings of the whole protectorate in praying humbly that your lordship will relieve us from military rule, and send us a civil gentleman of experience, and an experienced lawyer who will be able to advise his Excellency in times of difficulty, and help your petitioner, and his brother kings and chiefs, in those matters which only a good lawyer can do, to the satisfaction of the ignorant.

That, in consequence of the whole government being in the hands of the military, it often happens that young officers with no experience are called upon to decide cases in which life and death are concerned.

That your petitioner prays that your lordship will cause Colonel Conran to be instructed that he is not to trample on your petitioner or his brother kings, but, on the contrary, his duty is to carry out the intention of the good Queen of England towards my unfortunate and unrepresented country.

That if Colonel Conran would only adhere to the spirit of his Government as regards the Gold Coast, every one would be satisfied, and wait with patience for better days.

That for these reasons your petitioner earnestly and sincerely prays that your lordship will take his case (which is the case of the whole protectorate) into grave consideration, and grant some relief to a million and upwards of suffering Africans who cry aloud for mercy, and your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

P.S.—Before the King signed the petition, a dozen policemen, accompanied by three military officers, with Mr. Usher, by the order of Colonel the Administrator, came and took away the King as a prisoner, and shipped him off on board the mail steamer,

Calabar, and not knowing where he is to be taken to, we, the chiefs and headmen of Cape Coast, therefore signed this petition for our King, and forward the same to your lordship.

QUAMINA MAYAH, Chief; CUDJOR EDDOO; COFFEY YAMMIE, Chief; QUASIE AMMERABEER; COFFEY EQUEE; QUOW TAURAH; QUOW ASHON; QUOW ACKOON; and THOMAS FRISKY.

KING AGGERY'S LETTER TO COLONEL CONRAN.

Cape Coast, December 6, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the time has now come for me to record a solemn protest against the perpetual annoyances and insults that you persistently and perseveringly continue to practise on me in my capacity as legally-constituted King of Cape Coast.

I presume your object is to endeavour, all in your power, to incite me and my people to enact more of those fearful things that took place in Jamaica that I hear of; but I respectfully beg to inform your Excellency that you are labouring under a great disappointment, and however much you may desire to have me and my people under martial law, you shall never have that pleasure.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon has laid it down, in his speech on the 2nd of August last, that we are all entitled to redress at his hands as the Colonial Minister. To that quarter I shall appeal, for the last time, and then, if some tangible satisfaction is not accorded to me, and those whose interests I am bound to protect, it will be time enough for me to adopt those measures which will insure to me and my people something unlike the slavery that you are endeavouring to place us in.

I am fully aware that all your vengeance on me owes its origin to the fact, that I exposed you for those fearful acts that took place on September 4, 1865, when my people were butchered by your soldiers, some by your own personal superintendence, as declared to by them in their dying declaration before the Queen's Magistrate, Mr. Cleaver, and other reliable witnesses; and I further beg to inform you that I shall not omit to bring before the English Government at Downing-street your personal attack upon King Otaibel, in my own presence, on March 18, 1866, last, when two of his people were wounded, and one of them died a few days afterwards from the effects of the wounds inflicted upon him. It is impossible for me to endure your tyranny, annoyances, and abuses any longer, nor will I submit to the disunion that you are daily endeavouring to create amongst my chiefs, and others.

The Earl of Carnarvon shall be the judge between you and me, as I find (through you) that the Governor-General at Sierra Leone will not even answer my petition, forgetting, doubtless, that the Government of England has expressed its desire that we, the kings and chiefs of the Gold Coast, are to prepare ourselves for self-government, and no protection; although they forgot, at the same time, to do away with the obnoxious and unpopular rum and other taxes which press so heavily on my people.

The Government of England have sanctioned and encouraged our having courts of our own. That being the fact, by what degree of official audacity, may I ask, did one W. Z. Coker enter my Court on the 5th instant, to pry into matters which concerned me only, as the head of my Court, and when he was prevented from doing so, thought himself insulted, and called in a company of police, seized and took to prison two officers of my Court, and is still pursuing after two others, to treat them the same? This unwarrantable conduct of your officers has been represented to you, but your Excellency has connived at it. Also by your previous order of the 3rd inst., four prisoners were discharged from my town prison, for the particulars of which I refer you to my letter, dated the 4th inst., to which no reply has been sent.

For the last time I desire to call your attention to this last gross outrage, and should it again occur, the responsibility will rest at your door.

I have to inform you that, accompanying my letter to the Earl of Carnarvon, a copy of this will be sent to his lordship, and may God incline your heart to justice.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) JOHN AGGERY, King of Cape Coast.
To his Excellency Col. Conran, Administrator, Gold Coast.

THE ARREST OF KING AGGERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, January 7, 1867.

Sir,—Never, I firmly believe, since the Gold Coast came under British rule, has a greater outrage been committed in the name of the British Sovereign than was perpetrated the 8th December

* Qr. under?

† Since committed by Judge Parker for trial on the charges of forgery, embezzlement, receiving bribes, &c.—ED. A. T.

last by Colonel Edward Conran, of the 4th West India Regiment, Administrator of this unfortunate part of Western Africa.

For some time a want of cordiality has existed between King Agger (who is the legally constituted King of Cape Coast) and Colonel Conran, and I have no hesitation in saying that the fault rests more at Colonel Conran's door than at Agger's.

The fact is, Colonel Conran, like the majority of military rulers, cannot digest the fact that civilians are not expected to obey the same strict laws that soldiers are obliged to conform to; but it will not, I trust, be in Colonel Conran's time that such a violation as a general subjection to military rule should befall the human family.

