

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.

VOL. VI., No. 69.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1867.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Subscription, 6s. per Ann.]

THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The mail steamer Mandingo arrived at Liverpool on March 3, from Old Calabar on Jan. 28; Cameroons and Fernando Po on the 30th; Bonny and Brass on Feb. 2; Benin on the 3rd; Lagos on the 5th; Accra on the 7th; Cape Coast Castle on the 8th; Cape Palmas on the 10th; Monrovia on the 12th; Sierra Leone on the 15th; Bathurst on the 19th; Teneriffe on the 23rd; Madeira on the 25th. She brought 1,600*l.* in specie, and 2,226 ounces of gold dust. At Old Calabar, Bonny, and Brass the trade was dull, but the ports were healthy.

The bi-monthly mail by the Ethiopie has just arrived as we go to press.

RIVER GAMBIA.—COLONIAL HOSPITAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, January 31, 1867.

Sir,—Doubtless you would like to hear what is the present state of the Colonial Hospital here, as for months we have not written you on the subject. *Sines the departure for England last year of Dr. Sherwood, there have been no complaints* whatever of any kind. The management of the Colonial Hospital is now under a Dr. Mosse, Staff Assistant-Surgeon (Acting).

Dr. Mosse has well deserved praise; he attends the sick and administers means regularly. During the yellow fever of last year, night and day, and in the wet, on horseback visiting patients, &c., &c., he could scarcely have time to take his meals. Such a person ought to be the Colonial Surgeon instead of Dr. Sherwood or one of his sort. We are surprised to learn that he merely left for England on leave of absence, and that so soon as his leave expires he will return to Bathurst to resume his duties (duties which he will never attend to). When he does return, however, he will meet, we hope, with a faithful Governor—not pick and choose, like Colonel D'Arcy; then his part will not be taken unless he does his duties properly, and awakes from sleep, not threatening to take away persons' lives if he could catch hold of them in the Colonial Hospital.

It is also said that his friend, Administrator D'Arcy, will return to the West Coast within a short time to relieve Governor Blackall as Governor-General. We thought and hoped that the light of both of them had been totally put out in this part of the world.

Is such a man as D'Arcy, who falsely accused the inhabitants of this colony with the crime of rebelling against the white population, fit to be Governor again on the West Coast of Africa?—Your obedient servants,
B. G., &c., &c.

P.S.—16th February.—We rejoice to find that Dr. Mosse, above spoken of, has by the mail, which arrived here on the 6th, received the rank of Principal Medical Officer; but to our great sorrow, he is now to leave us for England on the 18th, his successor as P. M. O. having come out. We hope that his successor as Colonial Surgeon (Acting), whoever he may be, may deserve, like him, to have his good deeds recorded in the *African Times*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Feb. 14, 1867.

Sir,—A few words more about Drs. Oakes and Elliott, and Mr. Finden. Drs. Oakes and Elliott were actually seen in the billiard-room by the police. When the Sergeant of Police, with his force, was about to arrest him, the Superintendent said, "Stop, stop, hold on; that is not the way to take a white man; don't touch him." They were obliged to halt, and they saw Dr. Oakes through the light in the room, when going out, and making his way through the back gate; but they were not allowed to apprehend him until he was far enough off in the dark, and they could not again see him. This barrack-master, Alfred Keen, was relating to Drs. Oakes and Elliott a case in the police-court between him and Mr. Finden (which seems to be why they made

up their mind to insult Mr. Finden in his shop), saying, "Mr. Finden has too much influence in this place, and he is a black nigger." (Mr. Finden is an upright man.)

The War-office ought not to forget the dreadful consequences that might have happened through those two medical officers. When Dr. Oakes cried out, "*File Guard*," "*File Guard*," if the soldiers had turned out, not knowing of such an assault upon Mr. Finden, or what is the row, but seeing their officers running and bellowing, they would have begun to do harm to all whom they met in the streets, and also cried out that the town people wanted to kill the doctor or raise mutiny; and if such had been the case, no one would have known what was the cause of this rumour and bloodshed. God prevented this to show that the people of this town never think or dream of rebelling against any, white or black.—Your obedient servant,
B. G.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, February 18, 1867.

Sir,—Our old (mal-) Administrator is gone at last. By some fatality he had great difficulty in getting away after his departure was fixed. He ended his reign most ignominiously, and became quite desperate.

His successor, Admiral Patey, seems to be really a good, well-meaning man, but I am sorry to say that there is great fear of his becoming *physically incompetent*. His health is so bad that he ought to be a man just leaving for England, instead of just beginning as Governor (or Administrator).

Our judicial and magisterial condition is shameful.* From all we see hitherto the whole scheme supposed lately to be adopted for hastening the regeneration of the African race is a gross failure. Practical men are snubbed, and not even allowed to offer an opinion on matters of the most vital importance to them. The Council of this colony is thus formed: *The Administrator, a Staff-Surgeon or Staff Assistant Surgeon, and the Collector of Customs*, without a penny's worth of property in the colony, and with power to build up and knock down and tax at their pleasure. How is such an outrageous arrangement to be justified? If they can justify it in Downing-street, official brains do certainly differ from those of all men of common sense.—Yours truly,
O.

WASTE LANDS FOR EMIGRANTS, SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—The Colony of Sierra Leone is now considered to be the metropolis of the West Coast of Africa, and as such the population should be increased. There are the Quiah lands ceded to the Government a few years ago, thousands of acres lying unoccupied, besides other lands; these lands could be soon brought under cultivation, if our Government would send emigrants to Sierra Leone from America, where thousands are perishing and will be too glad to come to Africa, and also from Canada, Barbadoes, &c., if the Government would provide for them for about six months while they were clearing away the bush on the Quiah lands and preparing the ground for agriculture. The people in Sierra Leone know nothing about agriculture, else they would certainly go hand and heart into the settlement of those lands. The blacks in America, Canada, and the West Indies are thoroughly acquainted with agriculture; the Quiah lands are beautiful and fertile; abundance of timber, lumber, and board can be got there, and why allow these to remain unutilized? If emigrants were to be sent to Sierra Leone and placed on these lands, the populations would not only be increased, but agriculture would be pursued; Christianity would be spread among the Timmanee tribes, and the several results would be found greatly beneficial to the colony of Sierra Leone.—Yours truly,
A SIERRA LEONIAN.

* We hope this will have been remedied in some degree by the arrival of Mr. Chalcraft.—Ed. A.T.

KING AGGERY OF CAPE COAST AT SIERRA LEONE.

KING AGGERY ON PAROLE.

(No. 1.—Copy.)

I hereby, in the presence of the undersigned, solemnly declare that his Excellency being pleased to allow me to be at large on parole, in compliance with the condition contained in my request, I will not quit the City of Freetown, but deliver myself up at any time when required by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed)

JOHN AGGERY, King of Cape Coast.

The witnesses were: The Captain of H.M.S. Dart, Captain Alex. Bravo, magistrate; William Smith, William R. Taylor, merchants.

(No. 2.—Copy.)

MAINTENANCE MONEY TO KING AGGERY.

In consideration of the daily allowance of 2s. 6d. at present paid to me by the Government of Sierra Leone, increased to 5s. per diem, I, Agger, King of Cape Coast, hereby engage to return and pay back upon demand being made on me by the Colonial Secretary on behalf of the Government aforesaid the difference between the increased rate so received by me and the rate to be fixed by the Secretary of State in England for my daily allowance for maintenance and lodging.

Witness my hand, at Freetown, in the colony of Sierra Leone, the 21st day of December, 1866.

JOHN AGGERY, King of Cape Coast.

Witness, William Smith.

MR. RAINY TO EDITOR OF "AFRICAN TIMES," WITH DONATION.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, March 13, 1867.

Sir,—I beg to enclose you my cheque for five guineas in support of your just and sacred cause. To your able advocacy I attribute that sense of justice and mercy which hourly increases in England towards the wants and sufferings of the least fortunate of earth's children.

Upon these grounds, small as my offering is, and inadequately as it represents my deep and earnest sympathy in the cause, I sincerely trust that it may stimulate my African friends to lend a helping hand in a struggle which has been sustained by the philanthropy of a Wilberforce, and the untiring intellectual energies of the venerable Lord Brougham.

At a time when the newly-appointed Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Settlements on the West Coast of Africa has deemed it becoming to deprive the Africans of Sierra Leone of the priceless treasure of trial by jury, I trust that your exertions will not cease until the African standing upon his own soil shall not be deemed unworthy to enjoy all his rights and privileges which the ancient Constitution of England bestows upon her citizens.—I am, Sir, yours very truly,

W. RAINY.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

REGULATING APPEALS FROM THE SUPREME COURT OF SIERRA LEONE TO HER MAJESTY IN COUNCIL.

The following Orders by Her Majesty in Council have just been issued:—

26th Feb. 1867.—Whereas it is expedient to make further and better provisions for appeals from Her Majesty's Supreme Court of the settlement of Sierra Leone to Her Majesty in Council. It is therefore ordered by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice of her Privy Council, as follows:—

It shall and may be lawful for any person or persons being a party or parties to any civil suit or action depending in the said Supreme Court of the settlement of Sierra Leone to appeal to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in her or their Privy Council, against any final judgment, decree, or sentence of the said Court, or against any rule or order made in any such civil suit or action having the effect of a final or definite sentence, and which appeals shall be made, subject to the rules, regulations, and limitations following; that is to say:

First. Such judgment, decree, order, or sentence shall be given or pronounced for or in respect of a sum or matter at issue above the amount of three hundred pounds sterling, or shall involve directly or indirectly the title to property, or to some civil right amounting to or of the value of three hundred pounds sterling.

Secondly. The person or persons feeling aggrieved by such judgment, decree, order, or sentence shall, within fourteen days next after the same shall have been pronounced, made, or given, apply to the said Supreme Court for leave to appeal therefrom to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in her or their Privy Council.

Thirdly. If such leave to appeal shall be prayed by the party or parties who is or are adjudged to pay any sum of

money or to perform any duty, the Court shall direct that the judgment, decree, or sentence appealed from shall be carried into execution, if the party or parties respondent shall give security for the immediate performance of any judgment or sentence which may be pronounced or made by Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in her or their Privy Council, upon any appeal, and until such security be given, the execution of the judgment, decree, order, or sentence appealed from shall be stayed.

