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The African Times.

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

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

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WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steamship Calabar arrived in the Mersey at a late hour on Tuesday night, July 2, after an excellent passage. Her dates were—Old Calabar, May 28; Cameroons, May 29; Fernando Po, May 30; Bonny, June 2; Brass, June 2; Benin, June 3; Lagos, June 5; Jellah Coffee, June 6; Accra, June 7; Cape Coast Castle, June 1; Cape Palmas, June 10; Monrovia, June 12; Sierra Leone, June 15; Bathurst, June 18; Tenerife, June 23; and Madeira, June 25. Besides a large number of passengers, the Calabar brought 2,352 ounces of gold dust. At Bonny and Cameroons a very good business had been done during the month. In the other rivers trade was dull. The Inkerman, Captain Tydeman, belonging to the African Steamship Company, and bound from Liverpool to Brass River, was totally wrecked and plundered by the natives off the Nun River, the captain and crew barely escaping with their lives. At Lagos business seemed to improve every month. A great quantity of produce had arrived from the interior, and more was expected the day after the mail left. The screw steamer Athenian arrived on the 4th June, and sailed on the 5th for Bonny. On the windward coast there was little or no business doing. The Royal Mail steamer Lagos arrived at Monrovia on the 12th of June, and would sail the same day for leeward ports. At Sierra Leone and Bathurst the rains had set in. No trade doing.

The African Royal Mail steamer Athenian, Captain Davis, arrived at Liverpool on the 17th inst. with the bi-monthly mails from the West Coast of Africa. The Athenian brings a full cargo, a large quantity of gold dust, and thirteen passengers, amongst whom is his Excellency Governor Blackall, from Sierra Leone. The Athenian left Fernando Po on the 9th June, and Sierra Leone 29th June.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT THE GAMBIA. TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Gambia, June 17, 1867.

Sir,—On Saturday, the 8th June, there was a case in the police-court of Bathurst, Administrator Patey against T. Brown, merchant. The action was brought by a police-court summons charging the defendant with landing several barrels of gunpowder after hours; consequently they were liable to be seized, and the defendant was liable to an uncertain penalty. The whole affair, however, was upset, and the summons dismissed as illegal, upon three grounds—first, that the name of the informant did not appear in the summons; secondly, that the penalty was not stated in the summons; and thirdly, that the place where the gunpowder was landed was not stated in the summons. The defendant argued upon these three points, and quoted several points of law in support of his argument, which reduced the Chief Magistrate and every one else to perfect silence for ten minutes, when the plaintiff advised the Chief Magistrate to dismiss the case, and the case was dismissed accordingly, with costs.

On Saturday, the 18th, the case was again brought forward.

The Court Clerk, Mr. Evans, having consulted with his superior, on the previous day sent for one William Lewsack, police sergeant, and told him that the case against Mr. Brown would be brought on to-morrow; he asked him some questions relative to the gunpowder landed on the 3rd instant at the powder-ground, and asked the sergeant to take his oath, which he did. Court Clerk Evans was then the prosecutor in this case (as it is impossible for the Chief Magistrate to be the prosecutor and judge at the same time), and Sergeant Lewsack was the informant. The case was called on, when Court Clerk Evans styled himself as the Attorney-General at Westminster to prosecute the defendant; but he was asked two questions, which he could not answer, and was consequently thrown back to assume his seat as a Court Clerk. These questions were: Where did you study your law? Where is your authority? The newly appointed Acting Queen's Advocate, or prosecutor, could not answer these questions, but Mr. Chalmers, the Chief Magistrate, wishing to show his deficiency in English law, observed: Mr. Evans prosecutes as Court Clerk. The Defendant replied: "This is contrary to the law of England, and has never yet been allowed in the colonies. Chief Justice Carr was over a quarter of a century at Sierra Leone and Chief Justice Mansell at Bathurst for several years, but they never once allowed a Court Clerk to prosecute; therefore Mr. Court Clerk Evans will be pleased to take his seat as an ordinary Court Clerk, and take down the depositions, in case they should be wanted." Thus was Mr. Court Clerk Evans deprived of his new appointment in the open court, not only to his own disgrace, but to that of those who gave him the appointment.

After some understanding had between the defendant and the magistrate, the case was heard; the Court Clerk read out the information alleged to be by Sergeant Lewsack, and who was called to make his statement, which he did, and was interrogated by the defendant, when it was revealed to the court that the information was never given by Lewsack; it was a mere fiction got up by the Court Clerk Evans in Sergeant Lewsack's name, Lewsack affirming that he had never given such information, and never seen the paper or document before seeing it in court. Several questions were put to him, and all served to prove that the defendant had stored his gunpowder in the magazine, which is the safest and proper place for it, rather than to allow it to remain out, it not having been seized. Legally speaking, the got-up information in Lewsack's name is a piece of fraud, consequently the whole proceedings in the eyes of the law are tainted with fraud. The case was again dismissed with costs, to the disgrace of the Administrator, the plaintiff, who was challenged by the defendant to make a fresh statement or give his information in person, otherwise to state his complaint in the court, he promising to wait for an hour in the court for anyone who would make a fresh charge against him. The plaintiff was sent for, being in the adjoining room, but he would not make his appearance, after having being defeated twice, in spite of all his professional legal and non-legal assistants. A certain Captain Strong was appointed Acting Queen's Advocate at the last sessions. What does he know about law? Evans, again, the

Court Clerk, was brought up as a common cook. What does he know of law? And now the question is as to Mr. Chalmers', the newly appointed Chief Magistrate's,* knowledge of English law. The matter between Administrator Patey and T. Brown, Esq., is a mere trifle. On the 3rd June current a lighter containing several barrels of gunpowder from alongside an English vessel consigned to Mr. Brown went adrift, and could not be got ashore to the powder-ground before late in the evening. The gunpowder was landed and carefully stowed against the wall on the front of the buildings of the gunpowder magazine, and was placed in charge of the sentry, who was then on his post, the magazine-keeper having already gone for the day. This was done by Mr. Brown's clerk. Administrator Patey saw the kegs, and inquired, "What are they? why are they left there? and whose are they?" After ascertaining these, he sent to Mr. Brown to remove his powder; and at the same time sent to the police-sergeant to take charge of the kegs containing the gunpowder and allow no one to remove any without his orders. Immediately on the receipt of the Administrator's message, Mr. Brown took his men, called on the magazine-keeper, and proceeded to the powder-ground to store his powder, but he was told by the sergeant that the Administrator's orders to him were to take charge of the kegs and not to allow any to be removed until he received order from him. "Oh!" says Mr. Brown, "but I was sent for by the Administrator to come and take away my powder." The sergeant then produced his written authority. Mr. Brown asked for paper to write to the Administrator, when they both went to the police-station, where Mr. Brown wrote a note, which was sent by a policeman to the Administrator. Before they returned to the powder-ground half of the kegs were already stored in the magazine, and by the return of the messenger were all stored, as they ought to be, instead of being exposed all night, as the Administrator desired.

SIERRA LEONE.

The rains having set in, trade had become very dull. Commander Glover, R.N., Administrator at Lagos, had arrived from that place, on a cruise for health. We are glad to hear he had received benefit from the sea-breezes, and was about to return to Lagos.

It was currently reported that Governor Blackall would go to England by the next mail steamer (the bi-monthly).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Freetown, June 15, 1867.

Dear Sir,—A recent affair shows that since the abolition of trial by jury in civil actions the authorities here are no longer disposed to respect the decisions of a jury in criminal prosecutions.

Some time ago a Mr. Johnson, chief clerk in the mail steamship company's office, gave rough gold, value 47. 19s., to a smith, Papah Booyah, to be made into beads of certain size and pattern, to be completed and delivered within a specified time. The day came, but the beads did not come. The smith shuffled three months, after which time Mr. Johnson gave information of the transaction to Mr. Montagu, then acting police magistrate, Cap-Bravo being at the time Acting Administrator, who forthwith directed a constable to go with Johnson and demand the property, adding, "If he do not deliver, bring him before me." The smith could not deliver, and he was brought before the magistrate. Papah Booyah produced in Court some beads which he gave in evidence he had made with Johnson's gold and for Johnson. Johnson satisfied the Court that both the size and pattern of the beads produced were different to what he had bargained for. The case then came within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, where, after it was argued, the jury found a verdict against the defendant; and Mr. Huggins, Acting Chief Justice, sentenced him to nine months' imprisonment. But the Judge here reckoned without his host. Papah Booyah is a Jolloff man—the Acting Administrator is known to be *very friendly with a distinguished personage of Jolloff descent*, to whom it is believed he could not deny a request. You can guess the rest. Law and justice were set aside, and the very next day after sentence was pronounced, the goldsmith was liberated from prison, an attorney was engaged, and a new trial granted. The new trial was heard in the Judge's Chamber; the Acting Assistant Judge (Montagu) stuck to the side of justice; his compeer (Huggins), being under superior influence, went the other way. The Judges thus disagreeing, an adjournment was adopted. At the next sitting of the Supreme Court the case was again called up, but when the Crown Prosecutor saw the composition of the jury (a special one), he in disgust met the Judge's wish more than half-way by retiring from the case without further ado, and Papah Booyah is safe. Vengeance, however, was in

* Mr. Chalmers is from the Scotch Bar.

reserve for the plaintiff Johnson. He ventured to interrogate the bench whether his gold would be returned to him, and manifesting surprise when told that it would not, the Judge declared him guilty of contempt of court, and ordered Johnson to be imprisoned for a week, or pay a fine of 5*l*. The money was paid, and the loss to Johnson was thus increased to 9*l*. 19s.

The feelings of the community, the jurymen in particular who had found Papah Booyah guilty, have been grossly outraged; but what of the outraged feelings of a negro community?—I remain, yours truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

LATE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, June 7, 1867.

Sir,—When statements are made in your blessed columns which affect the reputation of some of the military magistrates and judges that have disgraced Her Majesty's name and her sacred halls of justice, it is not unusual to hear these very men and their friends denounce your paper in the foulest possible language. When I listen to the denunciations of these military judges, I feel the most unbounded satisfaction, because praises and approbation from such men would cause me to suspect that your paper was not doing what it is intended to do. Some few months ago one of your correspondents, writing from Cape Coast, informed you of the outrages perpetrated by Captain A. H. Hall, of the 2nd West India Regiment, who was then the Stipendiary Magistrate at Cape Coast. To corroborate the statements then made, pray publish an important judgment that the Honourable W. A. Parker, the present Chief Magistrate at Cape Coast, has given—the first—for many will certainly follow. The document speaks for itself. By it you will perceive how private feelings and vengeance were allowed to reign in the place of strict justice; how a respectable family was ruined to satisfy the personal animosity of Captain A. H. Hall and A. B. McIntyre, in spite of all the legal measures that were taken to protect the property of an unoffending old lady who, at the time of the outrage of Captain A. H. Hall, and his friend, A. B. McIntyre, was lying on a bed of sickness. Poor Whyte, the Chief Constable, has been punished for what he was told, nay, ordered to do, to satisfy Mr. Military Stipendiary Magistrate Hall's personal animosity against Charles Bannerman; and I cannot but imagine that if Captain A. H. Hall has one spark of honour left in him, he will without hesitation pay the heavy penalty that now rests upon a poor negro, who was nothing less than an instrument in his hands for the time.

Report says that the man Whyte is now raving mad in the bush, labouring, as he undoubtedly must be, under the consciousness of having only *obeyed orders*. Many more actions are pending, in which, if justice has its way, results as startling as the above will no doubt be seen. Deep disgrace attaches to Captain A. H. Hall; and not less to Colonel Edward Conran, of the 4th West India Regiment, who, when he was appealed to by the family of Hagan at the time that Captain Hall and A. B. McIntyre were carrying on their unheard-of proceedings, treated them in the coarsest and most ungentlemanly manner.*

WESTERN AFRICA.

COURT OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CAPE COAST, MAY 8, 1867.

In the cause at the instance of the Executors of the late John Hagan against Thomas Whyte, of Cape Coast—Judgment.

His Honour the Chief Magistrate and Assessor having considered the cause with the proof and the productions, finds it proved that the said deceased John Hagan, by his last will and testament, of date 16th March, 1865, gave and bequeathed to his wife Judith Hagan, and to her children, his house and furniture in Cape Coast, and after providing certain bequests to his sister and his son, declared the said Judith Hagan to be his residuary legatee.

Finds it proved that in the said house, which is the family house, the said John Hagan died, and that his widow the said Judith Hagan still survives, and is the owner and occupant of the said house at this day, and proprietor of such part of the furniture within said house as belonged to the said John Hagan at the date of his death. Finds it proved that Charles Bannerman, the son-in-law of the said Judith Hagan, against whom Mr. A. B. McIntyre, of Cape Coast, held a decree for debt, did, on his coming from Accra to Cape Coast, become a lodger or inmate in the said family house, the property of his mother-in-law and her children. Finds it proved that in respect of the said debt due by Mrs. Hagan's son-in-law to the said A. B. McIntyre, an attachment was laid upon certain articles of furni-

* Colonel Conran being now dead, the Editor has felt it incumbent on him to suppress the remainder of this letter.—Ed. A. T.

ture within the said house belonging to the said Judith Hagan and her family, and that the said attachment, in so far as it affected the property of the said Judith Hagan, was duly and timely protested against, and notified by the lodging of affidavits in Court, as well as by verbal remonstrances made to the defendant and other officers of the law by members of the Hagan family and their friends.*

Finds it proved that, notwithstanding the said protest and remonstrances, the defendant did, on the 9th of October, 1866, enter the said house and remove therefrom certain articles of furniture, the property of the said Judith Hagan and family, and sell the same by public auction in the street.† Finds it sufficiently instructed that the defendant knew or ought to have known that various articles of value so sold by him were not the property of the debtor, but of Judith Hagan and family.‡ Finds it proved that at the time there was some uncertainty in the mind of the debtor as to the amount of expenses contained in the decree and warrant against him; that he and his wife, the daughter of the said Judith Hagan, repeatedly called upon the defendant on that occasion to exhibit to them the decree or warrant in virtue of which he was acting, but that the defendant refused or at least failed to do so.§ Finds it sufficiently instructed that a tender of payment of the debt was made by Charles Bannerman and his wife, or one or other of them, if the warrant was made forthcoming.