I send you a true copy of King Agger's letter to Colonel Conran, dated December 6, 1866, which was the pretext for his arrest in his house on the morning of the 8th December last, and for shipping him off, two hours after, without a trial, to Sierra Leone, as a malefactor. By that letter King Agger must stand or fall. If Colonel Conran can induce the Earl of Carnarvon to believe (what no one out here does) that this letter is a rebellious one, then of course Agger must abide the consequences; but if, on the other hand, the Earl of Carnarvon and the public pronounce a verdict against Colonel Conran, Agger will recover compensation, and such compensation as will teach future African rulers a lesson. For my part, I have read the letter which gave such offence to Colonel Conran, and I cannot discover in one single paragraph the slightest semblance of rebellion, and am confirmed in my opinion by the fact that when the King was arrested, the people, at the request of Agger and his chiefs, exercised an extraordinary patience. One word from the King would have armed in an hour 6,000 men, and then what would have been the consequence? Really, unless the Government here is put into the hands of a gentleman of a different temperament to Colonel Conran, we shall never get on; the whole protectorate complains bitterly against him; and for the honour of England and the security of all our lives, I do trust he will not be permitted to remain here much longer.

Her Majesty's Government can, I think, only take one view of this conduct of Colonel Conran, and it is to be hoped that Agger will have justice done him at the hands of the Earl of Carnarvon. There never was a time at which the interference of the Colonial Minister was more needed. Publish Agger's letter, and Colonel Conran's proclamation (which I apprehend will be treated with the same contempt as his peace proclamation about Ashantee), and let the public give a verdict. That is Agger's desire, and I do trust you will do your best to vindicate the rights of a

POOR AFRICAN KING.

PROCLAMATION.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY EDWARD CONRAN, COLONEL ADMINISTRATOR OF HER MAJESTY'S POSSESSIONS ON THE GOLD COAST, ETC.

Whereas John Agger, styling himself King of Cape Coast and its dependencies, has for some time past been guilty of addressing Her Majesty's Representative most insubordinately, but more especially so on the 6th instant, in rebelliously threatening his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government with a repetition at Cape Coast of the late unfortunate scenes of bloodshed which took place in Jamaica: these facts, which indicate the most hostile views towards the British Government, have led to his immediate removal to Sierra Leone as a prisoner, it is therefore hereby published, declared, and proclaimed that, from and after the 6th day of this present month, John Agger is to be no longer considered and acknowledged as King of Cape Coast, and that the native Courts of Cape Coast for the adjustment of civil and criminal cases are to be closed, Her Majesty's Courts, presided over by the chief and other magistrates, being open daily for the administration of justice to high and low, according to the just, noble, and benevolent laws of Great Britain and Ireland.

Given under my hand and the public seal at Government-house, Cape Coast, this 10th day of December, 1866.

By his Excellency's command,
H. T. USSHER, Colonial Secretary.

God save the Queen!

THE NEW JUDICIAL ASSESSOR AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, January 7, 1867.

Mr. Parker has found most shameful and dishonest management in the Court. We see that he means to sweep all the filth out, and establish good order and justice. Here is a gentleman who understands his business; may God give him long life. The Clerk of the Court (Mr. Z. Coker), with two or three more persons, are the Administrator's private advisers, who carry so many false reports to him about the King and councillors, which is the cause of so much ill-feeling towards the King and town. We know it, but who dare to mention such? You would be immediately summoned for defamation of character, and be imprisoned. We

believe Mr. Parker is sent by God to relieve us from these lawless persons; which will bring good order, love, unity, and co-operation throughout the protectorate. Mr. Parker may just try it; give proper redress, respect, and care for the town's interest, working with the native authorities, and he will, as well as every European here, see what a good and quiet government will take place.
L. A. C.

THE CLERK OF THE COURT AT CAPE COAST COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, January 8, 1867.

Sir,—A relief, the importance of which it would be difficult to overstate, arrived last mail in the person of the Honourable William Alexander Parker, the newly-appointed Chief Magistrate and Judicial Assessor to the native chiefs of this settlement.

On the 19th December, 1866, his Honour opened his new Court, to be styled "A Court of Civil and Criminal Justice," and adjourned it until the first Monday in January. Between the day of adjournment and the opening of the Court yesterday, his Honour has been most actively engaged in putting things in order, and remedying the great evils that existed prior to his accession to office. Amongst these evils none assumed so serious a nature as the charges brought against the Clerk of the Court, William Zaccheus Coker, who had succeeded (by the extraordinary influence he possessed over Captain A. H. Hall, of the 2nd West India Regiment, and other magistrates, &c., on the Gold Coast) in rendering the name of Her Majesty's Government and her Courts odious, by accepting bribes to influence the decision of the Courts. Mr. W. Z. Coker's career was brought to a close yesterday, by his being committed to prison under several serious charges of embezzlement, forgery, and divers other felonies, the judge refusing to accept bail, unless Coker lodged 200*l.* in the Court, which of course he could not do, and he was there and then committed to prison.

Your correspondent, "A Looker-on," who wrote you on the 11th October last, has clearly proved before the Governor and Chief Magistrate one of his assertions—namely, that "Gentlemen's houses were entered by a body of police officers, who, without authority of any kind, save the Queen's uniform, proceeded to sell by auction their effects." When the other case comes on, it will be as clearly proved. Now, at whose door does all the blame rest? That is a question for Colonel Conran to answer, because he cannot say that he was not aware of the loud complaints of all parties against Captain Hall and W. Z. Coker for months past.

