



The African Times.

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

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

Vol. VII., No. 77.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Subscription, 5s. per Ann.

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THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The steamer Lagos, with the regular monthly mail, sixteen passengers, and a full cargo, arrived at Liverpool on the 31st Oct. Her dates were Benin, October 3; Fernando Po and Cameroons, September 29; Old Calabar, 27th; Bonny, October 1; Lagos, 5th; Jellah Coffee, 6th; Accra, 7th; Cape Coast Castle, 8th; Cape Palmas, 10th; Monrovia, 12th; Sierra Leone, 15th; Bathurst, 18th; Teneriffe, 23rd; and Madeira, 25th. She brought about 4,000*l.* in gold dust and specie.

A war was going on between the native tribes at Old Calabar. Disturbances were feared between the Lagos Government and the Egbas.

Trade at the different ports had undergone but little change since last mail.

The steamer Macgregor Laird, Captain Sarton, arrived in the Mersey on the 16th inst., her dates being: Cameroons, Oct. 12; Fernando Po, 11; Benin, 18; Bonny, 17; Lagos, 22; Accra, 24; Cape Palmas, 27; Sierra Leone, 30; Teneriffe, Nov. 7; Madeira, 9.

Trade at all the ports was rather dull, but the public health good. At Benin a war was going on between the natives. At Abeokuta there was a disturbance among the natives.

The Athenian, J. W. Davis, Commander, left Liverpool on Sunday, November 10, at ten A.M., for Madeira, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Accra, Lagos, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Cameroons.

POOR KING AGGERY STARVING AT SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, September 7, 1867.

Sir,—May I beg of you to insert in your next number the following few lines for the Christian world.

The general idea cherished by the poor Africans is, that the English nation in particular is working for their civilization. A native of Cape Coast does not for a moment doubt the object to be any other, but he is puzzled with the indifference shown to the conduct of some of these agents out here towards the objects of their mercy; and the African or Cape Coast observer is led to question what could be the intention of England in sending out teachers, &c., to us. Much has been published in order that Christian England may see what is the conduct of the agents here, how they exhibit their hatred against Christian civilization; but no notice is taken. Now, O Christian England! our great benefactor, thou hast left us in doubt; we do not know what to do, whether to remain in this state of mind or yield to the King of Ashantee. The balance inclines to the latter the more because, in the prison of Ashantee, when the time has not arrived for the prisoner to be executed, he gets his allowance of food; but no, Christian England is preparing us for self-government, and part of the first lessons we are receiving is, that when we shall be able to govern ourselves we must be careful when we

have made a prisoner of a king to starve him. I wonder what the King of Dahomey would say to such instruction.

We are trying as much as we can to do away with all superstitious notions. We therefore thought it proper that John Aggery, being a prince of Cape Coast, and having a right in preference to any other, a Christian, and one of the first who preached the Gospel in our town before we ever had a Wesleyan missionary sent out to us, should be our king, and so we made him king over us. Now, because we are weak and helpless, we must be trodden down, and by England, our own protector and teacher too. This would cause even the hardened heart of Ashantee to shed tears; and we know that if the kind friends who are near our gracious Queen, and who have voice in her kingdom, were to read the *African Times* and see the suffering of their objects of mercy, things would be different, and King Aggery would be sent back to his own town, and not be kept at Sierra Leone to starve, and for nothing wrong done by him. Mr. Editor, thou art a man of God, and hast the desire to promote the glory of God. We pray you to let it be known that we are not ignorant of the power of the great Queen of England and the wealth of her kingdom, and we are confident that she does not wish to exercise power wrongfully over us, neither does she desire to increase the wealth of her kingdom by taking Cape Coast or the whole of Fantee, but the conduct of the agents out here puzzles us. Pray England to rectify what Colonel Conran has done against her instructions and our minds will be disburdened of their doubts. We pray Her Gracious Majesty to pity her servant, King Aggery, and send him back, so as to wipe away many tears from the faces of many poor old women and children.—My name is,

PUZLED AT MY BENEFACTOR'S SILENCE TO THE CONDUCT OF HIS AGENT TOWARDS ME.

THE ABOLITION OF TRIAL BY JURY ORDINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Liberia, October 12, 1867.

Sir,—I know I am a perfect stranger to you, and I have never before written to any newspaper. I am not fond of discussing Government measures, and lacking learning and ability, have concluded to be silent and neutral on all public matters; but having read the several communications recently glaring on the face of your valuable paper bearing specially on the question of abolishing trial by jury in civil cases in Sierra Leone, I feel disposed to pen these lines in support of truth and justice. As a native of Sierra Leone, I am personally interested in all that relates to that settlement. You will remember, Sir, that from her infant state the rights of trial by jury were among those that were granted to us by Mother England, and such rights we have been enjoying ever since until the passing of Ordinance No. 4, November, 1866. However forcibly I might write, I could not

express the grief which the passing of that Ordinance has entailed upon us. Governor Blackall, ex-Chief Justice Carr, and Mr. Huggins, could not have done more harm to Sierra Leone than by the passing of this Ordinance, which I apprehend was got up with the avowed purpose of making us slaves once more, under the sham name of British subjects; thereby rendering the pains that had been taken by the Duke of Sussex and Mr. Henry Thornton in framing petitions praying for the immediate and universal abolition of the slave-trade a failure. It is said of these philanthropists that "two petitions from Southwark and its vicinity were presented to Parliament in 1814; one to the House of Lords by the Duke of Sussex, the other to the House of Commons by Henry Thornton. Each petition weighed 35 pounds, contained 252 skins of parchment, measured 579 feet, and was signed by 35,127 persons. They were carried into the Houses by the lads training by the British and Foreign School Society as schoolmasters for Africa."