Finds it proved that the defendant has never to this day accounted in Court for the proceeds of the said sale,|| but has taken upon himself to settle the matter privately with the attaching creditors of the said Charles Bannerman.¶ Finds it sufficiently instructed that in consequence of the manner in which the said levy was made and the said sale was conducted and carried through, the said Judith Hagan,** besides injury to her feelings, sustained a serious pecuniary loss.†† Finds in point of law that the defendant, by the irregular and unwarrantable sale of the property of the said Judith Hagan, in the manner set forth, has made himself personally liable to the executors of the late John Hagan, for behoof of the said Judith Hagan and her family, in damages; but in respect that it appears that little supervision was exercised, and many irregularities were allowed to prevail in the proceedings of the Court of Justice at that time, whereby the system was sometimes more to be blamed than the acts of a subordinate officer giving effect to it,‡‡ therefore modifies the damages to be paid by the defendant, Thomas Whyte, to the plaintiffs, Charles Bannerman and Henry Brew, as executors of the said deceased John Hagan to the sum of 75*l*. sterling,§§ and decrees accordingly for payment of the same with such an amount of expenses as shall be hereafter taxed in Court.

W. A. PARKER, Chief Magistrate and Assessor.

Extracted from the Books of Court by Thomas Hutton, Clerk and Registrar.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND TRADE BY THE AWOONLAH WARS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Kroboe, Gold Coast, June 6, 1867.

Dear Sir,—The present aspect of things here does not permit of anything being made with any prospect of success. A few days ago the Aquamoos encamped on the banks of the Volta, opposite Assucharry, for the purpose of preventing people going to Krepee, which they have effectually done by plundering and cutting the throats of all who come near them. We have had nearly eighteen months of this state of things, and there seems to be no prospect of an end to our disasters. Three months more, and I and others engaged in Krepee business must be ruined—loss of time, loss of property, loss of trade, machinery lying idle and becoming rusty, will put an end to us, commercially speaking. There is a rumour of Administrator Ussher coming up with one or two merchants to effect a reconciliation. There is

* This goes to prove how Captain A. H. Hall upheld the sacred office committed to him; he would listen to no affidavits or anything else.

† Because Hall and his creature Coker, and McIntyre insisted on it.

‡ This was notorious to everyone, and no one knew it better than McIntyre and Captain A. H. Hall.

§ A good example of the gross injustice to which we have been subject here under military magistrates. All this was done with the knowledge of Capt. Hall, to whom C. Bannerman tendered the money in Court.

|| Some 56*l*. odd.

¶ In keeping with all the acts of Captain A. H. Hall and A. B. McIntyre.

** An old respectable lady, upwards of seventy years of age, and a cripple.

†† The very bed upon which her poor husband died was sold at the instigation of the persons before named.

‡‡ This expression from a judge who is bound to be cautious only shows to what a pitch of degradation Her Majesty's Court had come by having such men as Captain A. H. Hall to pollute its walls, and it is for this man's satisfaction that the writer of this note is to be prevented from earning an honest livelihood in a Court of Justice, because he would not submit to Captain A. H. Hall's disgraceful conduct on the bench.

§§ And which Captain A. H. Hall ought to pay.

no chance for him, coming in that way, as the Aquamoos have now become so puffed up they will treat with no one. It is awful for us that this war is not ended. I have had advices from England to send specimens of many articles of produce that may be obtained here in abundance, but I cannot do anything while this state of things continues.—Yours truly,

C.

HUMAN SACRIFICES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Anamaboe, Gold Coast, May 20, 1867.

Sir,—The mal-administration of the government here has led to the re-entrance of the atrocious practices of human sacrifices in the Protectorate.

King Quashie Attah, of Akim, has succumbed to the irreversible decree of nature, and poor unfortunate creatures are being hurried to an awful eternity by decapitation, that they may accompany the spirit of the deceased King. As "a little heaven leaveneth the whole lump," so the impunity granted at the time of the death of the late King of Aquapim, through the connivance of the Government at the same nefarious practices, will, it is to be feared, induce all the interior chiefs of the Protectorate to renew them.

If affairs are to be permitted thus to grow from bad to worse, we had better be governed by chance, with the interposition of Providence, than be nominally governed as we now are in the name of Great Britain.

C. B. P.

THE AWOONLAH WAR.

(Letter, with Copies of Official Letters.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, June 7, 1867.

Sir,—Mr. Acting Administrator Ussher has placed himself and the Government in a fix, out of which I think he will find it a matter of extreme difficulty to get extricated with honour to the Government and dignity to himself.

On the 24th of May he convened a meeting of a few European merchants to obtain their opinion as to the advisability of recalling the Accra chiefs from the Volta, where they have been ever since the campaign of last year. The meeting was entirely a party one; for, with two exceptions, there was not a soul there who had twopence at stake in the country, or cared a pinch of snuff for its interests; and moreover, *there was not a single native present*. His Excellency's attention was called to this latter fact by the two gentlemen alluded to above, but he observed that he had omitted the natives *advisedly*, knowing well that the native merchants were so involved in debt that they were purposely keeping up the war excitement in order to have an excuse for evading payment. Those present who understood the country, and who at the same time were independent enough to speak their minds, intimated to Mr. Ussher the impossibility of attempting to move in any matter of this nature without the co-operation of the natives; but, following Conran and Blackall's evil example, he at once became the big man, saying *he* was Governor and would act as *he* thought fit, and would choose his advisers from whatever quarter *he* thought proper. The meeting separated without arriving at any satisfactory conclusion. Immediately after, Mr. Ussher opened negotiations with a Mr. George Cleland, a native gentleman who holds the position of a sort of chief in Accra, with a view of obtaining his aid in inducing the chiefs either to return home or consent to meet his Excellency at Pram Pram, half-way between Accra and Addah. The confidential agent employed by Mr. Ussher to conduct these negotiations was Mr. Lyall, one of the Europeans who had attended the meeting. Mr. Cleland consented; he started on the 25th for Addah, where he met the kings and chiefs in council, and delivered the Administrator's message. They one and all refused point blank to return whilst the enemy was still making war on them and their allies the Addahs. The Administrator had sent them a written as well as a verbal message. They also replied in writing, expressing their surprise at Mr. Ussher ordering them home whilst the enemy were actually invading their territory, and after the Government had furnished them with arms and ammunition to repel them, and had enjoined them repeatedly *in writing* to stick to their posts like men (as they had done, were doing, and would do) until they had succeeded in their object. Mr. Cleland consequently returned home after a fruitless journey, at the expense of the Colonial Government, and with much abuse from the chiefs for the very unpatriotic conduct he, above all others, had displayed ever since the termination of the first campaign in April last year.

It is rumoured that Mr. Administrator Ussher talks of using force to *compel* the chiefs to return home, and that he even goes so far as to hint about sending them to Sierra Leone (as Conran did Aggeri) *when* he catches them. He has certainly now committed himself to a ruinous policy, to back out of which would

be only taking a step still more ruinous. He has, through his own ill-advised conduct, placed himself between two evils, one of which he must choose, and the least of which will bring endless trouble on himself as well as on the country he misgoverns. He has publicly declared his determination to force the chiefs of the Eastern Districts to desist from carrying on the war any longer, and to return home; failing which, he will teach them that people living under the Forts cannot disobey him with impunity. Mr. Usher knows as well as I do, that even if he were right in this matter he has no more power to carry out one of these threats than he had to carry out the promises of assistance he held out to these very chiefs in February last; and I am persuaded he has just as much intention of attempting to execute his present threats as he had of performing his former promises; just as much and no more.

Now, as to the rights of this question, I will not undertake to offer an opinion, as mine may be considered a prejudiced one. I belong to the peace party—that is, the real peace party. I advocate war with a view of bringing about a peace that will be lasting. Others who call themselves of the peace party are advocates for merely a temporary cessation of active hostilities, to last only so long as they are in office or on the Coast; when their time is up the country and all the people therein may go to the dogs for all they care. That is the kind of peace they want to give us.

I enclose you the copies of three letters, all of which you may publish in proof that King Cudjoe and his brother chiefs are not making war without some kind of authority, as it is now convenient for Mr. Usher to give out. The first is from Colonel Conran; the other two from Mr. Usher himself; they are plain and distinct, and there could not be a more direct command for the Accras to make war on the Awoonlahs. Since the last of these letters was written, the relative situation of affairs between the Accras and their enemies has not been altered, except, perhaps, for the worse. Can any one reading these letters justify the policy which insists upon the return of the chiefs and their people from the Volta whilst their enemies are still in arms, and which threatens them with certain pains and penalties in case of a refusal. You will observe that in the first letter from Colonel Conran, that officer enjoins the Accras and their allies to be "united and obedient to their chiefs and leaders in the performance of this duty." What duty? Defending Addah against the Awoonlahs and their allies, the Aquamboes, &c. Colonel Conran also admits "that affairs are worse even than the petitioners stated." Now we are charged with exaggeration and raising false rumours. In Mr. Usher's letter, of 21st Feb., you will observe that he is desirous of impressing upon us the "necessity of keeping up a determined position against the Awoonlahs." Was that to be done by Kings Cudjoe and Dowoonah leaving Addah and returning to Accra? And, again, in the last paragraph he observes, "I cannot praise too highly the vigour of action of the native merchants;" that is, of these same penniless ragamuffins who are now only "keeping up a determined position against the Awoonlahs" in order to have an excuse to evade payment of their debts. On the 27th February he again writes thus, "pray keep your people up to the work;" and on the 24th May he observes to the "automatons" whom he summoned to meet him, that these "people" are impostors for obeying his injunctions and keeping themselves and their chiefs up to the mark. It is clear there is imposition somewhere. The most honest politician may at times be inconsistent, but this is not inconsistency. To say the least, it is extremely indiscreet on the part of the Administrator to make such ungenerous and uncalled-for allusions to the native merchants, knowing, as he does, that they hold letters from him which might possibly turn the tables against him. What he intends to do now nobody knows. I believe that he is conscious of having committed a grave error in taking the advice of evil and designing men of straw, and is desirous of casting such friends off; but they won't be cast off. There is one step which Mr. Usher has just taken which I am quite sure was not at the suggestion of these parties, that is, sending Freeman* up to Akropong to represent the British Government during the approaching grand "Custom" that the Aquapims are going to make for their late King, Quow Daddy. The object of Freeman going up is to try and prevent human sacrifices taking place. Freeman is the very best man that could have been selected for such a mission, the only man that could succeed under the present discredit into which the Queen's Government has unhappily fallen.—Yours truly,

[Enclosures.]

No. 1.

Government House, Accra, November 12, 1866.

Sir,—I am desired by the Colonel administering the Govern-

* Mr. T. B. Freeman, of Beulah gardens, formerly Government Commissioner for the Eastern Districts.—Ed. A. T.

ment to request that you will be pleased to inform the chiefs, headmen, and merchants of this neighbourhood that the prayer of their petition of the 8th, relative to the state of affairs in these districts, received this day, will obtain his immediate attention, being fully aware from his own personal knowledge that affairs are unfortunately worse than even the petitioners have stated; and as to the steps that may be taken by the Government, they will be duly communicated to you for their guidance, whilst in the meantime impress upon the Accras and their allies the necessity of their acting on the defence at the Volta and sparing the lives of prisoners falling into their hands, as they appear to have done hitherto; and as his Excellency perceives that the Accras and other tribes are bent on proceeding again to the Volta for the defence of their districts against the barbarous Awoonlahs, he trusts that they will prove united and obedient to their chiefs and leaders in the performance of this duty.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. ANGUS L. HAMILTON,
Fort Adjutant, for Colonial Secretary.

N. Irvine, Esq., J. P., Accra.

No. 2.

Government House, Cape Coast, February 21, 1867.

Sir,—I have to request that you will notify to Messrs. Irvine and merchants of Accra that owing to a disturbance in the settlement of the Gambia, I do not expect his Excellency Governor Blackall's arrival before the middle of next month. I have, however, to impress upon them the necessity of keeping up a determined position against the Awoonlahs until I can come down with the Governor-in-Chief; and in order that Colonel Blackall may be able to act at once, without the delay which appears to be usually attendant upon native movements. I cannot too highly praise the vigour of action of Mr. Irvine and the native merchants hitherto, and I trust that the exercise of a little patience and resolution on their part will not be wanting for the completion of the work already begun.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. T. USSHER, Acting Administrator.

Captain Crozier, J. P., Civil Commandant, Accra.

No. 3.

Government House, Cape Coast, February 27, 1867.

My dear Sir,—I am anxiously expecting some report from you or Captain Crozier respecting the state of affairs on the Volta.

I expect Colonel Blackall here in about a fortnight, but I think I shall be down before that time if I can manage it.

Pray keep your people up to the work, and above all impress upon them the necessity of self-reliance by land, and of giving Mr. Phelps* every assistance; without this latter we shall not do much.—Yours, &c.,

H. T. USSHER, Acting Administrator.

Nicol Irvine, Esq., J.P., Accra.