The fact was simply this: Mr. W. Z. Coker was a bosom friend to M^r. Intyre (whose pernicious influence on this Coast, as commanding four votes in the Legislative Council—his own and those of three other *employés* of Messrs. Forster and Smith—you have so often exposed and condemned), the agent for Messrs. Forster and Smith, who, at several dinner parties and balls that he had given lately to the officers of the garrison, introduced, amongst a lot of other questionable characters, Mr. W. Z. Coker, who, of course (Mr. M^r. Intyre being supreme in the Legislative Council), became a gentleman of some position, and hence his success in plundering the Colonial Government chest, and unfortunate plaintiffs and suitors. And what makes this affair so extraordinary is the fact that Mr. A. B. M^r. Intyre (who must have known that Coker was not a man of means) sold him a house lately. I could write pages on the extraordinary relations existing between these two public gentlemen, but I forbear, on no other grounds than charity.

Mr. Parker appears to be the man who was wanted here. He has exhibited hitherto an entire independence of character; and the few decisions he has given are marked with impartiality. We have hope, therefore, that he will continue in the line of conduct he has evidently marked out for himself, which, if followed up, will really be a blessing to this protectorate. We wish him sincerely the blessings of good health, and a strong mind to resist the evil influences that have always surrounded previous judges in this small community.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
NUNC FELIX.

DANGEROUS STATE OF THE CAPE COAST TERRITORIES AS REGARDS ASHANTEE.

(Extract of a Letter from Cape Coast, January 6, 1867.)

"Humanly speaking, should Ashantee take hostile measures against the protectorate in its present sad state, the latter would seem to be an easy prey. The chiefs of the interior appear to be isolated from each other, and from the British Local Government, to an alarming extent, and there is reason to believe it is now beyond doubt that two Trans-Volta states of the protectorate (Aquamboe and Awoonah) are actually taken under the protection of Ashantee. Indeed, looking at all things as they now appear around us, we may be much obliged to the King of Ashantee for his forbearance toward the protectorate."

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

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

Amount already published	£386 19 9
Lord Alfred Churchill	1 0 0
Sir John Boileau, Bart.	2 0 0
Miss Florence Nightingale (the friend of the soldier in the Crimea)	0 10 0
The poor Miners in Penyardren, Merthyr Tydvil, South Wales (a penny subscription, spontaneous, raised among them on reading Mrs. Moseley's letter in the <i>Freedmen's Magazine</i> , and sent by them for the little African children)	0 15 0

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

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

The African Times.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1867.

ACCOUCHEMENT OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

It was officially announced on the morning of the 20th that her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales had been safely delivered of a princess at 6.30 a.m., and that her Royal Highness and the princess were going on quite well.

This is her Royal Highness's third child. She has now two sons and a daughter.

MISCELLANEA.

Yellow fever has been very fatal at the French settlement of Goree.

Rear-Admiral Patey has had a very severe attack of illness since his arrival at the Gambia as Administrator. The disease was not owing to African climate, but was one to which the Admiral is said to have been long subject.

Governor Blackall told a deputation of the native merchants, &c., at Sierra Leone that he was not the author of the infamous ordinance for doing away with trial by jury in civil causes; he declares it to be the joint production of Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Chichester Fortescue, since adopted by Lord Carnarvon.

Colonel Nelson and Lieut. Brand, R.N., having been charged with the crime of wilful murder in Jamaica, before the magistrate at Bow-street, London, at the instance of the Jamaica Committee, have been committed for trial, bail being taken for their appearance. It is understood that Governor Eyre will be arraigned on a similar charge.

Mr. Chalmers, who has been appointed Principal Magistrate, &c., for the Gambia, left England for his post by the mail steamer of the 23rd January.

At the annual meeting of the Company of African Merchants, held in London on the 12th inst., a dividend was declared of 4s. 6d. per share for the six months ending December 31, which, with 2s. 6d. per share paid in July last, makes 7s. per share for the year 1866. The shares are 3l. paid. The yearly dividend is therefore at the rate of 11½ per cent. per annum.

The Portuguese Government laid before the Chambers at Lisbon, on the 1st February, "a Bill for the immediate Abolition of Slavery in the Portuguese Dominions."

It was reported at Lagos, from the Niger, that Massaba, King of Nupé, had been killed in an action with the troops of the Sultan of Sokkatoo. As Massaba was friendly to European trade and kept peace in the Niger countries, we hope this is not correct.

A meeting on behalf of Mrs. Moseley's Native Female Industrial School was held at Exeter Hall on the 18th inst.

JUDICIAL ESTABLISHMENTS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

We are authorized to state that the whole question of the Judicial Establishments on the West Coast of Africa is under consideration by Her Majesty's Government. We hope the assurance of this will give some tranquillity to our African friends who have been for some time so grievously suffering under a shameful mal-administration of justice by ignorant military officers and other incompetent and unfit persons.

THE SIERRA LEONE PETITION AGAINST ORDINANCE No. IV., 1866, NOVEMBER 16.