I believe, Mr. Editor, that the aim of those philanthropists was none other than to give us liberty and rights such as were enjoyed equally by men of high literary attainments and illiterate and common peasants in Great Britain and Ireland; in a word, to give us the privilege of sitting as jurors when high officials—such as the Hons. Robert Bradshaw, Colonial Surgeon, and member of the Legislative Council, Adolphus Pike, Acting Colonial Secretary and member of the Legislative Council, and Thomas Marston, Esq., Master of the Supreme Court and the personal friend of the Governor—may consider it a pleasure to kick, whip, and brutalise "black niggers," as we are generally called by these cruel officials and their coadjutors.

I hope, Sir, you and all other friends of Africa will ever continue your untiring efforts to show the authorities in Downing-street that these Governors and other officials on the West Coast of Africa are doing wrong with a high hand, and inflicting very heavy and unbearable blows upon us. Now it is clearly seen that ex-Chief Justice Carr concurs in the opinion of Governor Blackall to deprive us of our long-enjoyed right of trial by jury, for the express purpose of getting his recommendation for the retiring pension of 1,000*l.* per annum for life. As all the writing of the late Chief Justice went to help his success in being pensioned, I need not wonder at anything which he says; but he could not have been doing justice to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone for the last twenty-five years, when, as the Supreme Judge of the Court, he could have reported that "the ends of justice would never be attained," as "the number of qualified jurors is very limited, and most of them but very imperfectly understand the English language," &c. This alone goes to show what sort of a judge Mr. Carr was, and would be if he were still in office. Of such as him it is written, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots?" No; the laws of Providence are fixed. It is well said, and I regret to repeat it, "that a white man can make a black man* a stepping-ladder to get at another black man beyond his reach as easy as possible." This Governor Blackall has confirmed by his stratagem of "1,000*l.* *versus* Sierra Leone Petition, January 12, 1867."

I am here on a mercantile tour, and purpose soon, all being well, to return to Sierra Leone, when you will always hear from
RED WINES.

DEATH OF KING OF ASHANTEE—DREADFUL SLAUGHTER—THE NEW KING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, West Africa, October 4, 1867.

Sir,—Last week Prince Ansah returned from Kumasi, the capital of the Ashantee kingdom. The news he brings is truly distressing. Quacoe Duah, the aged King of that extraordinary country, is really dead. He died suddenly, and was found dead in his bed on the 27th April, 1867. No one knew of the king's death but the principal Ocran in the palace, and as the principal chiefs went to pay their accustomed respects to their sovereign they were all seized, the door locked, and every one was slaughtered there and then to accompany the king to the other world. Of course this was a grand signal for the commencement of the decapitation, and for weeks on an average there were forty human beings killed per day.

The Princes of Ashantee went about shooting, stabbing, and otherwise butchering any one they met in the streets or in houses. I am happy, however, to say that Prince Ansah assured me he did not imbrue his hands in human blood, although he could if he had liked, and in fact he was expected to do his share, but he wisely and creditably declined the honour, and in giving me a history of the fearful doings at Ashantee, he appeared to be as horrified as I was at the barbarities he was forced to

*Mr. Carr, late Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, is a person of colour.—Ed. A.T.

gaze on. Two instances of great devotion were displayed by two of the late king's wives; they followed the procession to the grave, and as their lord the king was placed in his sepulchre, they drank bowls of poison and threw themselves alongside of him. The rest of his wives were decapitated by force. The prince informs me that the stench in Kumasi was dreadful, and he was glad to get away from the horrors that surrounded him. The King Quacoe Duah had reigned thirty-seven years, the longest reign known in Ashantee. He is succeeded by his nephew, named Coffee Culcary, who has ascended the throne of his uncle, the late King, and is about thirty-five years old. He is very fond of Prince John Osso Ansah, and it is to be hoped the Government will see the desirability of encouraging the Prince in frequent visits to Kumasi, so that he may by his experience of European manners and customs induce his less fortunate relations in Kumasi to imitate and practise them. I will make some suggestions on this subject in another letter.—Yours truly,

JAMAICA.

PETITION OF W. C. FINLASON TO GOVERNOR BLACKALL,

For a Revision of Judge Parker's Judgment against him, in the Suit *Good v. Finlason*.

To his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Possessions in West Africa.