DAHOMY: MR. WILLIAM DOHERTY.

Whydah, May 29.

You will remember Mr. Doherty, the Christian teacher at Ishagga, who was captured by the Dahomans in their foray in 1862, and who, being taken to Abomey, was reported on what seemed at the time good authority to have been crucified at the great annual custom. It was afterwards ascertained that he was still alive; and an effort is now being made to obtain his release. The Governor of Lagos has sent up Mr. Tickel (with a brother of Mr. Doherty) to Abomey with this object. Mr. Tickel has been very well received; but you must not therefore feel too sure of his obtaining what he seeks. You urged years ago that efforts should be made on Doherty's behalf; and it is to be hoped that what the Governor of Lagos has done will not be in vain.

ABEOKUTA.

The directors of the Egba United Board of Management have notified, through their secretary, Mr. G. W. Johnson, that such arrangements have been made by the Bashorun as will lead to the placing of Custom-house officers on the River Ogun, below Abeokuta, with the double object—first of obtaining complete monthly accounts of all produce exported to Lagos, and, secondly, of levying equal duties on all such produce.

The exports from Abeokuta itself for the month of April, 1867, were—cotton, 653 bales, containing 82,236 lbs.; ivory, 17 pieces, 300lbs.; palm-oil, 3,089 gallons; black-oil, 2,025½ gallons. Oil is quoted 13 heads. Exchange, 3 heads 25 strings. Tiles are being made for roofing. As no machinery has been yet introduced, and they are made by hand, they cost 3l. 10s. per 1,000; size 12 inches by 6.

RIVER NIGER.

We deeply regret to state that intelligence has been received of the house and property of the Rev. J. C. Taylor having been

* Lieut. Phelps, commanding a detachment of thirty West India troops at Accra.

JULY 23, 1867.]

burned by the natives. As there are many hostile influences at work among the heathen against the introduction of Christianity into these countries, we fear such events must be looked for until trade shall have so increased in the river as to insure the ascent of steamers at all seasons of the year. The river may now be said to be closed up against all civilizing influence of England in support of the missionary establishments, from October to June or July. This gives strength to the heathen element, and creates also an uncertainty as to the future with regard to trade which must retard the development of the resources of those countries.

We are glad to hear that the West African Company's steam-vessel, the Thomas Bazley, must be at this time in the river, as she was appointed to leave Lagos for the Niger with a cargo before the end of June. It is expected she will make two, if not three, voyages up the river this season. H.M. ship Investigator has also been ordered to go up, as she has done in previous years.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society continues to receive most gratifying intelligence of the advance of Christianity among the natives of South Africa. The great work of conversion is progressing among the Kafirs, though polygamy is found here, as in other parts where it prevails, a most formidable barrier against the acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. More than 5,000 converts have been registered in the Cape Colony and in Kafirland (exclusive of Natal) by the Wesleyan missionaries there during six months.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

SIERRA LEONE, ETC.

Copy of a Despatch from Governor Blackall to the Right Honourable Edward Cardwell, M.P.

Sierra Leone, May 19, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose to you two separate drafts of Ordinances proposed respectively by Chief Justice Carr, and by the Queen's Advocate, Mr. Huggins, to carry out your suggestions with regard to the new judicial arrangements on this Coast.

There appear to me to be very valuable suggestions in both these propositions; and the Chief Justice appears to approve of the suggestion, not contained in his own drafted Ordinance, of making the Supreme Court consist of three judges, two resident in Sierra Leone, and one at Lagos, and thus constituting an Appeal Court.

Colonel Conran's despatch regarding the Supreme Court at Cape Coast Castle will show the impolicy of attempting trial by jury in civil cases in these confined communities, and, if they are continued, there should be given facilities for a change of venue.

It will be an advantage, I think, that Chief Justice Carr will be in the neighbourhood of London whilst these Ordinances are under consideration; his long experience on the Coast, and his cool and dispassionate judgment, will be found most useful in explaining the details.—I have, &c.,

SAM. W. BLACKALL, Governor-in-Chief.

(Enclosure.)

Extracts from Chief Justice Carr to Governor-General Blackall.

Freetown, April 16, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit herewith for consideration three Ordinances in draft, which I have prepared in compliance with your Excellency's request, and which I trust will be found to carry out Mr. Cardwell's views, as expressed in his despatch of the 23rd of February last, making allowance for local circumstances and the distances between the different settlements on this Coast.

No. I. is an Ordinance to be passed by the Legislative Councils of the settlements on the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and of Lagos. It provides for the establishment of a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice at each of those settlements, to be held by and before the resident magistrate of the settlement. To this Court jurisdiction is given in all civil and criminal causes, subject to an appeal to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone. And provision is made that one of the judges of the Supreme Court shall visit each settlement twice every year, to hear and determine all appeals from the decisions of the resident magistrates.

By Ordinance No. II. the constitution of the Supreme Court, as established by an Ordinance of the Governor and Council, passed on the 15th December, 1858, is altered, and provision made for the appointment of an assistant-judge to the court. The jurisdiction clauses of that Ordinance are then re-enacted, with certain modifications, and the like powers given to the assistant-judge as possessed by the Chief Justice of the court.

Ordinance No. III. establishes a court of summary j.

for this settlement, and provides that the assistant-judge of the Supreme Court shall be the judge of that court. It gives this court jurisdiction in all personal actions where the debt, damage, or demand claimed is not more than 100l.* with certain exceptions; and it provides that the judge of the court shall be sole Commissioner of the Land Commission Court, and also Commissioner of Escheat within this settlement and its dependencies.

It will be seen that by these Ordinances trial by jury is only allowed in criminal cases, and not in civil suits. A few remarks may be necessary in explanation. In criminal cases the question submitted to the jury upon the evidence is a very simple one—viz., "Whether the prisoner be guilty or not guilty;" and in well-conducted prosecutions the whole of the evidence bears upon that point. Further, qualified jurors are usually persons of some property, and they have an interest in the repression of crime, and in giving security to life and property by their verdicts. In civil suits the case is somewhat different. These suits are usually actions arising out of commercial transactions and complicated accounts. The issues raised by the pleadings are oftentimes many and various. The litigating parties, if not on friendly terms with the jurors, are generally well known to them. And the opposing attorneys, contending for success and for their costs, not infrequently bewilder and distract them by the mass of matter they adduce in evidence in the hope of influencing them in their verdict. Add to all this the advocacy of these attorneys, without any public opinion to check them in their course, and the jealousies existing between the different races and tribes inhabiting these settlements, and it is not to be wondered at that verdicts in civil suits on this coast should have given less satisfaction than verdicts in criminal cases. With the right of appeal given by these Ordinances, and the provisions before referred to for taking down the evidence by the officer of the court, I think the decision of civil suits may be safely left to the resident magistrates at the other settlements, and to the judges of the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone, without a jury.

[Here follows the celebrated Ordinance No. IV., 1866, 16th November, already published in *African Times*, vide January, 1867.]

Extract from Governor-General Blackall to Secretary of State, December 8, 1866.

I beg further to draw your Lordship's attention to the observations made in Colonel D'Arcy's despatch as to the interpretation which may be placed on the 7th section;† and this is further confirmed by a casual conversation which I had yesterday with Mr. Parker, appointed to the Gold Coast. If the gentlemen who are appointed to carry out the duties enjoined in this Ordinance at the Gold Coast and Gambia are not also to be police magistrates and sit in the courts of summary jurisdiction, all the economy of doing away with the offices of Chief Justice will be lost, whilst the trials of greater importance, on which alone they would be required to act, are very rare.

I venture, therefore, respectfully to suggest that these magistrates should be made fully to understand that all the duties in all the courts will devolve upon them.

Governor-General Blackall to Secretary of State.

[Enclosing "Protest" against Ordinance No. IV., 1866, 16th November. (See *African Times*, February, 1867).]

Sierra Leone, November 21, 1866.

My Lord,—I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship a memorial which has just been placed in my hands for transmission, praying that the proposed Ordinances for the improvement of justice may not be confirmed.

The statements in the body of the memorial are in some part correct. These Ordinances were passed at one sitting, to enable me to forward them to your Lordship by this mail, as it is of importance they should be brought into operation early in the ensuing year; but they were not passed in one reading; on the contrary, they were read over twice; the second time clause by clause, and put to the Board of Council *seriatim*, and all other formalities were observed.

With regard to the non-official members, one expressed his great approval of the measures, and the other offered no opposition.

I was quite prepared, however, for this movement, which is entirely got up. I have gone carefully through the signatures, and though there appear the names of a few respectable black men, the majority is composed of persons utterly unable to comprehend the question at issue. There is not the name of a single white man appended, whilst there are in the community numbers of European merchants having much more at stake within the colony than those who have signed this document.

In the true interests of the colony I cannot recommend this

* "Without a jury."—Ed. A. T.

† "Without a jury."—Ed. A. T.

memorial to your Lordship's favourable consideration. The abolition of juries in civil cases will put an end to a system of fraudulent litigation, fostered by unprincipled attorneys, which has long been a standing reproach to Sierra Leone.

SAM. W. BLACKALL, Governor-in-Chief.

Governor-General Blackall to Secretary of State.

Sierra Leone, January 14, 1867.

My Lord,—I have the honour to your Lordship a petition which has been placed in my hands for transmission, regarding the Ordinance No. IV., of 16th November, 1866, which I forwarded for confirmation by the mail of 21st November last.

This petition bears upon the face of it the same authorship as a former petition which I forwarded by the same mail as the Ordinance, and is evidently the composition of a West Indian editor who has been only one year and a-half in this colony. It could not have been read to, or understood by, one-tenth of the persons who have signed it, and who are principally marksmen.

The statements recklessly made in the body of the petition prove how ignorant the writer is of the antecedents of this colony, and the proved partiality of jurors when their feelings were concerned; whilst the assertion that, "a few months back an extensive system of cruelly ill-treating the labouring classes by kicking, beating, horsewhipping, and subjecting them to other brutal treatment, prevailed among many of the higher officials," is utterly untrue.

Neither is it the fact that this Ordinance can be shown to be "stamped with the characteristics of an infamous party measure," whilst the only authority quoted as to the good conduct of juries here in civil cases, is the evidence of Sir Benjamin Pine, given before the Committee of the House of Commons, which, on reference, will be found to be quite against allowing juries in civil cases.

It is also asserted that no single instance can be adduced of the malversation of juries here, by which, I presume, is meant their giving a verdict opposed to the evidence, and regardless of the oaths they have taken; but, I regret to say, this is quite contrary to proved facts, and that a want of respect for the value of an oath is the great blot on the jurors of this colony. In the year 1853 it was found necessary to abolish grand juries because they would never find a true bill for slave-dealing; but these same men now come in as petit jurors, and if they were ready to forget their oaths on one occasion, there is no reason to suppose they would not do so on another; but the most fatal injury done to a mercantile community like this, by the want of confidence in juries, is, that the public are always at the mercy of unscrupulous lawyers, who trade upon the passions of the jurors to alarm honest men into paying costs rather than face a trial. It was stated to Colonel Ord by the leading merchant here, that he would sooner submit to a heavy loss than risk a trial before a Sierra Leone jury in civil action.

The same complaint has been made very lately from the Gold Coast; and so, it appears to me, must it be where the community is so limited, education so backward, and prejudice so rife. Sir Benjamin Pine says, that no man would have a chance against an Akoo with an Akoo jury; but he might have gone further, for though there are at present but few original Akoo left, the influence of the chief of the tribe, Macauley, is continued, and any person electing to go to his tribunal previous to going to law courts will be secure of a verdict.

I enclose to your lordship a report sent to me by the police magistrate, which I submitted for observations to the judge who tried the cases. I think these bear out my own observations when giving my evidence on this subject before the Committee of the House of Commons, that though the verdicts in criminal cases were generally satisfactory, there were cases when feelings were enlisted in which they could not be depended upon.

I will now remark upon the weight to be attached to the names of those who have signed, and who have not signed, this petition. I find the names of about six respectable black merchants who might possibly have cases in court amounting to more than 100*l.* in value, up to which amount all cases are now tried before a judge only; the rest are petty traders and "marksmen," mostly from the villages, and who cannot have the slightest interest in the passing of this Ordinance, as it will in no way affect them; but there is a conspicuous absence of all the solid respectability of the community. The petition is not signed by a single member of either of the Councils; by not a single minister of the Church; by not a single member of the bar or medical practitioner, without regard to colour; neither is it signed by a single European merchant, whether English, French, or German, and of whom we have many established here; nor have I had any remonstrance from the consuls of those countries. In fact, for years this perversion of justice, by the indifference of juries to be guided by evidence, and allowing themselves to be influenced by passion, has been felt as the serious evil of our jurisprudence; and all

honest men hail with pleasure an alteration which will place the decisions in civil cases in the hands of educated and impartial judges.—I have, &c., S. W. BLACKALL, Governor in Chief.

(Extracts of Enclosure to Secretary of State.)

Horatio James Huggins, Acting Chief Justice, to Governor-General Blackall, Sierra Leone, January 14, 1867.

The Ordinance sent out from the Government to be passed here, doing away with juries in civil cases, is a wise measure; one which I am glad to find is approved by his Honour Chief Justice Carr, who has had an experience of twenty-six or twenty-seven years in this colony as Chief Justice, and concurs in the opinion that civil cases should be tried without a jury. *In my opinion the ends of justice would be better attained if criminal as well as civil cases were tried without a jury; the Governor is always at hand to entertain any application by a convicted prisoner against the sentence, and to exercise the prerogative of the Crown.*

Trials without a jury would, moreover, be a saving of much expense to the colony, though judges might prefer being relieved from the anxiety and responsibility of themselves giving verdicts, especially in criminal cases; but if the ends of justice require them to perform this duty, it should be imposed upon them.