Fourthly. Provided nevertheless that if the party or parties appellant shall establish to the satisfaction of the said Supreme Court that real and substantial justice requires that pending such appeal execution should be stayed, it shall be lawful for such Supreme Court to order the execution of such judgment, decree, order or sentence to be suspended pending such appeal, if the party or parties appellant shall give security for the immediate performance of any judgment or sentence which may be pronounced or made by Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in her or their Privy Council, upon any such appeal.

Fifthly. In all cases security shall also be given by the party or parties appellant for the prosecution of the appeal, and for the payment of all such costs as may be awarded by Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to the party or parties respondent.

Sixthly. The said Supreme Court shall, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, determine the nature, amount, and sufficiency of the several securities so to be taken as aforesaid.

Seventhly. Provided nevertheless that in any case where the subject of litigation shall consist of immovable property, and the judgment, decree, order, or sentence appealed from shall not change, affect, or relate to the actual occupation thereof, no security shall be demanded either from the party or parties respondent or from the party or parties appellant for the performance of the judgment or sentence to be pronounced or made upon such appeal; but if such judgment, decree, order, or sentence shall change, affect, or relate to the occupation of any such property, then such security shall not be of greater amount than may be necessary to secure the restitution free from all damage or loss of such property, or of the intermediate profit which, pending any such appeal, may probably accrue from the intermediate occupation thereof.

Eighthly. In any case where the subject of litigation shall consist of money or other chattels, or of any personal debt or demand, the security to be demanded either from the party or parties respondent or from the party or parties appellant for the performance of the judgment or sentence to be pronounced or made upon such appeal, shall be either a bond to be entered into in the amount or value of such subject of litigation by one or more sufficient surety or sureties, or such security shall be given by way of mortgage or voluntary condemnation of or upon some immovable property situate and being within such settlement, and being of the full value of such subject of litigation over and above the amount of all mortgages and charges of whatever nature upon or affecting the same.

Ninthly. The security to be given by the party or parties appellant for the prosecution of the appeal and for the payment of costs shall in no case exceed the sum of three hundred pounds sterling; and shall be given either by such surety or sureties, or by such mortgage or voluntary condemnation as aforesaid.

Tenthly. If the security to be given by the party or parties appellant for the prosecution of the appeal and for the payment of such costs as may be awarded shall in manner aforesaid be completed within three months from the date of the petition for leave to appeal, then, and not otherwise, the said Supreme Court shall make an order allowing such appeal, and the party or parties appellant shall be at liberty to prefer and prosecute his, her, or their appeal to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in her or their Privy Council, in such manner and under such rules as are observed in appeals made to Her Majesty in Council from the plantations or colonies.

Eleventhly. Provided nevertheless that any person or persons feeling aggrieved by any order which may be made by, or by any proceedings of the said Supreme Court respecting the security to be taken upon any such appeal as aforesaid, shall be and is hereby authorized by petition to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in Council, to apply for redress in the premises.

Provided always, and it is hereby further ordered, that nothing herein contained doth or shall extend, or be construed to extend, to take away or abridge the undoubted right or authority of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, to admit and receive any appeal from any judgment, decree, sentence, or order of the said Supreme Court on the humble petition of any person or persons aggrieved thereby, in any case in which, and subject to any conditions or restrictions upon and under which it may seem meet to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, so to admit and receive any such appeal.

In all cases of appeal allowed by the said Supreme Court, or by Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, such Court shall, on the application and at the costs of the party or parties appellant,

certify and transmit to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in her or their Privy Council, a true and exact copy of all proceedings, evidence, judge's notes of evidence, and judge's reasons, judgments, decrees, and orders had or made in such causes so appealed, so far as the same have relation to the matter of appeal, such copies to be certified under the seal of the said Court.

The said Supreme Court shall in all cases of appeal to Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, execute and carry into immediate effect such judgments and orders as Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, shall make thereupon in such manner as any original judgment or decree of the said Court can or may be executed.

All orders heretofore made by Her Majesty, or by any of her Royal predecessors in her or their Privy Council, and all laws, customs, and usages now or at any time heretofore established or in force in any of the said settlements, so far as such orders, laws, or usages are in anywise repugnant to or at variance with this present Order, shall be and the same are hereby revoked, abrogated, rescinded, and annulled.

And the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

(A second order in Council of same date relative to appeals, &c., from the Gambia, Gold Coast, and Lagos, in our next.)

WHY IT IS TRIED TO ABOLISH JURIES AT SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, March 16, 1867.

Dear Sir,—You will be good enough to recall to your attention a conversation which we had relative to the recent ordinance for abolishing trial by jury at Sierra Leone.

I have now the pleasure to transmit to you a brief outline of the origin and history of this flagrant unconstitutional act, in order that, through the instrumentality of some independent member of Parliament, it may come under the notice of the House of Commons.

The first encroachment upon trial by jury took place when Dr. Bradshaw, an influential official and the personal friend of Governor Blackall, was being sued for a clear case of defamation. This took place in the year 1863. The Governor of Sierra Leone, seeing clearly from the merits which the plaintiff in the case possessed, that Dr. Bradshaw would be defeated in heavy damages, induced the Legislative Council to pass an ordinance empowering four officials (nominees of the Governor) to tax down to the lowest nominal sum any damages which a jury of Sierra Leone upon their oaths, and constitutionally empanelled, might award in any civil actions tried in the Supreme Court.

I need not say that the effect of this eminently unconstitutional act was to close the doors of justice against every injured and outraged gentleman who had not a white skin, since he would not be mad enough to seek redress from a tribunal whose judgments were subjected to such a vile ordeal of *hired* and interested officials. The wrong did not cease here.

Governor Blackall, emboldened by the impunity with which he effected his first onslaught upon the Constitution, induced the same pliant Legislative Council to introduce an ordinance requiring poor plaintiffs to give security for costs before they could obtain redress for wrongs done to them in the Supreme Courts. The immediate necessity for the introduction of this measure was in order to protect the same Dr. Bradshaw, who, growing strong from the necessary abandonment of the defamation action taken against him, cruelly assaulted and beat a native servant. At this time, too, another powerful official, Mr. Pike, had ill-treated and beaten his servant. However, the native population were then awake, as they are now, to the eminently unconstitutional course of procedure adopted by the Governor and his Legislative Council of paid officials. Several meetings were held, and the ordinance was denounced in the strongest terms which a love of loyalty or order would sanction. You also opposed it with all your power. The result was that the ordinance was abandoned, and offered up as a sacrifice to a vigilant independent press and an indignant and outraged native people.

However, a far greater violation of the Constitution has since the period of this popular demonstration taken place in Sierra Leone. Governor Blackall, sustained by the presence of his four salaried officials in the Legislative Council, has, without any notice to the two unofficial members, taken away trial by jury in all civil actions in the Supreme Court. Now, as the judge of the Supreme Court is but too often a creature of the Governors (such as Acting Judge Captain Bravo, and the present Acting Judge, Mr. Huggins), as a coloured West Indian (as Mr. Carr, the present Chief Justice, who is now in England) is, and who dare not oppose the European element, which exists in such unity of purpose and power in the colony, I need not say that the abolish-

ment of trial by trial is fatal to the interests of the native population.

Several indignant meetings have taken place at Sierra Leone, and a petition, bearing the signatures of the leading gentlemen amongst the native population, has been forwarded to the Colonial-office, soliciting the repeal of this atrocious ordinance.* The people are under the strong and justifiable impression that, in the Governor's correspondence with the Colonial-office, their characters as citizens have been vilely traduced by Major Blackall, who has, through his whole official life, both in the West Indies and Sierra Leone, exhibited a deadly hatred against the African race. They can hardly suppose the Colonial-office would sanction such a proceeding, if they had not been grossly traduced in representations sent to that department. They are most desirous, therefore, to ask for the production of all documents which have led to this highly unconstitutional act upon the part of the Government at Sierra Leone;† and, secondly, to ask the Colonial Minister whether, after the petition which he has received, and the public demonstrations in opposition to the ordinance which have taken place at Sierra Leone, he still will sanction the ordinance to abolish trial by jury remaining in force.—I am, &c.,

W. RAINY.

LIBERIA.

The United States man-of-war Sacramento anchored off Cavalla on Saturday, January 19th. The captain, and some twenty officers, came on shore, and having called representatives of the contending parties together to "talk a palaver," endeavoured to use their influence to prevent the renewal of hostilities between the Half Cavalla and the River Cavalla people.

The American emigrant ship Golconda, 1,100 tons, which arrived at Cape Palmas 24th January, brought 600 emigrants from America to Liberia. She landed 160 at Cape Mount, 176 at Monrovia, 204 at Sinor, and 51 at Cape Palmas. During the voyage there were nine births and nine deaths.

As among the emigrants there were several preachers, a dentist, an artist, and quite a number with good trades, we trust they may be able to do much toward strengthening the different settlements.

Mr. Selim Aga, who travelled with Consul Burton up the Niger, is at Tebo, exploring this part of Africa. Tebo is eighty miles up the Cavalla river, Cape Palmas. It is reported that Mr. Aga has made some important discoveries.

Mrs. Dickinson, of Greenville, Sinor county, Liberia, West Africa, gave birth to four daughters. All died.

A revival of religion took place in the American Methodist Episcopal Church in Cape Palmas; over 100 persons were converted within six weeks.

The Liberian Government daily expects a gunboat from America for the use of the Government.

It is reported that Bishop Payne, who has been living at Cape Palmas over thirty years, and is now in America, will bring out a small steamer to run up and down the Cavalla river, which is a very important one.

The bi-monthly mail steamer Ethiope arrived at Cape Palmas on 31st January.

H.M. ship Dart put into Cape Palmas on Sunday, the 3rd February, for medical aid, the doctor on board of her being very ill. Dr. Fletcher, the only doctor at this place, was called on board to attend him. She left for Cape Coast on Monday, the 4th.

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

February 8.

Sir,—You may as well be prepared to hear within three months of this date of a serious and general invasion of the Protectorate by Ashantee. Taking a general view of the present state, and the probably pending state of the Protectorate, we have cooked up for us, according to a common old saying, "a pretty kettle of fish."—Yours, &c.,

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

February 6, 1867.

Sir,—It is a delusion to talk about peace with Ashantee. There is no peace whatever between this and Ashantee. There has not been a single Ashantee trader here for several months. Trade is very dull: merchants are doing very little unless they trade to Windward or Leeward. The Ashantees seem to trade most with Appolonia and Grand Bassam. Most of the gold now sent home from here is from traders to those places.