When a people show themselves keenly sensitive with regard to any attack upon their public rights and privileges, and bold and active in defence of them, they prove themselves worthy to possess them, and will generally succeed in retaining and extending them. An apathetic and timid people may expect to be tyrannized over, and that unscrupulous officials will seek to deprive them of any constitutional protection they may have enjoyed. Those who have taken a lively interest in the welfare of the colony of Sierra Leone have had but too much reason to deplore an apathy and timidity in its educated community *vis-à-vis* the executive, eminently calculated to encourage the latter in aggression upon their personal and public liberties. They have been silent under manifold and heavy grievances, and seemed ready to sign away the whole charter of their liberties rather than incur such displeasure as should lead to their exclusion from Government House. Much may undoubtedly be urged, with great reason and justice, in excuse for this; but the effect produced by it has been so seriously prejudicial to the social advancement of the people and the material progress of the colony, that it is not the less to be deplored and condemned. We smarted lately when we read in the *African Repository*, a magazine published in America: "Sierra Leone strikingly exemplifies the inefficiency of European legislation as a civilizer of the black race." Under British rule, crippled by monarchical restraints, the African element, so essential to African civilization, in Sierra Leone is rendered subdued and silent; and hence that province has been, and under like circumstances will continue to be, of no marked avail as a pioneer of intelligent progress. What do our Sierra Leone—our wealthy and educated people of Sierra Leone, think of this foreign estimate of them? And again, Professor Blyden, of Liberia, in an oration delivered last July in Syria, says, with regard to Sierra Leone and other British settlements along the West Coast: "Even if it should not be possible for the republic (of Liberia) to acquire them in the course of time in an honourable and quiet manner, still they will never rise to sufficient importance to cause us external anxieties," &c. Would the people of Sierra Leone be held so cheaply as this in America, and by their African brethren in Liberia, if they had done their duty to themselves and to their race and country by a continued and urgent demand from Great Britain of that control over the expenditure of their revenues which might have enabled them to have their Professor Blydens, and have given impulse and vigour to all civilizing agencies along the West Coast? Why, there was so little real sign of public life among them, that except in the jury-box we saw but faint traces of a real appreciation of liberty. And that jury-box, the only real barrier against unlimited oppression on the part of unscrupulous Europeans in authority, has consequently been sought to be wrested from them. If they had failed in their duty on this occasion they would, as a people, have been politically interred. We trembled when the infamous Ordinance No. IV., 1866, first reached us, lest there should be a tardy, a lukewarm, and an inadequate expression of public feeling against it. But thank God it has not been thus; and, on the contrary, that the hope we expressed in our December number of what the colony would do has been realized. A copy of the petition sent home by last mail against this ordinance lies before us; and as zealous workers for African civilization, as jealous guardians of African liberties under civilized rule, we offer our thanks and congratulations to the leading men who have conducted the movement, and to the eight hundred who have signed this petition of rights. Such a petition will do much to convince the Home Government that the education which has been given to the people at the cost and by the exertion of missionary societies, in the disgraceful absence of all attempts to impart any by the State, has been such as to form securely, but silently, a race of freemen, who know how to appreciate and honour and cherish the institutions and privileges to which they are entitled as British subjects; and such a petition, too (which, as well as the odious ordinance, we have taken the proper steps to have placed in the hands of members of the House of Commons), will strengthen the hands of their friends in England in their labours to free and guard them from that official oppression which has worked so much mischief in Sierra Leone and elsewhere on the West Coast. But we cannot too earnestly warn them against a relapse to their former state of apathy and seeming indifference. They must show themselves constantly awake, constantly watchful, constantly bold for what is right. We, who are fighting here the battle for their liberties, have had too much reason to complain of them. Through us they have a representation before the British Government and the British public which no local press, however honest and fearless, could ever give them. In us they have a champion whom no labour deters, and whom no expense and risk of time or money has frightened from their ranks; and if these had been properly appreciated, not only would a

committee such as that which has conducted the late public display of patriotic feeling have made some noble effort among themselves to lighten the burthen of our constant pecuniary sacrifices, but would have secured the enrolment of every man of that band of eight hundred petitioners—aye, of every man in the colony who can read—on the list of our subscribers. If those who have directed the late movement desire, as they ought to desire, that the spirit of true liberty, without license, without any dishonouring excess, shall be kept alive—and only thus will they obtain those institutions to which from the growing wealth and intelligence of the colony they have now an undoubted claim—they will take immediate and effective measures for placing the *African Times* regularly in the hands of every man who has learned to read the English language. Although we are fully entitled to make this appeal, we never should have made it but that every day shows us more and more plainly how much work there is to do here for the West Coast, and that this work is making continually greater inroads on our time. And we would have the educated African community everywhere along the Coast, and above all in the now metropolitan city of Sierra Leone, put their shoulders to the wheel, not with a mere spasmodic, but with a deliberate and persistent effort to support our agency in their behalf in such a way that, should God call us from the scene of our labours, there may be inducement for some other earnest worker to occupy the post from which an all-wise Providence may have removed us. We hope that we may have health and strength for many years to carry on the work we have undertaken for Africa and its people; but where such great objects are at stake all possible precautions ought to be taken by freemen who desire to rise to the dignity of self-government, to secure the permanence of every agency that may conduce to such results.

STATE OF AFFAIRS AT CAPE COAST AND ON THE GOLD COAST.

THE disgraceful state of affairs at the seat of Government, and in the eastern districts of the so-called Protected Territories, which it has for some time past been our painful duty to expose, has seemingly culminated in the violent arrest and deportation to Sierra Leone of King Aggrey of Cape Coast, by order of the Administrator, Colonel Conran, on the one hand; and on the other, by the arrest and committal for trial, by the new Chief Magistrate, Mr. Parker, of Z. Coker, Clerk of the Court (the British court of justice at Cape Coast), on the charges of extortion, embezzlement, forgery, receiving bribes, &c. It was our intention to have entered fully this month upon the question of King Aggrey's arrest and deportation to Sierra Leone; but as we have taken measures for bringing the subject under the notice of the House of Commons, we think it right to defer those remarks which we should under other circumstances have made without fear or favour. The situation is altogether a very grave one. The charges brought against Colonel Conran by King Aggrey in his petition and in his letter, which we now publish, are of a very serious nature, and such as we think can scarcely be shelved by the Colonial office in its archives without some open and impartial inquiry into their truth or falsehood; and into all the attendant circumstances, provided their truth should be thus established. That there was an unprecedented state of relations between the British authority and the native King is beyond all question; and it remains to be seen how far the Colonial office may be justly held responsible for evils that may have thus originated. When we saw, long, long ago, after the sharp parliamentary party contest relative to the disasters of the so-called Ashantee war, and the deliberations and report of the Committee of the House of Commons, that all the pre-existing bases of relations, real or implied, between the British Executive and the people of the protectorate were to be changed, we urged the necessity of an immediate official publication of the instructions given to the Governor-General and the Lieutenant-Governor or Administrator at Cape Coast. We said this was necessary, in order that all parties might know their relative positions. Secrecy, where the mutual relations between authority and the governed are abruptly changed, is always indefensible on the part of the former, and unjust and dangerous to the latter. Except where a stern, unreasoning tyranny is established (and we presume the British Colonial office did not intend to institute such a system at Cape Coast), there are obligations on both sides, and the subjects have a clear and indisputable right to know what they may do and may not do, and what the governing power will do for them in return. This course has not been followed at Cape Coast: all that had been was unsettled—all that was to be was shrouded in mist and darkness—so shrouded that we have serious reasons for believing that the Queen's Administrator himself was ignorant of the attitude and position he was to assume and maintain toward the people who had been so rudely awakened from their dream of efficient protection in return for customs dues and submission to British orders and to British tribunals.