[Here follows Petition. *Vide African Times*, March and April, 1867.]

Earl of Carnarvon to Governor-General Blackall.

Downing-street, February 23, 1867.

Sir,—In my despatch, No. 104, of this date, I conveyed to you Her Majesty's confirmation of the Ordinances recently passed to make provision for the administration of justice in Her Majesty's West African Settlements. I did not advise Her Majesty to confirm the Ordinance No. IV., which abolishes trial by jury in civil cases in Sierra Leone, without fully considering the petitions addressed to me by inhabitants of that colony, and enclosed in your despatches, No. 89, of the 21st November, and No. 6, of the 14th of January.

I need hardly say that I fully appreciate the advantages of this mode of trial whenever it can be prudently applied; but the decided opinions which are expressed by yourself and the Chief Justice, which are shared, as you inform me, by the educated portion of the community, and which are supported by statements made before a recent Committee of the House of Commons, and, I must add, by considerable antecedent probability, convince me that I should not be consulting the true interest of the colony by maintaining the existing system. Of this you will inform the petitioners.

But while I have arrived at this conclusion on the merits of the law, I cannot refrain from expressing my regret at the manner in which it was passed. You admit that it was read three times at one sitting, and you do not deny the statement that no public notice of it was given before it was so read.

You must clearly understand that it is only in cases of unforeseen urgency (a public danger such as obviously did not exist in the present case) that you are justified in taking this course. The greater the powers which are entrusted to the Government of a Crown colony, the more imperative it becomes to avoid any mode of proceeding which has the appearance of taking the community by surprise, and preventing the fair expressions of their objections to any proposed legislation.

I must also express my surprise that you should have contented yourself with a general denial of the charges of general cruelty to the labouring classes, which are brought against the public officers of the colony, without noticing these particular cases where specific acts of that kind are alleged against Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Pike, and Mr. Martin. I admit that general accusations are sufficiently met by general denials; but the definite allegation of matters which appear to have been of public notoriety required, and I think still require, from you a full and definite statement of the facts which rendered such allegations possible.

Such a statement I shall therefore expect from you.—I have, &c.,

CARNARVON.

Governor Blackall to the Earl of Carnarvon.

Sierra Leone, March 22, 1867.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 105, of 23rd February, regarding the Ordinances lately passed to make provision for the administration of justice in this colony, and in reference to certain allegations contained in a petition against Dr. Bradshaw, Mr. Pike, and Mr. Marston, of cruelty to natives, calling upon me for a full and definite statement of the facts which rendered such allegations possible, and which appear to have been of public notoriety.

With regard to Dr. Bradshaw, I presume the special matter referred to was a case quoted by Colonel Ord in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, to show the fear that existed here of facing a jury. In November, 1864, Dr. Bradshaw was in attendance upon me at the "Cape House," which is reached by water; and on his return to the quay, his

horse was generally brought down to meet him; on one occasion he was caught in a tornado on his way back to Freetown; and on landing he found that his groom had left his horse half-tied up, near the wharf, not under cover; his saddle completely saturated, and half of one of the reins chewed by the horse; the groom himself having taken shelter. I may observe, that the consequence of getting on a wet saddle in this country entails an almost certain fever; and Dr. Bradshaw had still on that day his town visits to make. The man came up just as Dr. Bradshaw got on his horse; and he admits that in his excitement he did give the man one cut with his ordinary riding whip. The servant immediately ran away—never returned to his service; and two days afterwards, Dr. Bradshaw was served by Mr. Rainy with a writ for a civil action, the damages being laid at 200*l.* Dr. Bradshaw in vain endeavoured to find the servant, to whom he would have been willing to pay any reasonable compensation; and ultimately, sooner than face a jury, after the example in Mr. Marston's case, to which I shall presently advert, Dr. Bradshaw paid to Mr. Rainy, not to the man, whom he never again saw, the sum of 30*l.*

The second case referred to is that of Mr. Pike. In this case, the complainant was employed as a watchman, and one evening Mr. Pike had seen him arriving on duty at eight p.m.; but on returning at eleven p.m., not only was the man absent, but the gate of the premises was locked, and Mr. Pike could not get into his own house. At that time Mr. Pike, as Marshal of the Mixed Commission Court, had a considerable sum of public money in his house; and he was rather alarmed lest there should be some foul play; and the man coming up soon after, and not giving a satisfactory reply as to his reasons for leaving his post, and locking Mr. Pike out of his own premises, he did strike the man with his fist, and gave him a blow across the back with his stick. This man remained at his duty until the following day, when Mr. Rainy got hold of him; but Mr. Pike compromised the matter himself with the man for the sum of 10*l.*

In Mr. Marston's case, a man had entered his premises, the doorsteps being within an inclosure, to seek payment of a debt due to him by one of Mr. Marston's servants. The servant was out, but the man persisted in sitting down on the doorsteps, and making so much noise that Mr. Marston could not proceed with his business; the man was asked several times to go away, but refused; and eventually Mr. Marston forced him to the gate, and as he went out assisted his exit with his foot. An action was immediately taken by Mr. Rainy, and the jury gave 50*l.* damages. Mr. Marston was urged by his friends to move for a new trial, but he refused, as a new trial would only have been to a jury, imbued with the same prejudices and subject to the same influences as the first, and entailed upon him further expense.

I hope your Lordship will not imagine that I am an apologist for public officers forgetting themselves, as on the three occasions quoted; but I deny altogether that there was any "brutality" evinced; and certainly great provocation was given, and, as Colonel Ord observed before the committee, they were cases which in England would have been settled in a police-court; but I must say that this reign of terror, for I can call it nothing less, demoralized a large amount of the population. I have myself witnessed every kind of irritating insult offered to Europeans by natives, to endeavour to provoke a blow and a consequent civil action. This has been remarked on in every publication by authors who have visited this coast, and I may more particularly allude to Captain Burton's, Mr. Winword Reade's, and Captain Hewett's works.—I have, &c.,

SAMUEL BLACKALL, Governor-in-Chief.

Letter from John Carr, Esq., Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, to Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart.

7, Bennett Park, Blackheath, February 16, 1867.

Sir,—I have the honour to return herewith the petition from Sierra Leone against the confirmation of Ordinance No. IV., lately passed by the Legislative Council of that settlement. The petitioners appear to be principally marksmen who could hardly have understood the language used in the petition. The objection seems to be against the 11th section of the Ordinance, which provides that actions at law shall be tried by one or more of the judges of the Supreme Court, without a jury. This provision has not been made without due consideration.

By referring to the Report of the Select Committee appointed in 1865, to consider the state of the British settlements on the Coast, it will be seen that Colonel Ord, the Government Commissioner, and other witnesses examined before the Committee, stated it to be their opinion that some alteration was necessary to improve the administration of justice under the present jury system. They thought it worked fairly, on the whole, in criminal cases, but not in civil causes. In the Draft Report prepared by the Chairman of the Committee, it will also be seen that the opinion is expressed that trial by jury was inapplicable in many cases.

My own experience on the Coast leads to the same conclusion. In civil cases it is a system unsuited to the present condition of these settlements. It is uncertain in its results, and attended with heavy and unnecessary expense. Further, the number of qualified jurors is very limited, and most of them but very imperfectly understand the English language. They are also usually known to the litigating parties, and they are liable to be swayed by the views of the local attorneys who practise in the Courts both as attorneys and advocates. Another disturbing cause to the fair administration of justice under this system is to be found in the numerous tribes and races inhabiting these settlements, their clanship, and the jealousies existing between them. For these and other reasons it is believed many persons prefer to compromise their claims, or to desist from prosecuting them, rather than submit their cases to the decisions of juries on the Coast.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to refer to the 12th section of the Ordinance, providing that, on the trial of all civil causes in the Supreme Court, the evidence given at the trial shall be taken down in writing by the officer of the Court. With this provision for taking down the evidence, and with an appeal to Her Majesty in Council, I apprehend there is ample security that justice will be fairly administered by the judges of the Court, and greater satisfaction given than by the present jury system. I may add, suits where the damages do not exceed 100*l.* are now tried by the Chief Justice of the Settlement without a jury, under an Ordinance passed in 1864.

Respectfully submitting these observations for the consideration of the Earl of Carnarvon.—I have, &c.,

JOHN CARR, Chief Justice of Sierra Leone.

Papers relative to King Aggrey next month.

KUKA IN BORNU.—SLAVE-TRADE.

Petermann's *Geographische Mittheilungen*, the great authority in Germany on current geographical research, contained recently a remarkable letter from Gerhard Rohlfs. The point from which he writes is the city of Kuka, on Lake Tsad, Bornu. His journey was from the north, and it required from March 25th to July 22nd, 1866, to travel from Moorsook, Fezzan, to Kuka. The importance of his observations is due to the fact that he is a thoroughly scientific man, and has already spent twelve years in African travel. He is supported by the Bremen Senate and the London Geographical Society. Kuka is a city of sixty thousand inhabitants. Its business is active; everybody seems busy. But the only trade of that people is the barter in slaves. The slaves stand for sale before the city gates. The traffic was never so busy as at this very time. The slaves must cross the Great Desert after they are bought, and they proceed in caravans, sometimes numbering thousands. The caravan by which Mr. Rohlfs' letter came consisted of five thousand slaves, who were on their way northward to Fezzan. Large numbers of the slaves die on the road from hunger, thirst, and fever. The great pathways over the desert are literally white with the bleached bones of these poor human creatures. One of Mr. Rohlfs' scientific views is remarkable, and he gives it as the result of much study and observation. He says that there are natural transformations going on in the geological condition of the African deserts, which give every reason to believe that they will hereafter become abundantly rich and fruitful in vegetable life. There are oases, which are now like gardens, that were once evidently nothing but arid sand. There are stretches of country but partially brought to a productive and heathful condition. He has no doubt that the Great Sahara will yet become a vast fruitful field.

We are glad to be able to state that Gerhard Rohlfs has arrived in safety at Legos, having come down through the Niger districts.—Ed. A. T.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

(From the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, June 25.)

DOWNING-STREET, June 24.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint George French, Esq., to be Chief Justice of Her Majesty's settlement of Sierra Leone, on the Western Coast of Africa.

FOREIGN OFFICE, June 20.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Lieut.-Colonel Robert Lambert Playfair, of the Royal Madras Artillery, and lately Her Majesty's Consul at Zanzibar, to be Her Majesty's Consul-General in Algeria.

HER MAJESTY'S NAVY.—The following vessels have been ordered home for the purpose of being put out of commission and the crews paid off—viz., the *Valorous*, 16, 400-horse power, from the Cape of Good Hope; the *Ranger*, 5, 80-horse power, from the West Coast of Africa; and the *Triton*, 3, 260-horse power, from the South-east Coast of Africa.

EMIGRANTS FOR LIBERIA.—Above 1,000 freedmen are now waiting in the Southern States of America for passages to Liberia. The American Colonization Society has despatched above 1,000 during the past nine months.

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

Mrs. Joseph Moseley acknowledges the following:—
Amount already published . . . £431 1 9

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We beg that our subscribers will pay immediately to our several agents the subscription for the new year beginning with July, 1867, and all arrears due from them to us.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

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

The African Times.

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1867.

MISCELLANEA.

England has been giving grand entertainments to the Sultan and to the Viceroy of Egypt. The grand Naval Review at Spithead on the 17th was a magnificent spectacle. The Sultan and the Viceroy were on board the Victoria and Albert, with Her Majesty the Queen, &c.

The unfortunate Maximilian of Austria, Emperor of Mexico, who had been taken prisoner by his enemies through the treachery of Lopez, was executed in company of his generals, Miramon and Mejia, by shooting, on the 19th of June. This event has been greatly deplored in Europe.

The Reform Bill, which has so greatly impeded all other public business this session, passed the House of Commons on the 15th July.

Mr. Hazeley, of Cape Palmas, Liberia, sent by the last mail specimens of the Liberian tea and indigo plants to Sir William Hooker, at the Royal Gardens at Kew.

A Gold Coast correspondent says: "A governor can treat with contempt, depose, and imprison a king under the guns of the forts; but a few miles in the interior his orders, proclamations, summonses, and paper threats are despised."

The Postmaster-General has given notice that book packets, patterns, and samples of merchandise for the West Coast of Africa will be sent only by the mail packets of the 24th of each month.

The Administrator of the Gold Coast has sent Mr. Freeman, of Beulah-gardens, as Government Commissioner to Aquapim, to prevent, if possible, human sacrifices at the grand custom to be held in honour of the late king, Quow Daddee. We should begin to have more hope of the Protectorate if the services of such men as Mr. Freeman were called properly into requisition. He ought to have been sent up to Ashantee after the war, and could now do more than any other man to restore peace between the Addahs, Awoonlahs, &c.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan leaves this day, after twelve days' visit to England.

The Viceroy of Egypt left London on the 18th inst., after twelve days' visit.

The Company of African Merchants, Limited, have declared the usual half-yearly interim dividend, of 2s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The dividend is payable on and after the 25th inst.

OUR SEVENTH YEAR.