* We publish this to-day, p. 109.

† This had been already done. The papers were ordered by the House of Commons to be printed (on the 8th March), as preliminary to further proceedings.—Ed. A. T.

There has been a great disturbance lately at the Dutch town of *Elmina*. Two of the town companies have had a fight, and several persons were killed. The Governor tried to stop it and failed, so he fired his "big guns" among them. His artillery did very little mischief. The ringleaders in the disturbance have been put in prison.

Judge Parker is very much liked here (so far). He works too hard, and will hurt himself if he is not more careful. Of course there are lots of work to be done now that the Kings' Courts are abolished, pending the decision of the Home Government.—Yours obediently, V.

THREATENED ASHANTEE INVASION OF THE PROTECTORATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Elmina, Feb. 1, 1867.

Sir,—I never write to you unless I have something of importance to tell that I believe can be relied upon. And now in a few words as I can give it. You had better be on the look-out for heavy squalls in the Protected Territories from the side of Ashantee. I have every reason to believe that the Governor of this place has received news from Comassie (capital of Ashantee) that the King is getting ready the whole force of his kingdom to invade the British Protectorate in three divisions; and that in a month from this time, say early in March, he will be quite ready to do so. And I have also reason to believe that this news has been sent to Colonel Conran, who will no doubt let his Government know all about it by this next mail home.

Should such an invasion take place, I am sure I do not know how it is to be met and resisted, if the British Government leave the natives to do it alone. Since the Committee of your House of Commons in 1865, nothing whatever has been done by Colonel Conran to organise the tribes; but, on the contrary, as it seems to me, everything to sow confusion among them.

I have given you this intelligence by the first mail since the news came down from Ashantee; but if the King carries out his intended invasion directly after his troops are ready, dreadful events may happen before the British Government can interfere, even if they should be disposed to do so.—Yours, E.

ACCRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

February 7, 1867.

Our trade here is ruined on account of the existing Awoolah war. The enemy is assuming the offensive, and has lately killed a great many of our allies who were on their way down with produce.

This place and the interior are like what Lagos and Abeokuta were some time ago; produce shut up in the interior, and many of the merchants here becoming insolvent in consequence of this. The Government is silent now upon the subject.

I have machinery alone to the amount of 500*l.* lying now idle, besides a great quantity of cotton, shut up in Kreepe. How can these countries prosper under such a system?—Yours, &c., J. C.

ALLIANCE OF ASHANTEE WITH THE AWOONAHs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Three months ago we heard what our fears had long pointed to—viz., that the Ashantees would put their finger into the Awoonah pie. Rumour after rumour came that Ashantee ambassadors had been seen at Aquamboe, and armed Ashantees at Aquamboe and Kreepe, and even so near the sea coast as Awoonah itself. Then Kreepees arrived here who had been plundered on their road down from Kreepe with produce, by a mixed force of Aquamboes, Awoonahs, and Ashantees, the greater number of the party having been also captured by the enemy. A few days later a party of Akims and Accras on their way to Kreepe met with a similar fate. And lastly, on December 7, we heard from Quittah that Ashantee ambassadors were at Jellee Coffee offering to the Awoonahs the alliance, friendship, and protection of their King.

The chiefs, merchants, &c., here then held a meeting, and the First Commandant sent their letter to Colonel Conran, who sent us word he did not believe any of it; and that Ashantee was doing a large trade with Cape Coast through the Akims. Since then the Ashantees have taken the *great fetish oath*, or, as we say, "eaten fetish," with the Aquamboes and Awoonahs to assist them to fight the tribes under British protection; and these have in return given hostages to the King of Ashantee as security that they will serve him faithfully. Bear in mind that the British still openly profess to be protectors of Awoonah. Within the last month there have been several sharp encounters between the combined Ashantees, Awoonahs, and Aquamboes on one side, and the *Agotins* on the other. The Agotins are a small, compact, warlike trans-Volta tribe, halfway between Kreepe and Awoonah,

and are faithful allies of the Accras. The enemy want to crush all our allies on that side the Volta, and then cross and invade us while the King of Ashantee in person brings the bulk of his forces into Akim, Fantee, &c. Colonel Conran has been warned of this for months past, but in vain. The mail this morning brings news from Jellee Coffee that the Agotins defeated the Awoonahs and Ashantees last week in a pitched battle, and that as the Awoonahs would not cross the river with them and attack Accra before Accra was fully prepared, the Ashantees have retired with their force to another part of the country.

You may imagine the state of the Volta districts! It is fearful. Our allies are being destroyed, and we are doing nothing to assist them.

The few West India soldiers Colonel Conran sent here two months ago *en route* for Addah are still here.

Here I have given you past and present—now for the future. If the Ashantees once get a footing on the Volta we are done for: if they begin the war in Denkeria and Akim before we commence on the Volta, they must conquer the whole Coast, except, perhaps, Cape Coast Castle itself.—Yours sincerely, VOLTA.

DAHOMBY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Whydah.

The King of Dahomey left his capital for a *slave-hunting expedition* on the 31st January. Everybody suspects that he is going somewhere in the direction of Abeokuta. We are sorry to have this news to tell you, as it means nothing but bloodshed and misery.—Yours, &c., J. O.

ANOTHER CHURCH DESTROYED BY FIRE AT ABEOKUTA, WEST AFRICA.

HELP WANTED TO BUY AN IRON ROOF.

The missionary work at Abeokuta is passing at present literally through fiery trials. But nine months ago we informed our friends of the sad destruction by fire of the entire station at Ake. Now we have the painful duty to state that another of our churches at Abeokuta was destroyed by fire on Sunday night, December 30 last.

The Church Missionary Station Ikija is two miles distant from Ake. After the usual services of the day, Ikija church was discovered to be on fire, but nothing could be done to save it; the thatch roof, timber, and all woodwork speedily fell a prey to the flames, and the blackened mud walls only remain of this house of God. The church stood alone between the mission compound and the houses of native Christians, and as no light was used in it (the evening service being over at six, just before dark), it is feared "an enemy hath done this." The native Christians and others greatly exerted themselves, extinguished the flames falling on the thatch-covered mission-house and native dwellings, &c., and thus prevented further desolation. Great is the anxiety and danger missionaries living in thatch-covered houses, in a thatch-covered African city, are exposed to, as the undersigned experienced at Ikija for years. The sad loss of this church is another proof of the great necessity of having houses and churches roofed with some better material than grass. Having enlarged and nearly rebuilt this church in 1859, and having for upwards of five years ministered in it to an attentive congregation of about 400 souls, our friends will believe that the undersigned feels a special interest in it, and is anxious to obtain help towards its restoration.

The missionaries, native Christians, and others at Abeokuta have come forward and subscribed liberally towards the object, but as the amount required for an iron roof, &c., is beyond the means of the native Christians, the kind help of our friends at home is solicited, and contributions will be most thankfully received by the Rev. C. A. Gollmer, 22, Hawley-square, Margate, Kent.

Contributions already received: R. C. L. Bevan, Esq., 10*l.*; A Friend, by T. F. Buxton, Esq., 10*l.*; Thomas Powell Buxton, Esq., 5*l.*; Charles Buxton, Esq., M.P., 5*l.*; Mrs. Plummer, Margate, 5*l.*; Rev. Wm. Plummer, 5*l.*; Rev. Thomas Harrison, Barham, 5*l.*; Rev. Thomas Knight, South Sea, 5*l.*; Rev. C. A. Gollmer and Mrs. Gollmer, 5*l.*; Rev. Henry Walsh, Warminster, 2*l.*; Rev. Alfred Preston, Winslow, 2*l.*; Miss Portal, Russell-square, 2*l.*; Richard Iman, Esq., Preston, 1*l.* 10*s.*; Rev. Henry Venn (C.M.S.), 1*l.* 1*s.*

ABOLITION OF JURIES IN JAMAICA.—The Legislative Council met on the 12th of February. The measures introduced by the Government have engrossed public attention. The proposal to establish district courts, in which the principle of trial by jury is to be dispensed with, and the judges to be appointed are required to hold their offices at the pleasure of the Executive, has created great alarm, as it is felt that the last shreds of liberty are to be taken from the country.

OWNERS OF THE HARRIET v. CAPTAIN BURTON.

REPORT OF COMMANDER ROBINSON, R.N., AND DECISION OF LORD STANLEY.

Foreign-office, January 31, 1867.

Gentlemen,—With reference to the letter from this office of the 10th ult., and to the previous correspondence on the subject, I am directed by Lord Stanley to acquaint you that he has received from the Board of Admiralty the report of the officer selected by them to inquire into the circumstances attending the sale of the Harriet, and into the accounts rendered to the executors of Mr. Johnson, her owner, and that Lord Stanley has come to the following decision upon the case:—

It appears from the report that the accounts rendered by Mr. Laughland to Mr. Johnson's executors are declared to be in various instances extravagant and unjust towards the owner of the Harriet, and I am to inclose for your information an extract of the report, from which you will be enabled to ascertain in what respects the charges are to be considered to be excessive.

Lord Stanley has caused Captain Burton to be informed that he must be held responsible for Mr. Laughland's proceedings, and that he considers that he is liable to the executors of the late Mr. Johnson for the sum of two hundred and eighty pounds, the proceeds of the sale of the vessel, less any sum which those gentlemen may think proper to allow for charges properly incidental to the maintenance of the crew of the Harriet.

I am to add that the sum which you may thus decide to be due to you from Captain Burton, who is now Her Majesty's Consul at Santos, will be paid by this office to whoever you may authorise to receive it.—I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant, (Signed) JAMES MURRAY.

Messrs. Hampton and Burgin, 8, John-street, Bedford-row.

Report of Inquiry into circumstances connected with the Sale of the English Brig Harriet, at Fernando Po, in November, 1863, relative to a Claim made by the Executors of the late Mr. William Johnson, of Sierra Leone, on Captain Burton, lately Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po.

Her Majesty's steam gun vessel Mullett, At Sea off Lagos, Nov. 12, 1866.

In obedience to your memorandum of 22nd September, 1866, directing me to hold an inquiry at Fernando Po, relative to a claim made by the executors of the late Mr. William Johnson, on Captain Burton, lately Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, for the proceeds of the sale of the brig Harriet, I have the honour to report that I arrived in Her Majesty's steam vessel under my command at Clarence Cove, Fernando Po, on the 1st inst., and immediately commenced inquiries into this matter.