But to return to the late state of affairs—we say late, because some things were changed by the opportune arrival of the new Chief Magistrate, Mr. Parker, who seems to have set calmly and impartially to work to clear the British courts of practices which were making them odious to all decent men there, whether European or native. The merits and advantages of soldier magistracy and judgeship have been very clearly exemplified. The press has seldom to record anything more disgraceful than the state of the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court under Captain Hall and Mr. Z. Coker; and we are grateful to Lord Carnarvon for sending out such a man as Mr. Parker to put an end to all this.

We know how to be grateful even for the performance of absolute duty, especially where there has been such gross neglect of duty on the part of predecessors; and if we do not enlarge this month on the disgraceful state of the Eastern Districts of the Gold Coast, where disorder, robbery, and bloodshed have been allowed to riot with almost impunity, and where chiefs and people are placing themselves under the protection of the King of Ashantee in order that they may have something to rely upon, somebody to trust to, it is because we entertain the hope that Lord Carnarvon will ere this have sent out some definite instructions and powers for the protection of British traders, long-established missionaries, and other civilizing agents, as well as of attached natives, and for preventing the British name from becoming utterly despised.

LAGOS AND THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

THERE can be no prosperity and increase of legitimate trade without peace. If trade languishes or is violently disturbed the public revenues must suffer, and with a deficiency of revenue, public improvements, however necessary or indispensable, must be postponed. Such contingencies are serious ones for an infant island colony like Lagos, the prosperity and increase of whose commerce depend entirely on the demand and supply of exchangeable commodities on the neighbouring mainland. Since it became a possession of the British Crown, Lagos has undergone great commercial vicissitudes, and much trading disaster has occurred through the unsettled or hostile relations of the colony with the Egba countries. We had hoped that this was entirely of the past—that the Lagos Executive had so far gained its point with the mainland people, that it could devote itself entirely to the fostering of trade and commerce and the employment of the increasing revenues consequent on a state of peace, to local improvements such as it befits a civilized Government to make in Africa, and to the education of the people so as to fit them for those free institutions to which they are destined. It is therefore with very great anxiety that we hear of rumours at Lagos of a meddling policy that threatens to renew the commercial disasters of the colony. We try to hope that the rumours are unfounded, and that the Administrator will not in any way justify the fears entertained of him. A contrary course will incline all reflecting and prudent men to believe that there is in him some inherent defect of character, which, though it might not unfit him for naval command or internal exploration, does really incapacitate him for the duties of a peaceable governor.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL BLACKALL'S EXPRESSED OPINION OF US.

HAD not that "effect defective come from cause"—had not the openly declared hostility to the *African Times* of the high authorities on the West Coast led intemperate officials of lower degree to the committal of acts of violence on the person of an unoffending man merely because he was of what they call an inferior race, and in communication with this paper, we should never have deigned to notice that hostility. But tracing, as we do trace, those disgraceful acts up to the systematic and openly declared hostility of Governors as the inciting cause, and as seeming to secure impunity for conduct however disgraceful, we are bound in justice even to the violent offenders themselves to show that what they have done was the almost natural result of what others of higher official grade have said. They are in our eyes only the armed expression of others' thoughts. This does not diminish their offence, but it ought justly to involve those whose words helped to stir the foolish brains to mischief in a portion of the condemnation to which they have exposed themselves. Some of our friends may perhaps have thought, and our elevated enemies will no doubt have asserted, that the high official hostility to which we drew attention last month existed solely in our own imagination, or was but an outburst of editorial vanity; and an attempt to make weak minds believe that we must really be of some importance, since hate looked down upon us from such lofty spheres. It is on this account that we have inserted the extract from a Gambia letter (p. 90), where the Governor-General of the West Coast is shown in the act of dealing with the grave offence of an official in obeying the commands of his immediate superior by forwarding to us in the name of the latter a communication which he wished to have inserted