With this number the *African Times* commences its seventh year. We are not about to praise ourselves for anything that we have done in this work which God has committed to us. Do what we may in His cause, we must still be "unprofitable servants." We have, however, heartily endeavoured to do our duty; and we have been strengthened by the assurances given to us by those who are not enlisted against us by their errors or their vices, that our labours have been productive of great good. The manifold abuses and evils that still exist—the little progress towards Christian civilization and the development of the vast material resources that has yet been made, the hand-to-mouth system of administration which contents itself with *to-day*, and the absence of all fixed principles and definite purpose in government as regards the future, with the persistent and so far successful efforts lately made so to re-arrange the administration of justice as to secure impunity to the powerful official wrongdoer, and to withdraw protection from the defenceless and the weak, show us, however, but too plainly how small a proportion the *what has been done* bears to the *what there is still to do*. We feel what an absolute *want* the nascent Christian civilization of Western

Africa has of the *African Times*, or some other such public monitor and guardian, in the absence of which the most pernicious errors and evils would pursue their course with unbridled head. And here our heart almost fails us. While from every settlement on the Coast we have constant cries for our help, we do not find a corresponding effort to help us in our work. Every act of administration censured, every outburst of oppression and vice exposed, creates and strengthens bitter and active animosities against us; while the supposed friendships we make are, with some few honourable exceptions, rapid and fruitless. We have seriously reflected whether we should not withdraw from this work, which costs us not only time, labour, and anxiety, but money also. The last it need not absolutely cost us, if all our subscribers in Africa would pay as they all ought to do, and as some do. But as we dare not withdraw our hand from the plough while God gives us in any way strength to hold it, we have decided to wait and see what another year of labour and anxiety will bring forth. And having thus decided, we are justified in calling upon those who ought to be our vigorous and determined friends to do their duty also. To keep our paper within the reach of all who can read, we maintain the price of subscription at 5s. a-year. But we do not hesitate to say that no one on the West Coast of Africa whom God has blessed with sufficient means, or who could pay more by the exercise of a little wholesome self-denial, ought to think he has done his duty in thus paying 5s. a-year, for which he gets every month his newspaper sent free to him, while we are giving to him and his fellow-Africans what three or four hundred pounds a-year would not more than adequately repay. We are compelled to write very plainly; there is a large amount of unpaid subscriptions due from the Coast, which we absolutely require for paying outlay already incurred—and now there is the new year's subscription, July, 1867, to July, 1868, due also. In order that we may not have to give up this work for Africa, if we can by any possibility avoid so doing, we must insist that the new year's subscription be immediately paid to our agents by all subscribers, or sent direct to us; while, at the same time, we call upon all our readers to make a real exertion on our behalf. Where are the 750 petitioners from Sierra Leone? Are they earnest for the full liberties of British citizens? If so, those who have influence with them in the colony ought to show them the necessity of *doing* something to obtain and to secure those liberties. Every settlement on the Coast ought to do very much more than it has yet done; and for their own sakes we now urge upon all their people the necessity of doing their duty. We desire above all things to teach them earnestness and (under God) self-reliance. No people can rise without the exercise of these virtues, however much others may be disposed to do for them. When we urge that the advanced Christian civilization of Europe ought to do much for the nascent Christian civilization of Africa, we do not mean that the Africans are to sit with their arms folded and do nothing for themselves. The civilization brought to England in the early ages would never have spread had not the Anglo-Saxons done their part too. There must be African patriotism also, if Africa is to rise; and patriotism is not a thing of words, but of deeds. Every educated African should consider it his duty to work for Africa as well as for his own individual advancement and self-indulgence. When the foreign slave-traders came to the Coast to seek their cargoes of human victims, they found Africans but too ready to help in the accursed work. Now that this great iniquity has been put an end to, let there be shown an equal zeal in Africa, among those to whom enlightenment has come, to co-operate resolutely and heartily with all those agencies, missionary or other, that come to them for Africa's good; not forgetting that organ of public opinion—that public guardian which no influence can rob them of if they are faithful to themselves—the *independent AFRICAN TIMES*.

THE SIERRA LEONE BENCH.

WHEN Chief Justice Carr retired on his pension of 1,000*l.* a-year, we merely published this fact, withholding all comments on his part in late proceedings until the papers moved for by Mr. C. Buxton in the House of Commons in March last should be in our possession. At length we have them, and in them we see the assistance Mr. Carr rendered to Governor Blackall in his nefarious and too successful attacks on the constitutional rights of the people of Sierra Leone. We presume the course he pursued in this matter assisted Mr. Carr in obtaining the amount of pension he had so much at heart; but we must express our deep regret that he should thus have closed a public service of five-and-twenty years in the colony by calumniating the people among whom he had so long resided, and helping forward the official conspiracy against their privileges. We must do Mr. Carr the justice to say that he seems to us to have been respectable in every relation of private life; and this is to say a great deal in praise of a man who has lived during the last twenty-five years in Sierra Leone. But, a man of colour, he does not seem

to have had any real affection for, or to have felt any deep interest in, the people among whom he was so lucratively placed. His name is not, that we know of, associated with any lasting benefits to the colony, either in his judicial or legislative capacity. Irreproachable in conduct, he was, however, sadly deficient in that moral courage which creates steadfast friends and awakes fiery opposition. We know not of anything done by him for the social and intellectual advancement of his own race, and but for his last act his name would certainly soon have sunk into oblivion in the colony. That last act will cause him to be remembered, but it is a remembrance that we regret he should have merited. It is strange that Mr. Carr should have presided during so many years over the Supreme Court of the colony, and never, until he was negotiating his pension, and found such opinions in favour in high quarters—never until then have uttered a word of public condemnation of Sierra Leone jurymen. Would not every one, under such circumstances, have expected to find him defending the rights and liberties of his race? Would not every one have expected of him that he should close his official career by an honest protest against a measure which is not supported by any records from the Supreme Court showing the cases in which juries so misconducted themselves as to lead to the melancholy conclusion that they were unfit for such a duty? And we must say that Mr. Carr would have occupied a far higher position in the esteem of good men if he had retired with only 600*l.* a-year, and leaving such an indignant honest protest on record, than he does now with his 1,000*l.* a-year, and his established complicity with Governor Blackall in depriving the West Coast of the privilege of trial by jury in civil causes—the thin end of the wedge which Mr. Huggins confesses a wish to drive home to the abolition of juries in criminal causes also.

So much for the past, and now as regards the future. An Equity barrister, of whom we hope good things, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Carr, and has left England for the scene of his duties. But how about Mr. Huggins and Mr. Montagu? It is whispered that one of these is to be associated with the new Chief Justice upon the Bench. We can only say that if this be true it will be a gross insult to Mr. French, as well as to the colony, whose petition to the Duke of Buckingham against the appointment of either of these persons to judicial functions in it appears in our columns of this day. With reference to that petition, we shall only say that if its averments are correct—and we have every reason to believe they are—it seems to us impossible that the Duke of Buckingham (who, happily, is not associated with any of the recent manoeuvres against the people of the colony) can turn a deaf ear to its prayer. But such are the mysteries of Government appointments—especially to office in the colonies—that we dare not take this for granted, and must speak out for the colony. Mr. Huggins had no legal education; he has never been called to the English Bar. His early days were spent in the West Indies. He was a planter there, and left, it is said, heavily in debt; and though he then occasionally practised his profession, it was only as a fourth-rate attorney—a species of practice demoralizing in itself, giving contracted ideas, and but little suited to the formation of those broad and equitable views which should adorn the Bench. In the infancy of a colony, as we once before observed, such an appointment might be unavoidable; but in an important and growing colony like Sierra Leone it would now be unjustifiable; because Mr. Huggins has none of those transcendent mental qualities which now and then set all artificial rules at defiance, and establish in their possessor a notable and brilliant exception. His official blunders in the case of the Ricarda Schmidt have cost the British Exchequer close upon 5,000*l.*; and his gross errors in the case of the Queen v. Rolet have entailed, through the kind generosity of Governor Blackall with other people's money, an enormous expense upon the taxpayers of Sierra Leone. Can such a man be fit to decide without a jury? What dreadful evils might not be inflicted through the erroneous interpretation of the law and appreciation of facts by such a judge!

And if we turn from Mr. Huggins to Mr. Montagu, we have, alas! still less reason to be satisfied. He has already filled and been dismissed from a judicial post in Tasmania (vide *African Times*, June, 1867), and we must certainly say with regret that his subsequent career in Sierra Leone has not been an auspicious one. We are opposed to raising anew here the curtain which charity and Christian forbearance would fain drop over the scenes of Mr. Montagu's domestic life at Sierra Leone; but the ermine ought to be spotless, and the man to whom the lofty position of judge is entrusted should rise superior to passions which are the fruitful sources of those crimes upon which he himself adjudicates; in a word, there should ever exist an impassable gulf between the bench and the dock of a court of justice. But in addition to those private disqualifications of Mr. Montagu for the office of judge, we fear that in a public point of view his advancement to a judgeship would not be justifiable. If we are correctly informed, matters transpired in the celebrated cause of Rolet, surviving

partner of Malfilatre, v. the same Mr. Montagu, of a very damaging nature to the latter. Professional honour between client and advocate ought to be ever most sacredly preserved, and any violation of it is the wreck of public faith and confidence. There never was a period when a wise and upright administration of the law among the people of our African settlements was more important than now; and there never was a time at which the administration of the law in most of these settlements was so disgraceful as it has been within a recent period. The scales of justice have been rudely handled in Jamaica; let us restore their healthful balance in Africa. The Duke of Buckingham has an opportunity of bestowing upon the Court of Sierra Leone, now the Court of Appeal for the West Coast, that great boon, an independent, unprejudiced, and learned Bench. Surely he can recruit good men from the wide field of the English Bar, and need not seek among incompetent, prejudiced, and dishonoured officials. We look upon his prompt dispatch of the new Chief Justice as an earnest that his Grace will do this; and we shall most gratefully acknowledge it should our hopes be realized.

ENGLISH AND DUTCH TREATY FOR EXCHANGE OF FORTS AND TERRITORIES ON THE GOLD COAST.

THE ratifications of this treaty, which is in substance what we have already stated, were exchanged on the 5th July. The line between the future Dutch and English territories is to be drawn due north to the Ashantee frontier from the middle of the mouth of the Sweet River (with slight deviations). The new tariff, &c., commences the 1st January, 1868. The duties are 6*d.* per old gallon on ale, beer, wine, all spirits, &c., 1*d.* per lb. on tobacco and snuff, 1*d.* per lb. on gunpowder, 1*s.* each on firearms, and three per cent. *ad valorem* on all other goods. We are sorry we have not room for the treaty till next month.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS MOVED FOR BY MR. CHAS. BUXTON, M.P.—SIERRA LEONE.

WITH a very few exceptions, no one in either House of Parliament takes the least interest in West African affairs. It would be foolish and unwise to attempt to conceal this painful truth. Our African friends must make up their minds, and the sooner they do so the better, that it will require a long and heavy struggle to create for them any interest in the British Legislature. To be sure, this may be brought about by extraordinary events at any moment, as in 1864, when the Ashantee war was used for purely party purposes. But in the ordinary course of events it cannot be expected. The African slave-trade from the West Coast is nearly, if not quite, put an end to. While it was yet going on, it gave rise to many little discussions which kept the West Coast more or less before the eyes of the "Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled." But now that, thank God! the slave-trade is almost a thing of the past, members will not see the African Coast at all. Its affairs are so unimportant among the momentous issues with which they are now almost constantly engaged, that they do not really think them worth a thought. This places us under a heavy disadvantage in our work for Africa. Unless a governor is found to be running England into a great expense, and relatives of members of Parliament are dying of fever in some war expedition, it is next to impossible to get up a real discussion about its affairs. This gives a species of impunity both to the authorities at home and to officials on the Coast; and we never felt this more strongly than when looking over the papers ordered to be printed on the motion of Mr. Charles Buxton, of 5th March, and now lately placed in the hands of members of Parliament. Those relative to the changes in the administration of justice at Sierra Leone are now before us. It is painful to read them. They are evidence of the plot carried on for some three or four years by Sierra Leone officials, under the crafty guidance of Governor Samuel Blackall. The mishaps of certain truculent officials, who could not keep their hands off their negro servants, rendered it necessary to bring about the abolition of the jury system in civil causes. It was so monstrous in the Sierra Leone official mind that a negro servant should be treated as a European one would be treated. The European official idea of a free country was there the old American one—where there is full liberty to "wallop your nigger." Major Blackall had left the West Indies full of hate for the race to whom he owed his expulsion, and was only too ready to avenge the cause of his Sierra Leone official staff upon *those Africans*. Colonel Ord came home primed for his official report, full of complaints about Sierra Leone juries giving heavy verdicts for assaults committed. We and our African friends who know all about how Colonel Ord obtained the information to be cooked up into a report, know well how little importance ought to be given to his opinions on the subject; they were only Major Blackall and his official's second-hand. But Major Blackall knew the importance of getting the first blow struck by another person, though his hand directed it.