Hearing that Mr. Morgan, the acting captain of the Harriet during a portion of her stay at Fernando Po (and for whose services in that capacity a sum of 56*l.* is charged in the account rendered by Mr. J. Laughland, of Glasgow, on behalf of Captain Burton), was present, I requested his attendance at the Consulate on the 5th inst., and, in presence of Mr. Livingstone, the Consul, he stated to me that he is now the master of the schooner Peep-o'-day, belonging to Mr. Townsend, a British merchant residing at Fernando Po.

In May, 1863, was mate of the Estramadura. She belonged to Messrs. W. Brash and James Dick, who were in partnership with Messrs. Taylor, Laughland, and Co., of Glasgow. Mr. Edward Laughland was the agent for all parties at Fernando Po. On 29th May, 1863, was ordered by Mr. Edward Laughland to take charge of the brig Harriet, then lying in Clarence Cove, Fernando Po; went on board and took charge of her the same day. Found the crew to consist of the following men: Daniel Virge, alias Neilson, A. B., who was acting as mate, and seven Accra men. Mr. Hannay, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship Lee, with one marine and two seamen, had been in charge of Harriet until he (Mr. Morgan) joined. Remained in charge of Harriet until she was sold, in November, 1863, and then became mate of her, being all the time in the employ of Mr. Edward Laughland, who, as agent of Taylor, Laughland, and Co., of Glasgow, had authority to discharge him or employ him in any vessel he thought proper.

During the above period (while in charge of Harriet, from May to November, 1863) Mr. Morgan did not receive any increase of wages on his original agreement made on joining the Estramadura, namely, 6*l.* per month, and as he joined the Harriet on the 29th May, and she was sold on 21st November, he was some days less than six months in her as acting captain. He states that the charge of 8*l.* per month for seven months made by Mr. Laughland (in the account above referred to) is incorrect and an overcharge of more than 20*l.*

Referring to the account for provisions, ale, brandy, &c., supplied to the Harriet during her stay at Fernando Po, Mr. Morgan could give no information of anything which occurred previous to the 29th May, 1863, the day on which he took charge. A reference to the account shows up to that date Mr.

Laughland had supplied the Harriet with stores, provisions, wines, &c., to the amount of 10*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* If we deduct from that sum 3*l.* 5*s.* charged for a half coil of rope, there will remain 7*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, which is within 3*d.* of the sum for which Mr. Hannay, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship Lee, gave a receipt, as the amount of expenses contracted by him while in charge of the Harriet; and no doubt these stores, provisions, &c., were supplied by Mr. Laughland, and the wines and provisions consumed by Mr. Hannay and his men, while they remained in charge, but it appears that Mr. Laughland has charged this amount twice over, firstly at the commencement of the account and again at the end of the account when striking a balance, whereby he brings the owners of the Harriet in debt to Consul Burton 49*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*

With reference to the remaining portion of the account, Mr. Morgan states that the stores and provisions charged for were supplied to the Harriet while he had charge of her, and consumed by himself and the crew; but he states that the second entries under date July 18th, for 1 cwt. of bread, 2*l.* 16*s.*, 40*lbs.* beef, 1*l.* 16*s.*, and 2*lbs.* coffee, 2*s.* 2*d.*, in all, 4*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, are incorrect, as he never received large supplies of stores of the same kind thrice in any one day.

The next point which appears to me to require explanation (as Mr. Morgan acknowledged having received the provisions and stores for the crew with the exceptions pointed out in the last paragraph) was the reason for victualling a crew of Accra negroes as Europeans. This is quite contrary to all rule and custom on this coast, not only with Accra men shipped as crews in merchant vessels, but with all Kroomen, canoe men, &c., employed both afloat and on shore by merchants on this coast; these people, so far as my experience goes (extending over a period of nearly twenty years), are usually victualled on fish and rice—1*lb.* or 1½*lb.* of each per diem; sometimes in lieu of rice they get yams, but meat is not a ration for which they agree, neither are tea, coffee, sugar, or biscuit issued to them; occasionally, when working hard, they may be given a piece of meat, but this is very seldom.

In reply to my inquiries on this point, Mr. Morgan states as follows: On taking charge of the Harriet he found her short of provisions, went on shore to Mr. Laughland to the Consulate, and asked him for the Harriet's articles of agreement, that he might know what provisions the crew had agreed for, in order to demand them accordingly. The ship's articles could not be found, and Mr. Laughland directed that the crew should be victualled as white men, namely, that ten pounds of salt meat each man per week should be issued, with bread, rice, and sugar. Mr. Morgan states that he knew at the time it was not usual to victual Africans on this scale, and that he told Mr. Laughland so. At this time (29th May, 1863) Consul Burton was absent from Fernando Po. Mr. Laughland was acting as Consul. Without doubt the articles of the Harriet were at the Consulate at the time Mr. Morgan states he asked for them, and Mr. Laughland could have referred to them to satisfy himself as to the agreement for victualling the crew had he been so inclined. In proof of this, Mr. Morgan informed me that at the latter end of October, Mr. Laughland's supplies of beef and pork ran short, and, having no more hams and bacon, the negro crew of the Harriet were victualled on fish and rice; they complained to the Consul, and on the agreement being then referred to, it was found that the fish and rice scale of victualling was that which they had agreed for on joining, and for the remaining time of their stay they were so victualled, Captain Burton informing the crew that they should have been so victualled all the time.

During the five months (from 29th May, to 29th October) the crew of the Harriet were victualled as Europeans a sum of 28*l.* 16*s.* is charged for biscuit, 1,148*lbs.*, at 6*d.* per lb.; 6*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* for rice, 322*lbs.*, at 4½*d.* per lb.; and for sugar, 4*l.* Good yams are to be had at Fernando Po for 2*d.* per lb.; they would have been a much more suitable article of diet than biscuit, at a very much less cost. 32*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* is charged for beef, 317*lbs.* 4*d.* for pork, 15*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* for ham, 8*l.* 15*s.* for bacon, making in all, 88*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* for meat alone; and a total of 128*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* for provisions for seventeen men for five months, or at the rate of 2*s.* 4*d.* per man per diem, in a vessel lying at anchor where there was nothing to be done but cleaning ship, scraping hold, &c.

During the same period of five months, the expenses incurred for the maintenance of the acting captain (Morgan) and acting mate (Virge, alias Neilson), who were living in the cabin, were only at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per diem, which includes the following supplies as charged in the account: Tins of preserved meats, 7*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*; sundries, 1*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; soups, 10*s.* 4*d.*; cocoa, 9*s.*; coffee, 1*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*; tea, 2*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*; sugar, 1*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*; jam, 2*s.* 2*d.*; curry, 2*s.* 2*d.*; pickles, 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; mustard, 6*s.* 3*d.*; ham and bacon, 9*s.* 1*d.*; butter, 1*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*; milk, 4*s.* 4*d.*; spirits, ale, and wine, 2*l.* 12*s.*; yams, 13*s.* 2*d.*; bread, 1*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*—total, 23*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

(Concluded on page 109.)

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

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

Amount already published	£391	4	9
Mrs. Henry Kemble (3rd don.), with promise of 10l. 10s. (p.v.) for 1868	10	10	0
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NOTICES.

We are sorry to have complaints of the non-receipt of the *African Times*. But the fault is not ours, as such precautions are taken that we are able to state positively that every subscriber's paper is duly posted in London.

O. A. P., of Accra, owes us 6d. for postage.

The African Times.

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

The African Times.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1867.

MISCELLANEA.

Since our last, Lord Carnarvon, Secretary of State for the Colonies, General Peel, Secretary of State for War, and Lord Cranborne, Secretary of State for India, have resigned office, in consequence of a difference of opinion on the subject of Reform in Parliament.

The Duke of Buckingham has succeeded Earl Carnarvon as Secretary of State for the Colonies. Sir John Pakington has succeeded General Peel as Secretary of State for War.

Mr. Richard Pine, ex-Governor of Cape Coast, has ordered his furniture left there to be sold; we hope this presages an end to *Acting* Administrators at Cape Coast.

King Aggrey, of Cape Coast, on arrival in custody at Sierra Leone, requested of the Governor-General that "the whole question of his conduct should be laid in the first instance before Her Majesty's Secretary of State, for consideration and decision by Her Majesty's Government."

We believe Her Majesty's Government have decided not to place a steam-vessel at the command of Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, although this has been urgently prayed for by the Consul and by British merchants and traders in the Bight of Biafra, &c., to enable the Consul to make regular official visits to the Oil Rivers, and thus prevent those stoppages of trade which have from time to time caused great loss to the merchants trading here in palm-oil, &c.

Her Majesty has been pleased to approve of Don Alejandro Carpiant as Spanish Consul at Sierra Leone.

On the 8th inst. Mr. Charles Buxton moved in the House of Commons for "the production of the Sierra Leone Ordinance No. IV., 1866, and other papers connected therewith; as also for the correspondence relative to the arrest and deportation to Sierra Leone, without trial, of King Aggrey, of Cape Coast." Government consented to the production of the papers, which are being printed for distribution to the members of the House.

The forthcoming "Reform Bill" has almost wholly engrossed public attention during the past month. Mr. Disraeli, Chancellor of the Exchequer, moved for leave to introduce the bill on Monday, the 18th inst., when he explained to the House of Commons its nature and provisions; and on the 19th the printed bill was distributed to the members. It is calculated that if adopted by Parliament it will add from 400,000 to 500,000 to the borough and county constituencies of England.

The bi-monthly steamers will in future carry mails to Madeira, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Accra, Lagos, Bonny River, Fernando Po, and Cameroons, leaving Liverpool the 10th of each month.

THE PROTECTED TERRITORIES.