in our columns. Governor-General Blackall does not hesitate to denounce the *African Times* as "that nasty paper," "that beastly paper," and he does this in that very colony, at that very place, where those acts of guilty violence on an unoffending native because of his connexion with the *African Times* had been so recently committed. Can we qualify this as anything else than an inferential approval of that violence? Was it not enough to stir some addle-headed lickspittle subaltern to some overt act that should evince his sympathy with the great chief's opinion, as being the sure road to favour? There is abundance of that sort of human tinder round about a Governor on the West Coast, ready to be ignited by the sparks he may choose to strike from the moral flint and steel of his wounded pride and selfishness. As we have not studied in the Dublin Billingsgate, we shall not reciprocate abuse with Governor Blackall. We know very well what we might expect were we under his jurisdiction, with some military acting judge appointed to try us under the recent ordinance abolishing trial by jury in civil cases, including libel, of course. But—and the educated natives of the Coast who desire good, just, pure, considerate government and an enlightened expenditure of their revenues for the progressive advancement of their best interests, ought to rejoice that it is so—but we are not amenable to his tribunals, and cannot be assassinated by the legal poignard of any Sierra Leone bravo under Ordinance No. 4, 1866, supposing it to have received confirmation at home, which we venture, however, to say cannot have been given, or, if given, must be withdrawn. Yet, though we will not reciprocate abuse, we will take exception to the words of Governor Blackall, as being singularly inappropriate when applied to us. We may be very, very far indeed from having attained to his standard of perfection; we may in many things deserve reproach; but we certainly are neither "nasty" nor "beastly;" and we will merely add that a Governor or Governor-General who, close upon such an occurrence as that at Bathurst in which Drs. Oakes and Elliott were so discreditably concerned, has so little command over his temper and his tongue as to allow himself to employ such language as is attributed by our correspondent to Governor-General Blackall, is singularly unfit for any such responsible position as that which he occupies on the West Coast of Africa.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, January 7, 1867.

Sir,—You have of late published in your journal much matter concerning the system of government on the Gold Coast, and especially the administration of justice here. Many of the letters of your correspondents from this portion of the British settlements in Western Africa bear unmistakable marks of haste and sometimes of anger. Making large allowance for all this, the substance of most of these letters must be admitted to be in accordance with known facts. Colonel Conran, with the sincerest motives and the best intentions, has not been able to satisfy everyone; and fettered and shackled as Governors of the Gold Coast are, by the anomalous nature of the system of government they are called on to administer, and by orders from the Colonial-office very often contradictory and sometimes very vague, I do not know that there can be any important office under the Crown so surrounded by serious difficulties as that of Administrator of the Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast. In fact, he has to do the best he can, and stand all risks.

The baneful influence long exercised to the prejudice of the community of these settlements by Mr. A. B. McIntyre, agent of a London firm, is now altogether at an end. Circumstances of a nature that would render the publication of them now a subject of pain to innocent persons have become known, and will shortly be openly made manifest, concerning this gentleman, his ways and means, and his mercantile and political dealings. We have great reason to be thankful to Almighty God that He has in his mercy interposed in due season to prevent great troubles and misfortunes. The administration of justice had since last May become so hideously corrupt, so notoriously abominable, the tyranny of the Queen's Courts so intolerable, that a great number of persons of all ranks and ages and both sexes had resolved in utter despair to abandon Cape Coast, and take refuge in Dutch territory or in the bush. For seven months all law, all pretence of order, were openly derided by the magistrate, and the rules of the Court were, in my own hearing, pronounced by the Clerk of the Court (then being examined on a charge of forging an order of Court) to be nothing but "mere technicalities." No amount of evidence was able to clear any person charged by a policeman with any charge. Captain A. H. Hall, of the 2nd West India Regiment, was Stipendiary Magistrate, and, as such, had become a mere tool in the hands of William Zacheus Coker, the Clerk of the Court. These two perpetrated such outrages and inflicted such torments on the community, that they would be incredible were it not that Captain Hall has now suddenly left the country to avoid the consequences of his acts, and that William Z. Coker is now in gaol, committed to take his trial on numerous

charges of fraud, embezzlement, many felonies, and more than thirty-five complaints against him for cruelties and injuries inflicted on sundry parties. He has been permitted by Captain Hall to usurp and exercise, without let, hindrance, or control, the most despotic authority in Cape Coast, committing people to prison by a simple order under his own hand, not specifying any offence, or naming any term. Several persons have been thus thrust into gaol, kept there for many weeks without being asked a single question, or being allowed any food, and others were not discharged when their time was up, Captain Hall not interfering on their behalf.

Coker has obtained and spent, since my last, quite a little fortune by bribes solicited and obtained by him from suitors in Court. The scenes that take place in Court now are quite touching, for the Courts and the Chambers of the new Judge, the Honourable William Alexander Parker, Chief Magistrate, are constantly crowded with persons clamouring for justice, and presenting petitions, filing affidavits, and laying informations. Some of these matters are most deplorable. Many persons have been plundered of their all by Coker. Previous to Mr. Judge Parker's arrival, I assure you most solemnly that no person's life, or property, or liberty was safe. To my certain knowledge some atrocious murders were committed in the Ajamaroon district, but matters were hushed up through the personal exertions of A. B. McIntyre, because one of the principal culprits concerned was a native trader who was a mercantile correspondent of Forster and Smith. The native trader in question is Charles Wellington Bentill, now residing at Mumford. I myself heard McIntyre declare that he was too much interested in this man to allow him to come to grief. One man, called Quah Noomah, had openly boasted of a murder he had committed. He had been arrested, but was released very mysteriously. He was one of Bentill's party.

But everything is now changed, and we have to thank Mr. Parker, our new Chief Magistrate, for promptly putting an end to the frightful abominations of the judicial system so long practised, and so openly and shamelessly encouraged by the agent of Forster and Smith, who had supreme power in the Legislative Council. The Judge has been vigorously assisted by Mr. William Charles Finlason, who has himself been most grossly maltreated by those lately exercising authority, and to whose exertions the country is very greatly indebted. If I were to tell you all that should be told, your paper could not hold a tenth. The natives, as well as the Europeans, are now clamouring for advocates and attorneys to conduct their cases for them. Everybody sees now why they were got rid of. Coker never could have polluted our Courts to one-tenth the extent he has had they continued practising.—Your obedient servant, TRUTH.

GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 7, 1867.

Sir,—The mail of the 18th December brought down from Cape Coast Lieut. Phelps and thirty men of the 2nd West India Regiment, with Dr. Davies as medical officer, en route to Addah, to occupy that station, *permanently, I believe*. They are still here, and as Colonel Conran is so inconsistent and unstable in character, it is quite impossible to say when they will go on to Addah. They would have gone by land long ago, but water is scarce on the road; and now, if they go at all, they will go by sea on board some hired merchant vessel, one of Messrs. Forster and Smith's, or Mr. Swazzy's, or perhaps a Dutchman or a Yankee, several vessels of both nations being at present in our roads. Fancy the British Government being forced to beg foreign merchantmen to convey their troops and stores, and pay them heavily too for it, when there are almost always five or six war steamers lying at Jella Coffee doing nothing, if not worse than nothing, as there is really no slave-trade in that part now, and reports are circulated here that Geraldo, the former slave-dealer, who has caused all the war and trouble in the Volta provinces, is rather a favourite with some of Her Majesty's officers. But people here are so sore with the fleet for not doing anything against Geraldo and his allies last year, and no war steamer coming to take the thirty West India soldiers down to Addah, that they are ready to believe anything against everybody concerned. And no wonder, when you consider how much some of our people have lost in those Awoonah raids, which it is so disgraceful for the British authorities here not to have punished severely.—Yours, &c.,

PERFORATED COINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 3, 1867.

Sir,—I am not one of your correspondents, but among the benefits which you have already bestowed and are still endeavouring to bestow on Africa, there has been one so important here that I feel myself compelled to write you in support of it;

that is, *perforated copper coins to supersede cowries*, and as you had so zealously drawn attention of the Government, through the late society and by your journal, to this important subject without success, may I be permitted to quote these words and say, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again." Will you therefore once more, in behalf of the poorer class here, advocate the same cause by intimating the good which such a beneficial change, if effected, may produce.

Notwithstanding the difficulties stated by the Government, we have reason to believe, as may be seen by the following instances, that such a change will not only do good, but will encourage commerce and civilization.

It is deplorable to relate the heavy loss which the petty traders and almost every person here suffer by the use of these cowrie shells, and more so by the dislike to them of the principal merchants here, who, if cash is not brought to buy their goods, charge an extra per-centage on them, to meet the fluctuations in their price or any deficiency that may occur (as being too small are liable to such) in counting; while in many cases they refuse them altogether; and in that case, if you have no cash at all, you are obliged to keep your cowries, and go without your goods till you convert them. Formerly the dollar, 4s. 6d. value, sold here for only one head twelve strings and a-half, or 2,500 cowries, everything being very cheap, which facilitated the acquisition by any person. Later it rose from one head and a-half to two heads, and now to the enormous price of two heads and a-half, this being the present exchange; and still dollars are scarce. Nobody on this Coast is unaware that it was this scarcity of coins here which made the palm oil become so dear and goods dearer. For instance, a trader buys goods from a merchant or supercargo on credit, and he sets him some short time to pay him. These goods he would sell well to his advantage, but, alas! in cowries, which would not be taken by his creditor. He would then try to convert them either into cash or palm oil; the former being very scarce could not be obtained without a great loss of time and trouble; so, for fear of breaking his engagement with his creditor, he would try for the palm oil, which, too, through scarcity, could not be obtained without paying an enormous price, or putting more dashes on it, thus sacrificing all the accumulated profits he had obtained, and even perhaps involving him in debt beside; thus, instead of gain, he has loss. This discourages many here from engaging in any trade at all. But if these coins had been in use instead of cowries, I am sure Accra would never be second in point of trade to any other country.

Now, surely, Mr. Editor, some steps ought to be taken for the introduction of these perforated copper coins. Even the coins from the penny to the farthing are not in use, and why? We hope the day will soon come when these objectionable shells shall be doomed to disappear altogether here, and perforated copper coins be substituted. May God bless you to continue the work which you have so ably established for Africa, and may you receive the reward of Him whose promise will never go unfulfilled.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A NATIVE.

FINES LATELY LEVIED UPON NATIVE CHIEFS BY THE GOVERNOR OF CAPE COAST.

Cape Coast, January 7, 1867.

"Although the natives of the protectorate have been informed long since that they are not to receive any protection from the British authorities against their old enemies the Ashantees, should the protectorate be invaded by them, the work of *fining* such chiefs as are within easy reach of the Cape Coast Castle authorities goes on merrily enough. The following, among other fines, have been levied within a short period:—

"The Chief of Commenda had to pay 19 ounces of gold.

"The King and Chief of Apollonia 80 ounces of gold.

"The King of Anamaboe 50l. sterling.

"The Chief of Accunawassie 32 ounces of gold. (He paid 20 ounces, and then the Administrator gave 10 gallons of rum to make peace between him and the other chief, a quarrel and fight with whom was the reason for the fine, allowing another month for payment of the remaining 12 ounces. The chief, who is for payment of a native trader, John Bolan, of Elmina, who charges him 50 per cent. for the loan for twelve months, when he must pay the whole; and should he be short of money he will have to *sell* and *pay* some of his people to obtain the sum. Is not this a nice way to improve the country?)

"What becomes of all this money? And is it not true that by the charter which empowers the Administrator to levy fines such power is limited to the sum of 50l.? If so, does not Colonel Conran exceed his authority in this as in other things?

"The kings and chiefs of the interior are assembling at Mancasim for a meeting to consider their present precarious position as regards the Ashantees, and other important matters relating to the interests of the country."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Our prospects have brightened during the past year, and we have hope of a good business and an advance in civilization. The palm oil and cotton seasons are fast approaching. Palm oil is very scarce at present, but cotton is dropping into the market for sale.