Then the matter came to be touched upon in the inquiry by the Parliamentary Committee. Ord deposed, Blackall deposed, Major Blackall, constantly at the Colonial-office, sedulously breathing his poison into high official ears, obtained at last what he desired—permission to prepare an Ordinance abolishing trial by jury in civil cases. In due time the Ordinance is returned to him from England to go through the usual forms. This enabled Governor Blackall to say to the indignant Sierra Leoneans that the Ordinance was not his, but was sent to him from England to be put through the usual formalities. He does put it through the formalities, but not in the usual way. He gets his nominee Legislative Council together a few days before the mail is to leave for England, produces his Ordinance in the secret conclave, and has it at that one sitting nominally read three times and passed! The colony only knows of it by the report of the two non-official members, but sends its protest to England by the same mail with the Ordinance, and a more extended Petition by the subsequent one. Chief Justice Carr is in England, negotiating for his retirement on pension. He had presided in Sierra Leone as Chief Justice for above twenty-five years, but never saw the iniquity of Sierra Leone jurors till Governor Blackall lent him his hate-tinted spectacles, and the amount of retiring pension was under negotiation. He is now induced to "think" that "the decision of civil suits may be safely left to the resident magistrates at the other settlements, and to the judges of the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone without a jury." And why? Because the verdicts have been contrary to facts or to the ruling of the judge, or in any other way iniquitous? No. What Judge Carr says is that they have given "less satisfaction than verdicts in criminal cases." And this brings him to a "similar conclusion" with Governor Blackall, and the unadopted conclusion of the present Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.† "In the draft report of the Chairman of the Committee, it will also be seen that the opinion is expressed that trial by jury was inapplicable in many cases." Truly, the late Chief Justice Carr is wise in his generation! The "Protest" of the people of Sierra Leone accompanies the passed Ordinance to England, and a lengthened Petition follows it. Governor Blackall, in forwarding the Protest,‡ says he "was quite prepared for this movement, which is entirely got up." He "has gone carefully through the signatures;" "there are a few respectable black men," but the majority are ignorant, and no white man has signed. Might not a similar objection be made to all protests and petitions in England? Are they not got up? There must be leaders in such cases, but this is not supposed in England to vitiate the protests or petitions. We shall pass at present his vague allegations in forwarding the Petition, which of course he equally disapproves of. It is composed by a West Indian editor, who has been only eighteen months there; its statements are reckless; Colonel Ord was told something by a leading merchant; he too has heard something from the Gold Coast; and the petition only emanates from persons unworthy of consideration.§ We shall merely remark on paragraph 8 that, knowing what we do of Executive intimidation at Sierra Leone, the surprise we feel is, not that certain persons did not sign the petition, but that so many were found to sign it. But there is an inclosure in this letter—a letter of Horatio James Huggins, Acting Chief Justice—which shows how absolutely necessary it was for the Sierra Leone blacks to protest and petition against the first inroads on their constitutional privileges: "In my opinion, the ends of justice would be better attained if criminal as well as civil cases were tried without a jury."¶ We refer our readers to what appears in the present number of the *African Times* as an evidence of how happy a thing it must prove for the blacks of Sierra Leone if they could be only delivered over entirely to the upright judgment and tender mercies of Acting Chief Justice Horatio James Huggins.

The Earl of Carnarvon, it is true, sharply rebukes Governor Blackall for his mode of passing the Ordinance, and for not disproving the specific allegations of the Petition—but he advises Her Majesty nevertheless to confirm the obnoxious Ordinance because of the decided opinions and statements of the Governor and the Chief Justice! We have already commented on a people's liberties being confiscated on such weak grounds. The least we should have thought a British Secretary of State could have done, would be to demand proof by records of the Supreme Court of the instances in which the juries had so misconducted themselves as to render a change in the law necessary—to order the re-enactment of the Ordinance in the Legislative Council with the proper formalities, and to ask for an expression of opinion on the part of those other inhabitants of the colony, the absence of whose names from the petition against the Ordinance was construed by Major Blackall as an entire concurrence in the views of himself and his official friends. Governor Blackall's reply¶ is only worth notice because he there seeks support from three new

props, Captain Burton, Mr. Winwood Reade, and Captain Hewitt! He could not give stronger confirmatory evidence of total unfitness to rule over a black community. But what does that avail? He had effected his purpose; the Ordinance had received the Royal sanction; the iniquity was complete. There is only one other point we shall allude to before we close. Governor Blackall* says, paragraph 3: "Colonel Conran's despatch regarding the Supreme Court at Cape Coast will show the impolicy of attempting trial by jury in civil cases," &c. Now the only published despatch of Colonel Conran relative to the Supreme Court is No. 7 (123), October 23, 1865, in which paragraph 7 Colonel Conran distinctly charges the objectionable conduct of a jury in a criminal trial on the incapacity and unfitness of the presiding judge. No stronger evidence could be given of the utter unscrupulousness of Governor Blackall when he has made up his mind to carry a point. And this brings us back to our opening remarks. We feel certain that nothing less than the impunity in African affairs to which we have alluded as consequent upon the indifference of Parliament to them, could have emboldened either subordinate officials, Governor, or Secretary of State for the Colonies, to write and act as they have done in this matter. To overcome and remove this indifference of Parliament, and create among its members a real interest in African affairs, in the Christian civilization and the education of the people, and the development of the material resources of Western Africa, is a portion of the work which the *African Times* has to perform. It cannot perform it without a resolute and self-denying support on the part of the educated people of the West Coast.

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES FOR 1867-8.

WESTERN COAST OF AFRICA.

Estimate of the amount of Aid required to defray the Charges of the West African Settlements for the Year ending 31st March, 1868.

For the Governor in Chief—Salary	£3,000
Expenses	500
Gambia, in aid of the Revenue	3,000
Gold Coast, ditto	3,500
Lagos, ditto	3,500
Maintenance of a Colonial Steamer, for service on the Coast (Governor's Yacht).	5,000

£18,500

The estimate amounted last year to 43,000*l*. The difference is 24,500*l*, which arises as follows:—

Last year, estimated for purchase of two Steamers†	£17,000
Maintenance of ditto	9,000
Fine on Crobbree Tribe	3,500

29,500

This year, maintenance of one Steamer	5,000
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Decrease

£24,500

Post-office Packet Service.

West Coast of Africa and England	£20,000
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Estimate of Bounties on Slaves and Tonnage Bounties, and Captured Negroes' Support.

1866-7.—Tonnage Bounties	£26,000
Support of Captured Negroes	13,000

£39,000

Payments actually made.

O. & C. Ship Rapid	£2,807 9 0
" Jassem and Ranger	957 0 0
" Esperance	564 16 1
" Orontes	371 8 1
" Ariel	8 8
To I. Pike, Sierra Leone	53 7 8
" J. B. Elliott, ditto	103 8 2

£4,867 17 8

Suppression of the Slave Trade.

Sierra Leone, Judge	£250
" Registrar (increase 250 <i>l</i> .)	\$1,000

THE FATE OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The *Times of India* of May 15 published some facts which tended to excite reasonable hopes of the safety of Dr. Livingstone. On the 17th of that month, however, the same journal states that the previous intelligence was altogether inaccurate, and that there can now be no doubt of the murder of this distinguished traveller by the Maftes.

* May 19, 1866.

† It was ultimately decided to have only one steamer, which cost 10,000*l*.

‡ To Governor, in consideration of his discharging the duties of Judge of the Courts.

§ The 250*l*. ditto, ditto.

• April 16, 1866.

† November 21, 1866.

‡ January 14, 1867.

§ January 14, 1867.

+ February 16, 1867.

‡ January 14, 1867.

§ March 23, 1867.

IMPORTANT PETITION FROM SIERRA LEONE.

To his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Settlement of Sierra Leone,

Sheweth,

That an Ordinance was recently passed, depriving the inhabitants of this settlement of trial by jury in civil cases, and has since, though humbly petitioned against, been confirmed.

That under these circumstances it becomes of the greatest consequence to all connected with the place that the persons who are appointed to fill the posts of judges in it should be fit to hold posts of such nature.

That those, however, who have been appointed to be the first judges under the new system of there being no jury, and of everything being left to the judge, are notoriously unfit persons.

That your petitioners therefore humbly crave that they may be heard in objection to these persons.

That the persons in question are Mr. Huggins, who has been appointed Acting Chief Justice, and Mr. Montagu, who has been appointed Acting Assistant Judge.

That your petitioners' objection to Mr. Montagu is that he is notoriously a person of bad life and character, his propensities and doings having repeatedly occasioned the greatest scandals in the colony. Thus he has, for instance, since he came to this colony, had to stand at the bar of the police-court—and justly had to stand to it—for having committed the odious offence of having carnally abused so young a girl that the charge against him took the double aspect of rape and of his having had carnal knowledge of a girl under twelve years of age; and that Mr. Montagu, a white-headed old man, had been guilty of carnally abusing this young girl there could be no doubt, and the only circumstances which saved him from having to take his trial at the sessions for his conduct on this occasion were that it could not be distinctly made out by evidence either that the girl had not consented, or that she was under twelve years of age, as what her age was could not be proved, and the medical evidence tended to the conclusion that she was above twelve. But in order that the whole of the particulars of Mr. Montagu's conduct on this occasion may be before your Grace, your petitioners have to beg that his Excellency Governor Blackall will be good enough to forward to your Grace along with this petition copies from the police-books of all the examinations which were taken at the police-office on the occasion.

That what has been stated was, however, not the whole of the scandals with which this matter was attended; for Mr. Montagu was at the time living with a low black woman who had been his servant, the servant of him and his European daughter—for his daughter was living in his house at the time when this scandalous connexion commenced in it—but with whom he was then openly living as his concubine (as he is still, and having children by her, or she, though living with him, having children some of them by him, some of them by others, some of them white, some of them black); and this woman, whose name is Ann Bell, in consequence of Mr. Montagu's having connexion with the young girl who has been mentioned, violently assaulted and beat her, which led to a charge being brought against this woman as well as against Mr. Montagu; for the girl's father becoming aware of what had taken place, in consequence of his child having been beaten, brought charges at the police-office against both of them. The charge against Ann Bell was that of having assaulted and beaten the girl; and she, less fortunate than her paramour, Mr. Montagu, was committed to take her trial at the next sessions, at which, for her part in this scandalous business, she was sentenced to some months' imprisonment and hard labour. The time, however, at length arrived when the period of her imprisonment expired, and then, to the wonder and astonishment of all who witnessed or heard of it, Mr. Montagu went to the gaol with an open carriage which he had obtained for the purpose, into which he received this woman at the gaol gate, and drove her back in triumph to his house. The fact is, that Mr. Montagu has so yielded himself up to the dominion of his propensities and strange eccentricities, that with regard to much that he does it really cannot be conceived that he is of sound mind. Repeated instances manifesting this might be mentioned; and it is as notorious as any other part of the character which his conduct has caused him to have, that his occupying a judicial post is always attended with his making it a means of gratifying any ill-will he may bear towards any who come before him, and particularly ill-will which may in any manner be connected with the woman Ann Bell.

That having brought these circumstances before your Grace, your petitioners humbly hope that it will not be conceived to be fit that the inhabitants of Sierra Leone should be placed at the mercy of such a person as Mr. Montagu as a judge; and they do indeed humbly hope that it may be considered by your Grace that it is not fit that such a person should occupy any judicial

post in the colony whatever, either as a judge or as a police magistrate, Mr. Montagu holding at present both the posts of Acting Assistant Judge and that of Acting Assistant Police Magistrate.

That your petitioners' objection to Mr. Huggins is that he is notoriously a person not competent to fill such a post as that of judge. Your petitioners are aware that it is said that Mr. Huggins has been a considerable time in practice, but if so it must have been practice of such a nature as was not calculated to give him a proper knowledge of law; for it is hardly possible for any one to witness his proceedings and utterances without being aware how deficient of such a knowledge he is, being continually both doing and saying things which render his deficiencies painfully evident.

That your petitioners conceive that productions of Mr. Huggins must have reached the Colonial-office evincing the insufficiency of his knowledge of law and his incompetency to fill such a post as that of judge. But if there were no other evidence on the subject, your petitioners conceive it would be sufficient to mention that Mr. Huggins has now officiated as Acting Chief Justice at six sessions or sittings of the Supreme Court, and that the consequence is, that there are already at least eleven persons in the gaol under sentences passed by him which are contrary to law. A list of the persons referred to is hereto annexed, marked A, which your petitioners respectfully crave may be considered as here inserted. On inspection of the list it will be found that the sentences which were passed in the instances included in it nearly always considerably exceed the punishments prescribed by law, sometimes, indeed, exceeding them so greatly as to be two or three times as much, and even more; sometimes, too, the sentence passed includes whipping, when the punishment prescribed by law includes no whipping. Sometimes, too, the sentence is that the prisoner shall suffer several whippings, when, according to law, if there could be any whipping, there could be only one. And while by the Act 24 and 25 Vic. c. 96, under which only the cases were punishable in which Mr. Huggins passed sentences of whipping, it is carefully provided that whenever whipping may be awarded for any offence under that Act, the number of strokes and the instrument with which they shall be inflicted shall be specified by the Court in the sentence, in not one of the sentences which Mr. Huggins passed for whipping is it specified what the number of strokes was to be, or what was the instrument with which they were to be inflicted, as will be seen on inspection of the calendars signed by Mr. Huggins, according to which the sentences he passed have been, and still have to be undergone. And although your petitioners, from their desire not to exaggerate the facts, have stated the number of the persons in the gaol under unlawful sentences passed by Mr. Huggins to be eleven, there is reason to apprehend that there are two persons more under such sentences, making thirteen in all. The names of these two persons are Abraham Metzger and John Marsh, alias John Richard Marsh, both of whom were tried at the sittings held in November, &c., 1866, the numbers of their cases in the calendar of those sittings being respectively thirteen and fifteen. The charge against both these persons was that of larceny after a previous conviction of felony, and the sentence passed—of penal servitude for ten years in the case of the former, and penal service for six years in the case of the latter of them—would not exceed the punishment prescribed by law for cases of such a nature, provided that the persons upon whom they were passed were found guilty of the previous conviction of felony as well as of the stealing, or provided that being found guilty by the jury of the stealing, they pleaded guilty to that part of the information which charged them with having been previously convicted of felony. But all that appears in the calendar is that these two persons were found guilty of stealing, the punishment for which offence is, by the 24th and 25th Vic. c. 96 s. 4, penal servitude for only three years. The indictments or informations against the parties will, however, furnish information respecting these cases as well as the calendars. In order, therefore, that there may be the means before your Grace of fully investigating these matters, your petitioners have now to respectfully beg that his Excellency Governor Blackall will be so good as to forward to your Grace along with this petition copies of the indictments or informations in all the cases which have been adverted to, both those specified above and those included in the annexed list, and also copies of the calendars of the sittings at which the sentences in the whole of them were passed.