The production of the "correspondence relative to the arrest and deportation of King Aggrey of Cape Coast" was moved for in the House of Commons by Mr. Charles Buxton on the 8th instant. The production and printing of these papers having been assented to by the Government, they will within a few days (we suppose) be in possession of the members of the House. In obtaining this, the necessary preliminary step to bringing all that has lately occurred in the Territories under the consideration of the House, we think we have made it certain that a prompt solution of the pending difficulties will be arrived at by the Colonial-office, and some definite future policy be decided upon, and stated so that the people of the Territories may know how they really stand in relation to the British Government. Without this, they and we are altogether in the dark, nor can the Administrator, absolute or acting, be very much in the light. And here we may not improperly ask the question, when is a real *bond fide* Administrator to be appointed? Many abuses have come under our notice, but few of them have been more worthy of animadversion than the protracted reign of *Acting* Governors or Administrators at Cape Coast. It has been unjust to the individuals, as well as injurious to the people and to the public interests. For some two years past there has been no Governor or Administrator at Cape Coast. All have been *acting*—receiving only half the pay attached to the office—a modicum altogether inadequate. We have alluded to this from time to time, and if we have not clamoured for a real Administrator, it has been because we saw sufficient to convince us that no definite solution of the governmental problem as regards these Territories had been arrived at in England, and because we were constantly expecting one. It seems, however, to us as if the Colonial-office, until stirred up by the monthly record of evils and abuses on the Coast, fancied it had done all that Africa could possibly require when it transmuted Major Blackall from Governor of Sierra Leone into Governor-General or Governor-in-Chief of the West Coast. Governor Blackall has been doing his best to dispel this illusion at Sierra Leone, and Colonel Conran has ably imitated him at Cape Coast. The latter has happily left that place on a voyage to England; and the former, we are told, is about to do the same from Sierra Leone. And here we are, still without a man, and without an avowed intelligible policy. We want men on the West Coast as rulers—that is, individuals who possess hearts and brains, large and noble sympathies, and a just appreciation of that future which an all-wise Providence must have in store for the long down-trodden and degraded peoples of Western Africa. Such beings are altogether dissimilar to, are the very opposite of, such as wriggle slimily along for two or three successive years endeavouring to undermine and remove the very foundations of the liberties that had been accorded to a people, or such as carry on month after month a petty war of personal animosity to an individual. We long for the time when the revenues of the settlements of Western Africa, or the awakened sense of national and Christian duty in England, shall suffice to fix such stipends for West African Governors as will tempt real men to accept the offices so long filled, with a few honourable exceptions, by very inferior specimens of official humanity.

But to return more especially to the questions affecting the Territories. And first as regards the chief authority there. We know but little of the now *Acting Administrator*, but we feel that this is not the time at Cape Coast for any acting chief, or any untried person such as Mr. Ussher is, or for any one who may have already failed there as a Governor. Somebody should be appointed who knows the people and understands them, and whom they are likely to understand. The present is not an ordinary occasion. Rumours of a projected Ashantee invasion take such form and consistency, that we can scarcely doubt one is preparing, if not absolutely determined on. And in what a state does this threatened deluge of horrors find the people of the Territories! In the Eastern Districts all is petty war and confusion, and practical, if not expressed, contempt for that British authority which has degenerated from effective deeds to mere empty words; while nothing has been done to promote cohesion or unity of action among the chiefs and peoples of the central and western Territories. As one of our esteemed correspondents justly observes, there seems to be nothing at present that could impede or prevent the Ashantee armies from overrunning the whole country and instituting a land blockade of Cape Coast Castle. Under these circumstances, whatever may be the fixed policy of England with regard to those countries, that fixed policy ought to be immediately made known to the kings, chiefs, and people—and made known to them by persons who may possess sufficient influence with them to lead them by wise and just counsels, or a wise exertion of authority, to an organization and measures suited to the emergency. We were looking anxiously and hopefully to the Earl of Carnarvon for this, when unhappily his Lordship felt it to be his duty to resign office: but

although his successor, the Duke of Buckingham, cannot yet have had time to become acquainted with the full gravity of the occasion, and the urgent necessity for wise and decisive action, Mr. Adderley is there, who has been Under Secretary of State since the present Administration succeeded to office—and if nothing be done, or if what may be done shall be badly or inadequately done, it can never be excused on the ground of ignorance of the nature and extent of the evils for which an immediate remedy seems to be indispensable.

GRADUAL INROADS UPON THE CONSTITUTION: THE GREAT JURY QUESTION AT SIERRA LEONE.

Nothing in a state or in the history of mankind becomes abruptly and unexpectedly bad: crime has its gradations, like virtue; and before one reaches to the apex of glory, or the other to the depths of degradation and despair, there are many intermediate stages. We are led to this consideration by the unhappy and dishonouring process through which the jury question passed in the important colony of Sierra Leone before Governor Blackall and his four salaried official councillors deemed that, after their continued manipulations, the hour for its dissolution had at length arrived, when the Africans should no longer be protected by the time-honoured presence of a jury. The first step was taken upon similar grounds to the last—namely, to destroy native rights and give to a clique of plant officials complete masterdom over the black man upon his own soil. The history is very clear, and we beg our readers to follow us through the short and degrading record, while we point out the dark and tortuous course pursued by a party who have hoped to achieve a final triumph over justice by Ordinance No. IV., 1866.

Our African readers will not fail to recall to mind the action instituted against the honourable Dr. Bradshaw, in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, for defamation. We believe that we are justified in saying that eminent counsel deemed that the grounds of action were strong, and that in the event of the case going before a jury that it was more than probable that heavy damages would most justly be awarded against that powerful official. But it is in the nature of many animals of even an inferior order of organization to foresee danger through the agency of some of the senses. They smell it upon the gale; hear it in the sound; or see it afar off by the watchful eye which often protects physical inferiority. Government-house was in a state of consternation; the Constitution of England was balanced in one scale, the protection of a powerful official in the other. The Constitution ultimately kicked the beam, and a pliant Legislative Council of paid officials passed an Ordinance which placed the verdict of a jury under the manipulation and control of four paid nominees of the Governor. By the hands of these pure and sapient inquisitors all verdicts were to be revised, and the amount which might have been awarded to atone for outraged character those Government nominees and destroyers of an ancient right were empowered to reduce to a nominal fraction. Need we say from this time forth the Courts of Justice in Sierra Leone were virtually closed, as far as redress for personal wrongs was concerned. What advocate would enter the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone with any possibility of success? Who would labour to procure what justice might award, when official harpies, in a few hours afterwards, could lay hands upon the only atonement marked out by the law for injured reputation. The plaintiff in the action against Dr. Bradshaw was too wise and professionally sagacious to go into Court under such ostensibly adverse circumstances; and impunity in one crime quickly leads to more daring flights in guilt. The slanderous tongue has often led to the criminal and treacherous blow. Dr. Bradshaw was elated by the successful shield which was thrown over him in the defamation case, and consequently was prompted by a laudable ambition to essay some higher flights of daring. He knew, like poor Jack in the song, that there was a sweet little cherub sitting aloft to look out after his interests and his fate. Dr. Bradshaw assaulted and horse-whipped his native servant, and his illustrious example was promptly followed by another powerful official—Mr. Pyke—whose ponderous and leviathan power was brought to bear upon the shoulders of his own domestic. Here was a double difficulty: protection was required again for the erring children of office. That protection was not slow in coming. An Ordinance was introduced by order of Governor Blackall into the Legislative Council, requiring poor plaintiffs to give security for costs before they could obtain redress in the Supreme Court for wrongs done to them by their European masters. And in order to justify this second outrage upon native rights, the preamble of the Ordinance was founded upon a flagrantly false assumption: "Whereas," this pet measure of Governor Blackall alleged, "persons not having any property in this colony are induced to bring actions for wrongs in the Supreme

Court, frequently for the express purpose and in the expectation of extorting large sums of money from the defendants, who, though successful in obtaining a verdict, would have no chance of recovering from the plaintiffs the heavy costs to which they would be put in defending such actions." We venture to say that in the whole records of unprincipled avarice, which never fails, from its own loathsome nature, to give to every human act a motive of baseness and moral turpitude, there is no parallel to this preamble. The word "induced" was levelled against an independent coloured advocate; whilst the assertion, "frequently for the express purpose of extorting large sums of money," was a baseless and unfounded accusation. A similar vein of falsehood marks the concluding sentence: "The defendants, who, though successful in obtaining a verdict, would have no chance in recovering from the plaintiffs the heavy costs to which they would be put in defending such actions." In the first portion of the preamble to this Ordinance, which deals with inducements and motives, the framers insensibly painted their own motives; but in the last sentence an assertion is made which does not deal with inducements or motives, but states what the records of the Court will prove to be a wicked and gross perversion of facts. There is not a case upon the records of the Sierra Leone Courts which shows that the defendants in such actions, if successful, failed to recover costs. What, then, can we think of the conduct of Governor Blackall and his Queen's Advocate, Mr. Huggins, who framed this Ordinance, when they thus endeavoured to justify a wrong by a palpable misrepresentation? The people of Sierra Leone at length spoke out. We exposed and denounced the Ordinance, and this clumsy device, in which gross public wrong mingled with personal hate, was suddenly abandoned: but the fact will, however, remain as an instructive memorial how a Legislature, sitting with closed doors, and believing itself to be unwatched by the press or the wholesome surveillance of public opinion, will pass laws for the gratification of personal hatred and the establishment of a cruel public wrong. Although this second assault upon constitutional rights failed, the crowning evil was not far distant. The snake was temporarily scotched, but not destroyed. The bold innovators, thus baffled for a time, resolved no longer to make any changes in the jury system, but to render all change unnecessary by its complete abolishment. This is the story of despotism in all ages of the world—once baffled, its poisonous nature is aroused, and it springs with tiger power upon its helpless victim. It has done so in this case; but the triumph of the enemies of the jury system in Sierra Leone will be a short-lived one. The public meetings which have been held, the loyal and constitutional speeches which have been delivered upon those occasions, and, above all, the opinions of the House of Commons upon this all-important subject, will soon lend a different complexion to matters. The whole subject will be immediately brought before the House of Commons, and the correspondence which passed between Governor Blackall and the Colonial-office before the perpetration of this mighty wrong will be called for, should it not be supplied in the papers now being printed by the Colonial-office by order of the House. The Africans will then have an opportunity of unmasking their enemies, and finding out who represented to the Colonial-office that they were unworthy of the rights of citizenship; and the Colonial Ministers will be asked whether, in the face of so great a moral opposition, they will sanction the continuance of this destructive Ordinance.