We had a concert of sacred music here on the 26th December—six harmoniums, and thirty-six vocalists. All the performers were from among the educated Africans in Lagos, and the thing was done remarkably well. His Excellency the Administrator, the Bishop of Niger, military officers, and European merchants, all honoured the concert with their presence.

Croquet-playing has been introduced among us by Mr. D. C. Crowther, and seems likely to become a great favourite. There have been hoop races also. This will show you how we are getting on in Lagos.—Yours, &c.

RUMOURS OF WAR AT LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, January 4, 1867.

Sir,—Since my last it has been rumoured here that our newly-arrived Administrator, Captain Glover, intends sending a consul* to Epe, a small town situated east of Lagos. He has sent messengers to apprise Chief Possu of his intentions, and that he wished that chief to accept his proposal; but Possu, who some time ago had to engage in a war expedition in defence of his town and people, still maintains his ground. He declined, stating that he is a stranger in Epe; that he had fled there with Kosoko for refuge, at the time of the civil war in Lagos, about 1852; and that it is impossible for him to admit a consul in that town, he being only a citizen there. In return the Administrator says *he must*; but Possu maintains his plea. Now it is widely spoken about that there are emissaries from the Administrator to the chiefs of the small towns bordering on the other side of Lagos Lagoon with presents to bribe them against Possu, and to accompany him in an expedition to attack Epe. If this be true, we call upon you to denounce this act, and beg of you to bring it before the home authorities. It is said every preparation is now being made, and I am afraid it will occur before you hear of it, or, rather the home Government. The whole of the neighbouring tribes and chiefs have agreed that, on an attack upon any of their neighbours by the Local Government, they will cut off all supplies from Lagos.

Our Administrator is not yet here a month, and these rumours are already afloat. We fear to imagine what may be now getting up by him. Should anything of the sort occur, it will take us another ten years before we can be at peace in Lagos.

Please inform our Executive that if he be quiet, and reserve the Government ammunition for any attack on the town of Lagos, the people of Lagos will thank him very much.

He sent, almost directly he arrived, a message to Abeokuta that he wished to establish a post-office between Abeokuta and Lagos. I can assure you the letter was not received, and the messengers have had a narrow escape with his letter back to the Governor. These are seeking occasions under false pretences. I write this to inform you before any decree goes forth.—Yours faithfully, LAGOS.

RIVER GABOON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gaboon, November 24.

Sir,—The French are enacting such laws here as must have the effect of driving the English and other foreigners away from the river, which is very possibly their object.

Not content with imitating the Lagos Executive, and levying heavy import and export duties, as well as tonnage dues, the French have declared their intention of putting in force certain new commercial regulations of a most oppressive kind. The new duties are bad enough, and in the declining state of trade here and the high price of produce are really unsupportable; but the authorities have now taken upon themselves to prescribe to merchants the manner in which they are to keep their books, which, moreover, are to be submitted annually to the inspection of the Commandant between the 10th and 25th December for examination and verification. Admiral de Laugle's decree of the 16th inst., after indicating what books the merchants will be compelled to keep, goes on to say:—

"Le livre-journal et le livre des inventaires seront cotés, paraphés et visés du 10 au 25 Décembre de chaque année par le Commandant Particulier, qui remplit au Gabon les fonctions de juge de paix et de maire. Ce magistrat tiendra registre de l'accomplissement de cette formalité."

Least there should be any doubt whether the above can be in-

* We think there must be some error in this, as we do not believe that African administrators have power to appoint consuls.—Ed. A. T.

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

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PROVISIONS.

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

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



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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 BRUPTIVE 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.

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 Effervescing 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."

Dr. Sparks, Government Medical Inspector of Emigrants from the port of London, writes: "From my personal and professional use and knowledge of the value of Mr. LAMPLOGH'S PYRETIC SALINE, for many years past, I have great pleasure in bearing my cordial testimony to its efficacy in the treatment of many of the ordinary and chronic forms of Gastric Complaints and other forms of Febrile Dyspepsia.—August 5, 1857."

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. LAMPLOGH'S PYRETIC SALINE, in Gastric and Enteric Irritation, and also in Low Fevers, attended with Derangement of the Digestive Organs."

From Thomas Carr Jackson, Esq., F.R.C.S., and Surgeon to the Great Northern Hospital, London: "I have no hesitation in recommending the compound of Mr. LAMPLOGH'S SALINE PYRETIC. It is an admirable Febrifuge, and will be found an eligible Medicine where such remedy is indicated. I am in the habit of prescribing it largely, its composition being known to me; and I have every reason to be satisfied with it. It is beautifully prepared, and can be used at a moment's notice without trouble, and is therefore particularly adapted for use in public service."

From David Morgan, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S., and L.A.C., &c., Medical Officer of the Clerkenwell Parish: "I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the medicinal qualities of Mr. LAMPLOGH'S PYRETIC SALINE. I have used it extensively in the treatment of Diarrhoea and Febrile affections generally, and have found it an admirable Refrigerant Medicine, well calculated for diseases incidental to warm climates, more particularly in Cholera and Fever, as it possesses chemical properties capable of furnishing the blood with Saline matter.—Pentonville, August 8, 1857."

Messrs. Orr and Sons, of Madras, in a letter dated September 23, 1866, state Surgeon-Major G. Murray Duff, M.D., &c., had called for a further supply of all that we could give him, and spoke of its remarkable effects in the Jungle Fever in quite enthusiastic terms, directing a further supply to be sent overland, besides what had already been forwarded by the Cape.

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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