That your petitioners humbly conceive the facts which have been thus brought before your Grace with regard to Mr. Huggins to be such as to render the insufficiency of his knowledge of law and his incompetency to fill such a post as that of judge very manifest, and they therefore humbly hope that with regard to him also it will not be considered by your Grace that it is fit that the inhabitants of Sierra Leone should be placed under such a person as a judge, certain as it is that such a person's being in such a position must be attended with detrimental effects.

Your petitioners, in conclusion, humbly hope that the circumstances they have felt it to be necessary and to be their duty to bring before your Grace may be graciously taken into consideration, and they humbly pray that your Grace will be mercifully pleased not to permit that the judicial posts in Sierra Leone should be filled by such persons as Mr. Huggins and Mr. Montagu, and as the real cause of the administration of justice in Sierra Leone not having for a length of time been satisfactory, is in truth that it has not for a length of time had judges under whom it was likely that the administration of justice in it would be satisfactory. Your petitioners also humbly pray that judges of a higher standard than the settlement has for a length of time had may henceforth be granted to it.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.,

WILLIAM LEWIS, JOSEPH JARRATT, T. W. HUGHES, S. W. BIDWELL, J. C. CUMMING, PETER E. COLE, JOSEPH E. GOODING, WILLIAM PARIS, ISAAC W. PARIS, B. R. WILLIAMS, E. B. LLAVIS, JOHN H. JOHNSON, JAMES BENJAMIN, W. W. OSBORN, AUGUSTUS FREDERICK BELORAVE.
For list referred to see page 13.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, July 6, 1867.

My Lord Duke,—I have the honour to submit to your Grace's consideration a petition from Sierra Leone, relative to judicial appointments made in that colony.

I regret that this petition did not reach the Colonial-office through the Governor.

As the honour of its transmission has fallen to me, I think it but right that, from a lengthened professional experience of the colony, I should pass my opinion as to the truthfulness of the accusations contained in the petition against Mr. Montagu's moral character. I have not a single doubt as to the accuracy of the statements of the petitioners; and, as doubtless your Grace will transmit it to the Governor to report upon, I know you will find the opinion I have expressed a correct one.

With regard to the cases cited in the petition in proof of Mr. Huggins' judicial inaptitude, I shall pass no opinion, as the calendar transmitted with the petition, if upon examination (which doubtless your Grace in this case, as well as in that of Mr. Montagu, will direct) proves correct, will sufficiently sustain the petitioners' charges against Mr. Huggins.

I trust your Grace will honour me by an acknowledgment of the receipt of this communication, in order that I may show the petitioners that I have not neglected the responsibility which they have placed upon me.—I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your Grace's most obedient humble servant,
His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, &c.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, July 6, 1867.

My Lord Duke,—In trespassing upon the valuable time of your Grace, I deem it right to make a few preliminary remarks. I think your Grace will agree with me that cases may occur in which silence would amount to criminality; and I hold that the one which I now bring under your Grace's notice is one of them.

The Governor of Sierra Leone, in a despatch to the Colonial-office, has thought proper not merely to palliate the conduct of three of his officials (against two of whom I was retained in actions for cruelty towards their native servants), but at the same time to calumniate my professional character; I repeat that silence upon my part in such a case would amount to a criminal neglect.

The despatch I allude to is dated 22nd March last, from Governor Blackall to the Colonial-office, and I now beg to deal with his observations upon the three cases of cruelty for an explanation of which the Governor was called upon by Lord Carnarvon.

In order to show how completely reckless the Governor is in making statements which may temporarily sustain his views, I beg to state that when Mr. Marston assaulted his native servant I was not practising my profession at Sierra Leone, and actually did not visit the colony until the case had been disposed of; and if your Grace will have the kindness to request the Governor to furnish you with a copy of the record in this action, it will appear that I had nothing to do with the case. Yet Governor Blackall does not hesitate, in the despatch already alluded to, to state that an action was immediately taken by me against Mr. Marston. It is deplorable to think that any person holding such a high and almost sacred trust as that of Governor of a colony should deal in such personal misrepresentations as Major Blackall has exhibited in the case of Mr. Marston. Surely his opinion upon the conduct of native jurors, unsustained by a single record from the Courts of Law at Sierra Leone, showing where they so violated their trust as to merit his personal condemnation, must be looked upon with considerable mistrust, when he thus imputes to an advocate a course of action which it was physically impossible that he could have pursued.

A Governor who can be so reckless when he comes to deal

with substantial facts, of course enjoys an immense latitude when he comes to deal with motives, or to furnish his own prejudiced surmises as to the cause of human action. Governor Blackall, in the despatch to which I have alluded, broadly states that I laid hold of the plaintiff in his case against the Treasurer, Mr. Pike; and the Governor also insinuates that I pursued a similar course in the case against the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Bradshaw.

The Governor's statements in these two cases partake of as much truth as my alleged conduct in Mr. Marston's case, when I was some thousands of miles away from the scene of action. I held at the Sierra Leone Bar the very highest position, and was the retained counsel for the Hon. Mr. Heddle, and all the European houses there, with the exception of the Company of African Merchants and the African Steamship Company. Enjoying such professional success, it is not probable that I would stoop to pursue a course which would not be justified even in the case of an unprincipled and poverty-stricken professional adventurer. So far from seeking out cases of assaults upon the native servants, I saw that they would be to me an endless source of trouble, taking me away from business of a far more lucrative nature, and upon this ground I declined a great many offered to me, and selected only those (and amongst them the cases against Messrs. Pike and Bradshaw) where I deemed that the persons who were the assailants of a powerless and trodden-down race should have set, from their position, a more honourable and decent example.

Your Grace will be pleased to observe that in his earlier communications relative to the jury question, addressed to the Colonial-office, the Governor sustained his views by general sweeping assertions; and it was not until he was censured by Lord Carnarvon (as your Grace will see by his lordship's despatch of 23rd February last) for not noticing the specific charges embodied in the petition of the Africans against the Ordinance depriving them of trial by jury, that Governor Blackall adopted the old hackneyed course of granting the truthfulness of the accusation set forth in the same petition, and at the same time abusing the advocate and attorney engaged against his officials as set forth in the petition. Indeed, the Governor's assertions against me, like many other ill-considered calumnies, sufficiently refute themselves. How, my Lord Duke, could I lay hold of Mr. Pike's servant (as stated by the Governor in his despatch), or know anything of the assault committed upon him by his master, unless the outraged man had sought my professional services? From whom could the Governor derive such information, unless evidently from Messrs. Pike and Bradshaw, who, in order to vindicate themselves, would not hesitate to calumniate me?

It is not for myself I care in this instance, but it affords to me a well-grounded estimate as to the truthfulness of the Governor's aspersions upon the character of the defenceless African jurors, when I find him imputing such conduct to myself. If I was the man to lay hold of clients (to use the homely phraseology of the Governor), I hardly would have been retained before the Privy Council here in cases of appeals from the Vice-Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone, in all of which I was successful, thus depriving Governor Blackall of a large pecuniary interest in those reversed cases. Nor was it in a pecuniary point of view alone that the Governor suffered defeat; for, by a remarkable coincidence, it was at the very period that he was abolishing trial by jury at Sierra Leone, and vesting that power in the judge alone, that the Privy Council was reversing cases which were tried in Sierra Leone by these judges without the assistance of a jury. Under the infliction of such defeats, perhaps it is but charitable to think that the Governor was but too ready to listen to the voice of the calumniator, and to cast aside the exercise of the smallest judgment in testing the truthfulness of the self-answering accusations made to him as to my professional conduct.

I regret that I should have detained your Grace at such length, and beg to say that I have not been influenced by mere personal motives in addressing your Grace, but in order in my own person vividly to place before you the weight which should be attached to the opinions of one who has played so prominent a part as Governor Blackall has in depriving the people of Africa of a great constitutional privilege, granted to them by charter when the colony was first established, and enjoyed by them for twenty-five years under the guidance of Chief Justice Carr, without a single complaint upon his part relative to their unfitness. It is to be regretted that, upon the eve of his retirement, Mr. Carr should pronounce them unfitted for the high trust which he sanctioned their exercise of for a quarter of a century, without supporting his statement by the records of the Court, showing the cases in which African jurors abused their trust.

I beg further to state that as the aspersions against my professional character made by the Governor have been published and laid before Parliament, I trust to your Grace's sense of justice that this vindication may receive a similar publicity.—I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your Grace's most obedient humble servant,
WM. RAINY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, &c.

LIST REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING PETITION.

No. of cases in Calendar.	Name of Persons sentenced, as stated in Calendar.	Charge, as stated in Calendar.	Plea, as stated in Calendar.	Verdict, as stated in Calendar.	Sentence Passed, as stated in Calendar.	Punishment prescribed by Law for Offence of which Party was Convicted.
Cases in Calendar of the 17th Sittings held in November, &c., 1866.	Thomas Pratt.	Larceny.	Not guilty.	Guilty.	Penal servitude for the term of seven years.	Three years' penal servitude, by 24th and 25th Vict., c. 96, s. 4.
	Henry Thomas.	Breaking and entering shop and stealing therein, and receiving stolen goods knowingly.	Not guilty.	Guilty of stealing.	Penal servitude for the term of six years.	Ditto.
Cases in Calendar of the 1st Sittings held in January, &c., 1866.	Benjamin Johnson.	Obtaining money by false pretences.	Not guilty.	Guilty.	Penal servitude for the term of ten years.	Three years' penal servitude, by Sec. 88 of same Act.
	Armstrong.	Larceny and receiving stolen goods knowingly.	Not guilty.	Guilty under the 1st count, larceny.	Penal servitude for the term of six years.	Three years' penal servitude, by Sec. 4 of same Act.
Cases in Calendar of the 4th Sittings held in September, &c., 1866.	Charles Fyfe.	Larceny and receiving.	Not guilty.	Guilty of stealing.	Penal servitude for the term of four years.	Ditto.
	Robert Gooding.	Larceny and receiving.	Not guilty.	Guilty of stealing.	Penal servitude for the term of four years.	Ditto.
	Moses Jones.	Housebreaking with intent to steal.	Not guilty.	Guilty.	Four years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped.	Imprisonment not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, by Sec. 57 of same Act.
Cases in Calendar of the 8th Sittings held in January, &c., 1867.	Thomas Freeman.	Burglary and receiving.	Not guilty.	Guilty of burglary.	Four years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped.	No whipping.
	James Decker.	Burglary and receiving.	Not guilty.	Guilty of burglary.	Four years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped.	Imprisonment not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, by Sec. 52 of same Act.
	William Coker.	Larceny and receiving.	Not guilty.	Guilty of stealing.	Four years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped.	No whipping.
Cases in Calendar of the 15th Sittings held in March, &c., 1867.	Moses John.	Housebreaking, larceny, and receiving.	Guilty of receiving.	Guilty of stealing.	Eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped.	Imprisonment not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, and if a male under the age of sixteen, with or without whipping, by 24th and 25th Vict., c. 96, sec. 4. By Sec. 119 of the same Act the offender is to be once privately whipped, and the number of strokes and the instrument with which they shall be inflicted are to be specified by the Court in the sentence.
	Moses John.	Housebreaking, larceny, and receiving.	Guilty.	Guilty.	Two years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped.	Ditto.
						Two years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, by Sec. 56 of same Act. No whipping.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, July 8, 1867.

My Lord Duke,—I beg respectfully to call your Grace's earnest and most serious attention to a despatch of the Earl of Carnarvon to the Governor of Sierra Leone, bearing date 23rd of February last, which strongly condemns the unconstitutional manner in which the Sierra Leone Ordinance for abolishing trial by jury was passed by the Legislative Council of that colony, and to suggest, from a lengthened experience upon the Coast of Africa, the cause of a proceeding which has awoke the strongest censure from Lord Carnarvon.

The Ordinance to which I have alluded, and which deprived the native population of the benefit arising from the system of trial by jury, was read three times and passed in one hour by a Legislative Council sitting with closed doors in a private room at the Government House, entirely inaccessible to the healthful influence and presence of public opinion, and almost exclusively composed of salaried European officials, who, according to my experience, held no sympathy whatever with the native population.

With regard to the indecent and unconstitutional haste displayed by the Council in passing a law so largely affecting the interest of the public, it is impossible for me to express myself in stronger terms of condemnation than Lord Carnarvon has in the despatch to which I have already alluded. But it is to the position of the Council sitting with closed doors to which I would now respectfully call your Grace's attention, and which I unhesitatingly pronounce to be the cause, not merely of this evil which has received the censure of Lord Carnarvon, but of many other unconstitutional proceedings.

I will not encumber your Grace with the numerous cases of flagrant injustice arising from the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone sitting with closed doors, which my large professional experience could furnish, but I will adduce one which I think will as powerfully illustrate the viciousness of the system as the case which has awoke the constitutional animadversions of Lord Carnarvon.

In the case of Rolet against Mr. Shaw, the collector of customs at Sierra Leone, which was an appeal from the Vice-Admiralty Court of that colony to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and in which I was professionally retained; their Lordships were so struck with the impropriety and illegality of Mr. Shaw's proceedings, that they condemned him personally to pay damages for seizing the appellants' goods (which were restored to them), and the whole of the costs of the suit. The Legislative Council of Sierra Leone have since, under the direction of Governor Blackall, ordered these damages and costs, which exceed 1,000*l.*, to be defrayed out of the public treasury. I can hardly think that such an evasion of the order of the highest tribunal in this country would have taken place at Sierra Leone—a violation entailing still heavier burdens upon the taxpayers of the colony—if the Legislative Council in its sittings did not assume more the complexion of a Star Chamber than an open and faithful exposition of the public mind. I need not say that under such a narrow and self-humiliating system of law-making as that which now exists at Sierra Leone, the colonists will never be imbued with any of the virtues of administrative power.