Already one great grievance in the administration of the law in Sierra Leone has perished under the salutary and healthful test of public opinion in England. The power possessed by the Governor and his official councillors of trying cases of appeal from the Supreme Court with closed doors, has been wrested from this Star Chamber tribunal, and under the Orders just issued by Her Majesty in Council (p. 102), all appeals from the judgments of the Supreme Court must be removed directly to England for hearing before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The secret system in Sierra Leone begins to fail, as it has long ago failed all over the world, under the all-searching sun of public opinion. There will no longer exist in Sierra Leone a Court of Appeal sitting with closed doors, and into whose unhallowed precincts no advocate of position would ever enter. By the salutary rules just issued all for the future is to be done aboveboard. The power of direct appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council alone is now legally established in all cases where the amount at issue is 300l. But in the event of any injustice being made apparent, the Privy Council can grant power of appeal in all cases from Sierra Leone, even if the amount at issue consisted of the smallest sum. No doubt the revelations which took place in the remarkable appeals from Sierra Leone brought before their Lordships within the last year tended to bring about this most salutary change.

and we trust that this hopeful commencement, for which we believe we are mainly indebted to the disclosures and strange revelations made during the hearing of the appeal in Mr. Rolet's case and others, may be followed by many other constitutional changes, one of the most important, and certainly the most required, of which is to directly deprive the Governor and the Collector of Customs of all pecuniary interest in the seizure and condemnation of goods. As long as those officials are invested with such interest, rash steps will be ever taken, like those exposed in the recent appeals to which we have alluded; commerce will be ultimately driven from Sierra Leone; and the colony put to a ruinous expense, as it has recently been, in ineffectually defending the unconstitutional acts of rash and interested officials. As the law stands at present, if the Governor wins, he becomes a large gainer, and if he be unsuccessful, his pocket remains untouched. But if he be compelled to justify the prosecution of seizures at his own expense, he will be more cautious than he is now, when he plays with the moneys of the taxpayers of Sierra Leone.

We anticipate, however, that the Colonial-office will not merely put a stop to this evil, but to many others, and that under the wholesome changes which the future will develop, we shall never again, as journalists, have to record such degrading and humiliating events as those with the sad history of which this article commences.

CONSUL CAPTAIN RICHARD FRANCIS BURTON AND THE PURCHASE-MONEY OF THE BRIG HARRIET.

JUDGMENT OF THE FOREIGN-OFFICE.

Captain Burton, late Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, but now employed in a similar capacity at Santos, has fallen upon evil days! The calumniator of the African race, who has sneered at the *African Times* as a Methodistical publication, the lion of a miserable clique in London who presume to discourse with a learned spirit upon the difference of races and pronounce their feeble judgments upon God's works, has been roughly laid hold of by the Foreign-office. He who would render no return unless in the shape of further charge, has been commanded to disgorge by an authority to which even his imperturbable audacity must submit. Some of our readers will recollect Mr. Rainy's pamphlet entitled "The Censor Censured," which created a great sensation amongst the little worshippers of the philosophic and exploring Consul, and has long been in the hands of the Foreign-office, who through its caustic pages were fully informed upon the subject before a more minute and official correspondence had taken place between themselves and the solicitors to Johnson's executors; and we will here quote a few lines from it in order to refresh their minds relative to the matter at issue:—

"As Captain Burton has deemed it becoming of the high position which he occupied to calumniate a race in whose interest and advancement I shall ever take a lively interest, I am thoroughly justified in turning the tables upon him and verifying the truthfulness of my motto, 'Change the name, and the story is told of yourself.' In the course of my remarks I shall endeavour to suppress my honest and open indignation at the conduct pursued by Captain Burton in the Harriet affair. I will have recourse to no forensic strategy, but 'a round unvarnished tale deliver,' founded upon documents which cannot be disputed or controverted. In the year 1863, William Johnson, a subject of the British Crown, and a liberated African, died, constituting Messieurs J. B. Pratt, Christopher Taylor, and Joseph Jarrett, of Sierra Leone, his executors. Johnson, at the time of his death, was possessed of property in a vessel called the Harriet. The creditors of the deceased man were desirous of a settlement of his debts, and urged the executors to a speedy discharge. In order to accomplish this object, they most justly deemed they could adopt no more expeditious or satisfactory channel than by transmitting a letter of attorney to Her Majesty's representative at Fernando Po (who, it was reported, had taken charge of the cargo of the vessel for the consignees in England), empowering him to sell the vessel, which was then lying at that port in a damaged state, and upon the receipt of the proceeds forthwith to transmit the money. Mark! they were dealing with no 'lying,' or 'thieving,' or 'ungrateful African,' but with the representative of royalty, and one enjoying the confidence of his Sovereign. Alas! poor African gentlemen, they little knew in what a maze of difficulty they had bewildered themselves, and how tediously time was to count before they would be furnished by the Consul with an account of the proceeds of the Harriet."

From this period of 1863 up to within the last few months Captain Burton seems to have foiled every attempt to bring him to book; and they who wish to read a forcible and powerful *exposé* of the most tortuous attempt to evade a just and legitimate claim have only to glance over Mr. Rainy's "Censor Censured." Nor can we refrain from quoting one passage more from the

pamphlet, as evidence of the unshaken belief which Mr. Rainy had in the justice of his cause; his fixed determination to watch over the interests of his clients, and his firm conviction as to the course which the Foreign-office would ultimately pursue:—

"But I feel that the subject now has verged into a form neither suitable to the journalist nor to the pamphleteer. I shall watch the interest of my friends, the executors, and am not prepared at the present time to state the nature of the proceedings I shall feel it my duty to advise them to take in the case. But independent of the step I may deem it necessary to advise the executors of Johnson to adopt relative to the extraordinary accounts rendered by the Consul's agent, I feel convinced that the Foreign-office, which is now presided over by a Minister whose high sense of honour and decision has been exemplified in various portions of the world, will, after the noble example of Earl Russell, render to us ample assistance in bringing to light every act connected with Consul Burton relative to the purchase-money of the Harriet."

The Foreign-office has fulfilled Mr. Rainy's anticipations: they have rendered ample assistance in bringing to light every act connected with Captain Burton relative to the purchase-money of the Harriet. Under the direction of the Foreign-office, Commodore Robinson was deputed by the Lords of the Admiralty to inquire into all the circumstances of the case, and, in obedience to that command, the gallant Commodore has made his report. And although only an extract from that report has been transmitted to the solicitors of Johnson's executors, Lord Stanley, in furnishing this extract, expresses himself as strongly as a Minister can; we do not think that the whole correspondence of the Foreign-office contains an official communication couched in stronger condemnatory language than is used in the report which we publish to-day. In his pamphlet, Mr. Rainy, it will be recollected, dwelt upon the exorbitant charges in the accounts furnished by Captain Burton's agent, and set forth every item of the sumptuous bill of fare which it was alleged had been furnished to the crew of the Harriet. It will be seen that the report of the Commodore upon this very point denounces the accounts as excessive and unjust, and affirms that the provisions supplied were unnecessary, and some of them were charged for twice over. In fact, the whole *exposé* is so compromising to Captain Burton, that we feel bound to express our doubt whether Lord Stanley, after what has been brought to light in this remarkable pamphlet, and confirmed by the Commodore's report, can still retain him in the service of the Crown; and whether, notwithstanding his indomitable assurance, he can ever again, with unblushing front, address the *dilettanti* members of the Anthropological Society, and denounce the native population of Sierra Leone as unworthy of the rights of citizenship. It is calamitous to think that Captain Burton, through his sage and at that time untarnished testimony given before a Committee of the House of Commons, was mainly instrumental in assisting Governor Blackall in his effort to blot from the Africans their time-honoured and unquestioned rights of trial by jury. But the Colonial Minister has now a good opportunity of weighing the character of a man at whose intellectual suggestions an invasion upon one of the most sacred rights of its subjects has been made. We trust his Grace will restore this by disallowing the ordinance just passed by Governor Blackall and his four salaried official counsellors to abolish trial by jury in civil actions at Sierra Leone, and that some independent member of Parliament will request the Foreign Minister to dismiss Captain Burton from the service of the Crown; for we do not believe that by any code of honour a Government officer can be retained in the public service who is found guilty of a gross and wilful misrepresentation to his own Government. When Captain Burton's conduct relative to the proceeds of the sale of the Harriet awoke the justifiable suspicions of the executors of Mr. Johnson, they placed themselves in communication with the Foreign-office, and it will be seen by Earl Russell's reply, that he had in the interim placed himself in communication with Captain Burton, the nature of whose defence will be best set forth in the noble Earl's letter:—

"Foreign-office, December 22, 1864.

"Gentlemen,—I am directed by Earl Russell to state to you that, on the receipt of your letter of the 20th of October last, his Lordship called upon Captain Burton, lately Her Majesty's Consul at Fernando Po, for an explanation with reference to your complaint of his remissness in not replying to your letters relative to the estate of Mr. William Johnson, deceased, and I am now to state to you, that it appears from Captain Burton's reply that he was absent from Fernando Po on the public service at the time at which your letters were written, and further, that they had not been forwarded to him.—I am, &c.,

(Signed)

"A. LATARD.

"Messrs. J. B. Pratt and others, Sierra Leone." It will be seen that Consul Burton denies that he was at Fernando Po when the documents from the executors came for the

sale of the vessel, and that they were not transmitted to him; and now let our readers contrast that statement of Captain Burton to the Foreign-office with the report of the Commodore, in which one line satisfactorily proves the presence of Consul Burton at Fernando Po for a part of the time, and his actually placing himself in direct communication with the crew of the Harriet; while, if any additional culminating proof was required to demolish this miserable subterfuge of Captain Burton's, we have it in his own bill of sale of the vessel, dated one year prior to his letter of denial to Earl Russell:—

"I, Richard Francis Burton; H. B. M.'s Consul at Fernando Po, do hereby certify, that by virtue of the powers contained in the annexed power of attorney, I have this day sold, transferred, and delivered the Brig Harriet, of Sierra Leone, therein referred to, of 230 tons register, official number, 42,446; also, all her tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all other materials belonging to her, to William Brash and James Dick, merchants, trading under the firm or copartnership of William Taylor and Company, Glasgow, County of Lanark, or their heirs or successors for ever, for the consideration of the sum of two hundred and eighty pounds sterling, which I hereby acknowledge to have received.

"The said Brig Harriet is handed over to the said William Brash and James Dick free of all incumbrances and claims prior to this date.

"Witness my hand and seal, this twenty-first day of November, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

(Signed)

"RICHARD F. BURTON,

"H. B. M. Consul, Fernando Po."

While we cannot help expressing our deep regret that a public man should have thus fatally committed himself, Africa may well rejoice at this exposure of her ignorant calumniator; and we doubt if any of her sons would be willing to change places with the creative genius of the Anthropological Society.

MURDER OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.

Dr. Kirk, the former companion of Dr. Livingstone, and at present vice-consul at Zanzibar, has addressed a letter to the assistant secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, conveying the melancholy intelligence of the murder of the distinguished African traveller, Dr. Livingstone. The communication, which is dated Zanzibar, Dec. 26, 1866, states:—

"On the 5th of December nine Johanna men of the party which accompanied Dr. Livingstone came to Zanzibar, reporting that on the west of Nyassa, some time between the end of July and September, they were suddenly attacked by a band of Mazite, and that Dr. Livingstone, with half his party, were murdered. Those who returned escaped, as they say, through being behind and unseen, and they all deplored to having helped to bury the dead body of their leader the same evening. Although in the details and in other things the accounts of the various men differ, they all agree that they saw the body, and that it had one wound, that of an axe, on the back of the neck. One man saw the fatal blow given. The attack was sudden, and Dr. Livingstone had time to overpower those who faced him, and was struggling to re-load when cut down from behind. I fear the story is true, and that we shall never know more of its details. Full statements have gone home, but this may reach Aden by an American vessel during my absence."

THE FATE OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.—Sir Roderick Murchison writes: "Although I felt it to be my duty to throw doubts upon the truth of the reported death of Dr. Livingstone so long as I was partially acquainted only with the tale told by his surviving followers, and the opinions of the British authorities at Zanzibar, I deeply lament to state that having, through the kindness of Lord Stanley, been furnished with the dispatches of Dr. Seward, the British political resident at that place, as well as with more detailed letters of Dr. Kirk, I can now scarcely cling to the hope that my dear friend should still be alive. These melancholy documents, illustrated by a sketch map of the region traversed, by which it will be seen that an important geographical discovery has been made, will be laid before the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, the 25th inst. By the latest intelligence from Zanzibar, dated the 7th of January, I learn that Drs. Seward and Kirk had sailed in Her Majesty's ship Wasp for Quiloa to make inquiries and obtain any further evidence respecting the fate of Livingstone."

THE ABYSSINIAN PRISONERS.—The *Moniteur* says: "According to correspondence from Massowah, the last expedition of the Emperor Theodore against the tribes which have not submitted to Abyssinia is said to have led to no result, the rebel leaders, whom he pursued as far as Gondar, having succeeded in escaping from him. The anger of the Emperor turned against the ancient capital of the sovereigns of Ethiopia, which, by his orders, was first pillaged and then destroyed. The English prisoners are still at Magdala."

OWNERS OF THE HARRIET v. CAPTAIN BURTON.

(Concluded from page 105.)

During the month (from 29th October to 28th November) that the Accra crew of the Harriet were fed on fish and rice, their expenses only amounted to 4l. 10s. 8d., or at the rate of 5d. per man per diem, a saving on the former scale of victualling of 1s. 11d. per man per diem.

On the 6th November, Mr. Morgan came on board this vessel and showed me an account book, which appeared a genuine document, in which were entries which he said were made at the times of the money he received as wages during his voyage in the Estramadura in 1865, the time he was acting master of the Harriet, and the time he was mate of the vessel until her arrival at home. From this account it appears that during the entire period he was in the employ of Messrs. Taylor, Laughlands, and Co., for whom Mr. E. Laughland was agent at Fernando Po, and that he received only 6l. per month as wages.

It does not appear to me that any of the provisions sent on board the Harriet by Mr. Laughland can be considered as medical comforts supplied for a sick crew.

The goods charged for in the account up to the 29th May are, I think, accounted for as supplied for the use of Mr. Hannay and the men of the Leo while in charge of the Harriet, and as I have mentioned, are the same for which Mr. Hannay gave a receipt, which is attached as a voucher to the account. Mr. Morgan states that during the time he was in charge of the Harriet no medical comforts were supplied. The Accra men were healthy. For a short time Neilson was ill, and Mr. Morgan himself was a little unwell on one occasion. Both were attended by Dr. Mullins, of the *Vindictive*, but Mr. Morgan states that Dr. Mullins attended professionally on board the Harriet in all but three or four times.

Mr. Morgan states that he remembers Neilson's wages being paid. With reference to the charge of 22l. for passage of crew to Sierra Leone, Mr. Morgan states that some of the men had not left Fernando Po up to the time of the Harriet's departure on her voyage home. Mr. Morgan states that the remaining items in Mr. Laughland's account, as candles, rope, tar, &c., were received for the use of the Harriet.

In reply to my inquiries as to what could have been Mr. Laughland's object in appointing an acting master to the Harriet, that vessel being at the time safely anchored in a secure harbour, and not likely to go to sea, and an experienced man (D. Verge, alias Neilson) on board her at the time, Mr. Morgan states that he supposes he was appointed with a view to having a competent person on board to demand supplies of provisions for the crew. He also states that he was ordered to look after the safety of the vessel.

The Harriet was fitted for sea and sent home with a cargo of barwood. Her refit at Fernando Po does not appear to have been very extensive; from all I could learn nothing was done to her hull, but she had new afteryards and a new topsail, and made a voyage to England early in 1864.

It appears that Consul Burton was absent from Fernando Po during a considerable portion of the time the Harriet was there.

Mr. Laughland, of Glasgow, states in his letter to Consul Burton of April 26, 1865, that Mr. E. Laughland's disbursements for the Harriet were made as Acting Consul, and not as a merchant, but his charge of 20l. over the sum he paid as wages to Morgan does not look like a consular proceeding; his charges for victualling a crew of Africans at the rate of 2s. 4d. per man per diem are grossly extravagant and unjust towards the owners; his charging Mr. Hannay's expenses twice over is more inexcusable still.

Mr. Morgan, master of the Peep-o'-day, expects to arrive at Liverpool in that vessel in March next.

I made inquiry at the Consulate, also at Mr. Laughland's agents, for the articles of the brig Harriet, which contained the agreement of the crew, but could not find them at either place.

(Signed)

CHAS. A. P. O. ROBINSON.

Commr. and Senior Officer, B Division.

SIERRA LEONE PETITION AGAINST GOVERNOR BLACKALL'S ORDINANCE ABOLISHING TRIAL BY JURY.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned, Her Gracious Majesty's loving and loyal subjects, of the Colony of Sierra Leone, most respectfully sheweth—

That, in accordance with a protest forwarded to your Lordship on the 21st November, 1866, by a number of the inhabitants of this colony, protesting against the confirmation of Ordinance No. IV. of 1866, which passed the Governor and Legislative Council here on the 16th day of November, we beg leave hereby to state our grounds for petitioning as herein done against this Ordinance, and to express our sentiments concerning the same;

And, your Lordship, in also hereby setting forth as well as we can our claims and title to those rights without which, from the nature of the British Constitution, Government would be scarcely better than a cunningly-devised system of despotism here, in asserting our right to the institution of trial by jury, the most admirable of the British Constitution, and the most essential to the security and freedom of British subjects, we faithfully rely upon your Lordship's most serious attention and impartial consideration, knowing, as you do know, that our petition is in vindication of our claims as British subjects to an institution of superior right and supreme principles, and to which you, in common with all Englishmen, your Lordship, are deeply indebted for the stability and excellence of the British Constitution, and for the liberty which you enjoy, and the freedom of which you might boast.

Your petitioners do not think it necessary to remind your Lordship of the fact that trial by jury here, as well in civil as in criminal cases, which is now sought to be abolished in civil actions by the passing of Ordinance No. IV. of 1866, is, although a sacred institution, an institution of the colony, inseparable from and a component and essential part of the Constitution; but they must therefore remark and here premise that the abolishment of this institution would be so complete an abnegation of their dearest and most vital rights and liberties as British subjects, so thorough and so radical a change in the Constitution, that the most unsuspecting, the most unquestionable, and the most preponderating evidence that such an act is absolutely necessary for, and positively calculated to promote good government and the better administration of impartial justice in this Her Majesty's colony, is imperatively needed to justify her assenting to such an act by confirming Ordinance No. IV. of 1866. And even then, your Lordship, we, her loyal subjects, inhabitants of this colony, might well pause and consider what of the Constitution was left, entailing it, after such a change, to our adherence and preference nevertheless: since it is very possible, your Lordship, that by an abridgment of certain institutions which are the bulwarks of the freedom of the British Constitution—if not by that of the institution of trial by jury alone—Englishmen generally would be indifferent as to whether they swore allegiance to or were ruled by a Russian Czar or a Turkish Sultan, and since, too, your Lordship, freedom to us is as dear as to the native Englishman.

Your petitioners would particularly draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that no justifiable reasons whatever for the abolishment of trial by jury in civil cases, and consequently the confirmation of Ordinance No. IV. of 1866, have been, or can be alleged by its few advocates and supporters, although all the legitimate and constitutional means by which such reasons were to be, if they could be, furnished, were at their disposal. The Supreme Court being a court of record, nothing was easier than to lay before your Lordship a fair number of cases evidencing such a miscarriage of justice from the institution of trial by jury here, vitiated by whatever cause, as would warrant your Lordship, on your honour, and in all sincerity for the honour and glory of Her Majesty's reign, and the welfare of all her subjects, to recommend to Her Majesty's Government the abolition of this institution. Why, then, were not such cases cited? Can they be? Then, in the name and for the sake of impartial justice, let them be cited. Or, who are those subjects, your Lordship, that have unjustly suffered from the verdicts of juries in civil actions? If they would not appeal to the Court of Assessors, which virtually nullifies trial by jury—if they would not appeal to the higher courts, known to the laws for the filtration (if we might say so) of justice, but, and if even on the naked, bigoted assertion that they have suffered from the wilfully unjust verdict of juries, they would have the Constitution impaired by the demolition of trial by jury, let them at least show that they are not too impatient of constitutional control, and pursue, therefore, the constitutional course of petitioning for the elimination of the ancient institution from the Constitution, as we pursue it in here petitioning against the confirmation of the Ordinance in question. Yet, if the advocates of this measure had, pursuing the constitutional course, petitioned, they would have been bound to, they would not have dared otherwise than lay such plausible reasons before your Lordship, and taken up such apparently tenable grounds as might have at least induced your Lordship to recommend their petition to the serious consideration at all events of Her Majesty's Government; hence, this evidently proper and legitimate course has not been pursued—they could neither adduce plausible reasons nor find tenable grounds, but have resorted to the unworthy expedient for attaining their end of passing or using their influence for the passing of this Ordinance, and would implicate you, your Lordship, in the unworthiness of their procedure, if your Lordship could recommend the confirmation of this Ordinance, in spite of its perniciousness and the absence of every proper constitutionally essential requisite for sustaining it.