This Council, too, until lately was the Court of Appeal in all actions tried before the Supreme Court; but this power has just been withdrawn by an order of Her Majesty in Council—a salutary change, for which I feel grateful, since I have had frequently to abandon the interests of my clients rather than appear before a legal tribunal sitting with closed doors, which stands without a precedent in the whole civilized world. If, in its judicial capacity, this Legislative Council sitting with closed doors hitherto formed a melancholy and degrading exception to all other tribunals, in its legislative capacity, at present, it presents a still more humiliating contrast. I know, my Lord Duke, of no other colony (and my experience extends to other dependencies of the British Crown besides Sierra Leone) where laws are passed and taxes levied by a body sitting with closed doors.

I have already detained your Grace upon this eminently important and constitutional question at greater length than I am justified. I feel assured that if your Grace, in accordance with the advanced liberal spirit of the age, opens the Legislative Council Chamber at Sierra Leone to the public, you will gain the gratitude of the native population of that country, and associate your name with their social advancement.—I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your Grace's most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM RAINY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, &c.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, July 9, 1867.

My Lord Duke,—In another communication which I had the honour to address to your Grace relative to the Legislative Council at Sierra Leone, and the evil effects arising from that

body sitting with closed doors, I neglected to bring under your Grace's notice a powerful illustration in support of my views afforded by the course pursued by that body upon the all-important question of education.

As an example of the evil effects of secret legislation, I cited to your Grace in my former communication an instance of the Legislative Council having taxed the native people in order to discharge the penalties incurred from the illegal acts of Mr. Collector Shaw; and in contrast to this prodigal and unjustifiable liberality upon the one side, I beg now to show a fatal parsimony and the narrowest views where the utmost spirit of liberality should exist.

This Legislative Council, sitting with closed doors, voted in 1863 the miserable pittance of 292*l.* per annum for the sacred purposes of education, whilst the sum voted in the same year for the maintenance of the police force and gaols amounted to upwards of 14,000*l.* It is impossible to exaggerate the deteriorating influences exercised upon any colony where such a glaring contrast exists as that exhibited by those two items of expenditure. It is the contrast between moral persuasion and physical force—between mental culture and rude control; and could hardly be sanctioned by any legislative assembly living under the observation of the public eye.

Your Grace can hardly anticipate any great advancement in the paths of civilization in a settlement which has cost this country such an expenditure in life and money as long as a secret Legislative Council estimate the education of the native people at such a low and miserable standard as I have quoted. In order still further to extend the contrast which exists between the expenditure for the maintenance of the police force and for the purposes of education, Governor Blackall has appointed his own son to a newly-constituted office in the police force, with a salary of about 500*l.* per annum, which that gentleman filled by deputy when I was at Sierra Leone, rarely visiting the colony. I venture to say that a colony possessing a Legislature subjected to public criticism would hardly in the present age sanction such an unblushing act of nepotism as this appointment exhibits.

I trust, my Lord Duke, that I have laid before your Grace sufficient reasons for at least leading to the conclusion that if no representatives of the native population have a voice in the Legislative Council in levying the taxes which they pay, or in the distribution of Government favours which seldom falls to them, that at least they may be permitted personally to attend the deliberations of the Legislative Council, and thus prepare themselves for a more auspicious future.—I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your Grace's most obedient humble servant,

W. RAINY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, &c.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, July 10, 1867.

My Lord Duke,—In still further bringing under your Grace's notice the mal-administration of the law as it exists in Sierra Leone, combined with the imperfect and evil constitution of the Legislative Council, from which some of these laws originate, I beg respectfully to call your Grace's attention to two remarkable cases in which I was professionally engaged in that colony, and, from the judgments delivered there being appealed against before the Privy Council here, my humble efforts were attended with success.

From my plain and well-sustained statement of facts, your Grace will learn how strangely constituted courts of law are frequently in Sierra Leone, and still further, how dangerous it is to invest the Governor (who is now Commissioner of Customs, and as such, has the power to order the prosecution at the public expense of vessels and goods seized for any alleged infraction of the laws) with any pecuniary interest in the decision of judges who sit beneath him, and who hold their commissions during the pleasure of the Crown.

One of the cases I allude to is that of Rolet and others against the Queen and Mr. Shaw, collector of customs.

In this case, Mr. Shaw, having seized the boats and goods of my clients, the Governor ordered the property to be proceeded against in the Vice-Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone (the Queen's Advocate, Mr. Huggins, being the counsel engaged for the prosecution). Pending the hearing of the suit, the permanent judge of the Court took his departure for Europe, and the same Mr. Huggins became acting Judge of the Court, who, thereupon, appointed the Governor's secretary (Mr. George William Nicol) deputy judge to try the case. As Mr. Nicol was no lawyer, and formerly held a clerkship in the Liberated African Department, and as his chief (the Governor) had a large pecuniary interest in the condemnation of the property seized, Mr. Nicol's appointment as deputy judge to try such an important case was, to say the least of it, improper, and gave rise to a great deal of public scandal in the colony.

As was anticipated from the constitution of the Court, judgment was given against my clients.

Acting under my advice, they appealed to the Privy Council here, who allowed the appeal, restored their property to my clients, and ordered the seisor to pay damages for the illegal seizure and the whole of the costs of the suit. All these expenses have since been defrayed, by order of Governor Blackall, out of the public chest.

In the course of a lengthened argument before the Privy Council, I made a point relative to the constitution of the Court at Sierra Leone, but was courteously told by Lord Justice Turner that that was a portion of the case their lordships could not entertain; thereby, I presume, implying it was a question for the Executive alone to deal with.

Acting upon that implied suggestion, I have now to ask your Grace to cause the necessary inquiry to be made into this matter, and if it should appear that my statements are correct, then that your Grace will be pleased to prevent the recurrence of such a scandal in the constitution of a public tribunal as that which has taken place in the case above alluded to; nor can your Grace, in my humble judgment, adopt a more powerful means for its prevention than by depriving the Governor of any pecuniary interest in the condemnation of property seized. For, independent of the public scandal which always exists where pecuniary interest lies at the bottom, it certainly appears hard that the taxpayers should be put to an enormous expense, as they have in this very case, in consequence of an over-zeal for prosecution upon the part of officials which a pecuniary interest is sure to create.

The other case in which I was professionally engaged, and which also clearly illustrates the evil effects of giving the Governor a pecuniary interest in seizures, is that of the Italian ship the *Ricarda Schmidt*. In this case the vessel was consigned to the Honourable Charles Heddl, a member of Council, and the leading merchant of the colony. By direction of Governor Blackall, the vessel was seized by Mr. Collector Shaw, without the courtesy of a single communication with the distinguished consignee. Mr. Shaw, from some reasons best known to himself, subsequently abandoned the seizure, but after the liberation of the vessel she was again seized by Lieutenant Dunlop, of the Royal Navy, who acted under the advice of Mr. Huggins, the then Queen's Advocate, and now acting Chief Justice of that colony, who was also Mr. Collector Shaw's legal adviser in his abortive seizure.

The Court at Sierra Leone, having refused to award damages and costs for the unlawful seizure, my clients (the owners of the vessel) appealed from this judgment by my advice. The Privy Council here reversed this judgment, and denounced this seizure as destructive to foreign commerce and the intercourse of nations. Fortunately for the taxpayers of Sierra Leone, the vessel having been proceeded against by an officer of the Royal Navy, which had been previously abandoned by the colonial authorities, all the expenses in this case, which amount to close upon 5,000*l.*, fall upon the British Exchequer, and not upon the colony. If the Governor did not possess a direct pecuniary interest in this seizure, in all probability more caution would have been observed in this case.

I think I have now sufficiently shown to your Grace the great evils which exist in giving the Governor a pecuniary interest in seizures—leading to precipitate action, bringing scandal upon the course of public justice, and either fixing the colony itself or the Government here at home with enormous and unnecessary expenses.—I have the honour to be, my Lord Duke, your Grace's most obedient humble servant,

W. RAINY.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, &c.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

It is stated that there are always thousands of slaves lying ready for shipment, waiting for Arab dhows, on the coasts of the Zanzibar territories; and it is but too well known that the cruelties and horrors of this Eastern Africa and Red Sea slave-trade, as conducted by the Arabs, far surpass any ever heard of on the West Coast. We cannot understand why the Sultan of Zanzibar, within reach, as he is, of British power should still be allowed to carry on, as he does, directly or indirectly, this murderous traffic, to the influence of which the lamented Dr. Livingstone has fallen a victim. Until the slave-trade be exterminated on all the African coasts, and that from Kano (in Central Africa) to Fezzan, as well as that in the Upper Nile countries be put an end to, there can be no successful efforts made to introduce civilizing agencies throughout the greater portion of the African continent. Mahometanism now stands forth almost alone as the patron and conductor of the foreign slave-trade. The trade is carried on by Mahometans to supply the Mahometan markets; and unless there be a stronger pressure by Great Britain on the Mahometan Powers relative to this traffic, we fear it will continue until the Mahometan Powers themselves disappear. Sometimes we are afraid there is no longer any earnestness in high quarters in England with regard to the final suppression of this prolonged curse and woe of Africa since the

death of Lord Palmerston. Certain it is, that we now hear more of its enormities in the parts we have alluded to, and less—much less, alas!—of any efforts by Great Britain against it. It will be a deep disgrace to this country should she become indifferent about the extinction of the African foreign slave-trade; and unless she continue to exert her influence for the oppressed, she may expect a decrease of that power which she declines any longer to use for the cause on earth of Him who has bestowed it.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.—It appears from a return lately issued that during the twelve months ending April 1, 1865, there were employed on the West Coast of Africa in suppressing the slave-trade 1,449 officers and men, exclusive of natives. The number of officers and men who died or were invalidated was 157; killed and wounded while on duty there, 13; prize money taken, 1,083*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*; slavers captured, 1; slaves released by the courts, *nil*.

WEST AFRICAN PROGRESS.—Fifty years ago nearly the whole of Western Africa, from the Gambia to the Equator, 1,500 miles, was given up to the slave-trade. Now this traffic has been banished from all this region, and in its place a lawful commerce springs up, employing 300 ships, including a profitable line of English steamers. But, better still, a cordon of settlements and trading ports has been created, introducing civilized government and a most favourable basis for evangelical efforts.

"AFRICA SHALL RISE."—The *Isis Trokin*, the valuable little missionary paper of Abeokuta, has the following among other most judicious observations on the above motto adopted by the "Egba Board of Management" at Abeokuta. We recommend these few words to all our African readers, who we suppose all desire to work for African advancement: "Let us then be thoroughly assured that if we would work for Africa to purpose we must begin rightly: and to begin rightly the work must begin in our own hearts—the power of evil must be broken in ourselves, light must take the place of darkness, and the light will be seen around us and felt; we shall be living examples read and known by those whom we seek to benefit; the light will thus shine upon the corrupt mass of evil and condemn it in a manner more forcible than any words of ours could do."

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17, COWPER STREET, CITY ROAD, LONDON.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA, MADEIRA, TENERIFFE.

—The African Steamship Company's fast and commodious STEAMERS 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 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 are open to call, by special arrangement, at any port on the West Coast of Africa, but as a rule they will only call at Madeira, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Accra, Lagos, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Cameroons. Teneriffe will be called at on the home route only.

The fast and powerful Steamship CALABAR, 1,208 tons and 250-horse power, A. HAMILTON, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, at noon.

Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the Prince's 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 and 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 Greenpatch, at consignee's risk and expense, but the Company will shortly provide a small sailing vessel to convey cargo between the steamers at Greenpatch and the anchorage at Cameroons, at shipper's risk.

NOTICE.—The *ATHENIAN* will be despatched on the 10th August for Madeira, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Accra, Lagos, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Cameroons.

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

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

ST. MARK'S HOSPITAL, CAPE PALMAS.

Subscriptions are solicited for the above hospital by any friends and wellwishers.

The above hospital is built for the accommodation of seamen of all nations.

All owners of vessels, captains, chief officers, pursers, sailors, &c., are respectfully solicited to subscribe for the support of the above-named hospital.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received in England by Gerald Ralston, Esq., Consul-General for Liberia, 27, Tokenhouse-yard, London; and on the Coast by the Hon. Joseph T. Gibson, Cape Palmas, Liberia.

JOHN BROWN, Junior,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
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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.



LAMPLOUGH'S

EFFERVESCENT

PYRETIC SALINE.



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

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

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

SEA VOYAGES.—It is a very valuable accompaniment, and should on no account be omitted; it instantly allays the sickness. For BILIOUS CONSTITUTIONS, giving rise to vitiated Secretions, Indigestion, and Eruptions on the Skin—a teaspoonful should be taken daily, with the dinner, in a tumbler of water, and the same quantity on going to bed.

In cases of DIARRHŒA, 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 Effervescing Pyretic Saline for several months in small repeated doses.

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

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

Dr. Sparks, Government Medical Inspector of Emigrants from the port of London, writes: "From my personal and professional use and knowledge of the value of Mr. LAMPLOUGH'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. LAMPLOUGH'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. LAMPLOUGH'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. LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE. I have used it extensively in the treatment of Diarrhœa 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.

H. LAMPLOUGH, 113, HOLBORN, E.C.

SPECIAL AGENTS FOR LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE:—

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

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