But from whom has this Ordinance originated, and what is its end? Is it the result of the forcible complaints of the community? or, in other words, did it originate with the people? Your petitioners beg to inform your Lordship that it is not the result of the complaints of the people against trial by jury in civil cases, nor did it emanate from them. They oppose and detest as one man this Ordinance, and they could never be guilty of the palpable inconsistency of forcing the Government by their complaints against trial by jury to make this Ordinance, and then petitioning your Lordship, as is done here, against its confirmation. It is, then, a Government measure—we will not say party—and as such it must, because of its nature, and because of the principles of the British Government, stand or fall by its adaptation to the express wants and wishes of the people, and the quantity of assent given to it, because your Lordship knows that it is the peculiar genius of the British Constitution and Government that the laws derive and sustain vitality from the assent at least of the people generally. But, apart from the consideration and the fact already stated, that the people as one man oppose and abhor this Ordinance, there is the further consideration that the constitutional right of the people to be the initiators of legislative enactments having been virtually ignored in this instance by the authors of this Ordinance, they were in all fairness, and in keeping with the fundamental principles of British government, absolutely bound to ascertain and to give the people a reasonable time to express their sentiments with respect to the desirability and necessity for this Ordinance, abolishing trial by jury in civil cases. But what are the facts on this point? Why, that this Ordinance abridging the Constitution of its rarest and most valuable part—calling upon Her Most Gracious Majesty to deprive the inhabitants of an institution of the colony enjoyed by them from time immemorial here, was passed at one reading—passed in less than an hour—passed in less than that period, while members of the Legislature and Her Majesty's other loyal subjects here generally, were profoundly ignorant at all of its existence! Can Her Gracious Majesty, then, give her Royal sanction to this Ordinance, so destructive to the interests, constitutional rights, and liberties of your Lordship's petitioners, introduced as it was, unsustained as it has been, and passed, too, under such unlawful circumstances. And now, your Lordship, to examine "what is its end?" The purport of this Ordinance, as given by its authors only in its title, is "to make further provision for the administration of justice within the settlement of Sierra Leone and its dependencies." From this it would naturally be expected that the constitution of the colony would be left in all its integrity by this Ordinance, whose provisions would then be but so many further, that is, additional, legal means by which Her Majesty's subjects here might be able to obtain more amply or perfectly the justice which the Constitution is capable of yielding. But, contrary to this patent fact, your Lordship has doubtless already remarked that this Ordinance provides, in fact, for the injury of the Constitution, by annihilating a component and an essential part—viz., the ancient institution of trial by jury. And where are the reasons—what are the grounds for supposing that by this institution, which is as old as the well-defined British Constitution itself, and which has for centuries won the approval, elicited the highest encomiums, and been the admiration of the most eminently political and constitutional British and foreign sages as the most perfect means for the attainment of impartial justice, and the preservation of the freedom of British subjects—by this institution, we say, being eradicated from our Constitution it will be left in a condition for better administering, or even administering as before such act of deprivation, justice to its inhabitants? We are confident your Lordship's response would be—no such reasons, no such grounds have as yet been furnished you. This Ordinance, then, has not yet been proved to your Lordship to be, as it purports, for the better; for the Ordinance is unnecessary if it is not what is meant by the further administration of justice within Sierra Leone. Then, for aught shown to the contrary, its end must be some other than that mentioned in the Ordinance, is, in their belief, the crushing out of us, if it be possible now, the spirit of liberty and freedom fostered by the Constitution, and strengthened by no other of our institutions more than by this one of trial by jury, which this measure would abolish, and the basely subjecting us to the lawless and arbitrary passion and acts of a few men who are alone restrained by the impartiality and absolute supremacy of our English laws and institutions from establishing here an *imperium in imperio*. And, in support of this belief, your petitioners respectfully claim your Lordship's further attention while we bring to your notice certain facts and circumstances which preceded this Ordinance, and which, to our minds, are clearly related to it, and have unquestionably given rise to it.

Several months back an extensive system of cruelly ill-treating the labouring classes of Her Majesty's subjects here by kicking, horse-whipping, and subjecting them to other brutal

treatment prevailed among many of the high officials of the colony, until daily boatmen, porters, grooms, and domestic servants were debased by these inhuman acts. This grievous state of things was reprobated by Christian and unprejudiced men in the community; but no amelioration followed until some time after the arrival of a coloured gentleman of the English bar, who is now in England. The brutal treatment to which these people were subjected by their employers and social superiors was repeatedly brought under his notice, and he at length exerted himself in his professional capacity with a view of putting an end to these barbarities. Your petitioners are glad to say that the gentleman succeeded in checking the cruelties, but regret to say that he in consequence created a number of powerful and influential enemies to the system of trial by jury in civil actions, because actions, when taken against the perpetrators of these cruelties, would have to be tried by such a jury, and the guilty parties knew that before such a jury there was no chance of escaping with impunity after the committal of such outrages. But the first individual whom the legal gentleman mentioned had to make sensible that British laws and the British Constitution protect, and are intended to protect as effectually, as thoroughly, and as completely the poorest, humblest peasant, as the wealthiest, proudest peer, was no other than our Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Robert Bradshaw, who was examined before the "Select Committee on West Africa" last year, and said, "The jury system works well criminally," but in civil cases not so well, as there was a very general impression existing here that juries in civil cases, before they go into court, make up their minds. This gentleman had been guilty, your Lordship, of brutally ill-treating his groom, whom he severely horsewhipped one day on the public wharf, and doubtless under the "very general impression existing here," prudently, and as reasonably as human juries must do under certain circumstances, made up his mind and got the action commenced against him compounded by the friends of the ill-treated man. The disgrace of this outrage, your Lordship, is heightened by the reflection that Mr. Bradshaw once occupied the judicial bench of the colony. The present Queen's Advocate, Mr. Huggins, who was one of the legislators that passed this Ordinance in question, was Mr. Bradshaw's counsel. The next party whom the legal gentleman firstly referred to here, enlightened as Dr. Bradshaw was, and who, on evidently similar grounds, made up his mind also by getting an action commenced against him for cruelly ill-treating his servant, compounded, was our present Acting Colonial Secretary, A. Pike, Esq., one of the Legislative members who passed Ordinance No. IV. of 1866. This gentleman was charged with having kicked his servant, and flogged him with a rope, and otherwise ill-treated him. Our present Master of Court, T. Marston, Esq., was actually mulcted in the sum of 50l. for ill-treating a poor man by cruelly beating and kicking him! In a small community like ours, where, when such atrocious acts are committed, and by men the most conspicuous, and who we can only say should be the most exemplary, the intelligence respecting the nature and all the circumstances of the barbarities committed, flies—can be so speedily and directly communicated, would it be strange, your Lordship, if men were found who made up their minds with regard to the perpetrators of these acts? Would judges be able to silence the eternal conscious voice of justice in their breast in such cases more than jurymen, your Lordship? And if the intelligence that a jury received were proved to have been untrue, are they not as liable at the very least to correct their opinions as a judge or two judges whose opinions are based upon information likewise false? [We are sorry to be compelled to postpone the conclusion of this Petition till our next.]

BIRTH.

At No. 27, New-street, Bathurst, River Gambia, on Tuesday, February 12, Ann Catherine, wife of Mr. John M. Coker, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

On January 17, 1867, at Cape Coast Castle, Mr. Georgius Stove, of Amsterdam and Elmina.

At Santa Isabel de Fernando Po, on January 25, 1867, Samuel Clouston, aged 24 years, deeply regretted by relatives and friends.

At Cape Coast, on February 7, 1867, Marion Louisa, wife of Mr. John Waller Good, of Salt Pond-road, Cape Coast.

At Elmina, on February 6, 1867, Levi Rowley, late agent for Mathew Bartlett, Boston, U.S.A., and master of barque Said Ben Sultan.

On Monday, the 18th of February, at Cape Coast, at 4 P.M., of diarrhoea, Master Robert Edwin Ferguson, son and elder of the twins of Mr. Robert Archibald and Mrs. Amelia Ferguson, aged two years, seven months, and four days.

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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 Haddocks, 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 Hams, 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.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA, MADEIRA, TENERIFFE.

—The African Steamship Company's fast and commodious STEAMERS are intended to leave LIVERPOOL on the 10th and 24th of EVERY MONTH (except that when the latter date falls on a Monday the Day of Sailing will be the 25th).

The packets of the 24th convey Her Majesty's Mails, and proceed 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 packets of the 10th, not being under postal restrictions, are open to call, by special arrangement, at any port on the West Coast of Africa, but as a rule they will not call at Bathurst, Monrovia, Cape Coast Castle, Jellah Coffee, Benin, and Old Calabar. Tenerife will be called at on the home route only.

The fast and powerful Steamship MANDINGO, 1,300 tons, and 275-horse power, R. F. LOWRY, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on SUNDAY, MARCH 24, at 11 A.M.

Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the North Landing Stage at 10.30 A.M. punctually.

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

NOTE.—Goods for Sierra Leone will be landed there at Company's expense, but shipper's risk; at all other ports they must be taken from alongside on arrival, or they will be carried on, transferred to floating depôts, or landed and stored entirely at shipper's risk and expense.

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

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

NOTICE.—The ETHIOPE will be despatched on the 10th April, calling at 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.

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:

Messrs. HUGGINS and ROWSELL, 1, Threadneedle Street, London.
 Messrs. P. ECKERSLEY and SON, Hopwood Avenue, Manchester.

SECRETARY: Mr. J. R. CLARKE.

Offices of the Company: 17, DICKINSON STREET, MANCHESTER.

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.



LAMPLOGH'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.

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."

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 C. 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.

SPECIAL AGENTS FOR LAMPLOGH'S PYRETIC SALINE:—

Messrs. ORR & Co., Madras; Messrs. THACKER, SPINK, & Co., Calcutta; Messrs. TREACHER & Co., Bombay.
CANTOR and CO., SIERRA LEONE.

Printed and Published by WILLIAM JOHN JOHNSON, at 121, Fleet-street, in the City of London, for FERDINAND FITZGERALD, Esq.—MARCH 23, 1867.

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