The Petition of William Charles Finlason, now a prisoner in the Civil Prison of Cape Coast, humbly sheweth,

That in the month of August, 1866, an action was brought against your petitioner in the then Supreme Court of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, by one John Waller Good, the cause of action and the remedy being as per enclosed copy of the summons marked A.

That on the 15th day of August, 1866, this cause came on for hearing before his Honour Chief Justice Hackett, and after hearing evidence on both sides, it was adjourned for two months to give time to procure further evidence; but that since that period no motion has ever been made in court, and no proceedings of any description have been taken in this cause.

That by a tacit understanding, both parties considered this suit as at an end; that plaintiff and petitioner had spoken together more than once, and that after many months had elapsed the affair seemed to have been forgotten and laid aside.

That in the month of December the Honourable William Alexander Parker arrived at Cape Coast in the capacity of Chief Magistrate of the Civil and Criminal Court of these settlements, the Supreme Court having in the interim been abolished.

That since his Honour's arrival no motion has been made by the plaintiff in this cause, although your petitioner has met plaintiff almost every time that the court has sat.

That on the first day of August of this present year it was publicly announced that his Honour the Chief Magistrate would on the said first day of August sit for the last time in the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice to give judgment in some cases.

That the names of certain suitors were mentioned, who had causes in court awaiting judgment, and who were directed to attend; and that amongst this list of names was that of your petitioner, who had some other causes pending.

That on the said first day of August accordingly, his Honour the Chief Magistrate sat, and to your petitioner's utter dismay and amazement, his Honour gave judgment in the cause "*Good v. Finlason*," which had been originally called on and partly heard in August, 1866, and which had been adjourned for two months, to give time to procure evidence, and concerning which nothing more had been done, and of which nothing more had been heard, since that date—that is to say, for the space of nearly twelve calendar months.

That no notice whatever had been given to petitioner, either by the plaintiff or by the court, that this cause was to be among those on which judgment would be given on the first of August.

That judgment had not been prayed in the cause, no motion of any kind made, no intimation given, no chance afforded, by which petitioner could have gone into court previous to the first day of August to sum up on the evidence and argue as usual, before plaintiff should reply and judgment be given.

That the universal practice in our Gold Coast courts is, that when a case has been adjourned, notice must be given to parties when it is intended to resume hearing, in order that opportunity may be afforded of attack or defence.

That in no case has it happened (nor would it be lawful, as your petitioner humbly represents) that in any case a judgment should be given before a cause is fully heard, and that in this case, as your petitioner most humbly, most respectfully, but most earnestly submits, a very severe and altogether unprecedented hardship was inflicted on your petitioner, because so great a length of time had elapsed between the first hearing of

this case and the sudden and unexpected delivering of judgment, without any steps being taken, that your petitioner is able most solemnly to declare that he thought the matter was at an end, because, the cause being yet incomplete, it was impossible in the absence of any notice, intimation, or motion, to have even supposed it possible that Her Majesty's Court of Civil and Criminal Justice would, under such circumstances, pronounce judgment in a partly heard cause, and because the very fullest damages were, in spite of these conditions of the case, awarded, notwithstanding that the Chief Magistrate had himself only a few weeks before granted the petitioner his discharge as an insolvent.

That a sense of respect for the dignity and authority of the Queen's Courts deters the petitioner from expressing any opinion whatever as to the possible causes of this most severe proceeding, but that nevertheless a regard for the truth, and a sense of what is due to himself, render it necessary that your petitioner should now record his most sincere regret that shortly before the pronouncing of this judgment your petitioner had had the irreparable misfortune to fall under the severe personal displeasure of his Honour the Chief Magistrate; and that on the 1st of August, while pronouncing his judgment in this cause, his Honour was himself pleased to testify to this, by the language he used to petitioner, the exceedingly strong terms he addressed him in, and the manner in which he alluded to petitioner, his unfortunate position, and his affairs generally.

That by the Queen's Order in Council of February, 1867, an appeal is permitted from the Civil and Criminal Courts to the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone, but that the conditions of this appeal are so regulated that in such a case as the petitioner's an appeal is practically impossible.

That it was notorious that the petitioner was in unfortunate circumstances, and that the Chief Magistrate not only knew this, but taunted the petitioner with the fact when his Honour delivered judgment in this cause, decreeing petitioner to pay to plaintiff the full damages of two hundred pounds.

That it is certain that at the time his Honour the Chief Magistrate delivered judgment in the cause *Good v. Finlason*, his Honour was visibly very weak and ill, and still suffering much from the effects of recent illness of a very severe nature, which, without doubt, caused him considerable disturbance of mind.

That your petitioner, having no means of lodging security for the expenses of an appeal, prayed to be allowed to appeal to the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone *in forma pauperis*, but was not permitted so to do, security to the amount of one hundred pounds being first required to cover probable expenses, which security your petitioner could not possibly obtain in any shape, though, conscious of the strength of his own cause, and confident of obtaining justice from the Court of Appeal, your petitioner made the most strenuous efforts to procure it.

That your petitioner deems it right most respectfully to point out that his Honour the Chief Magistrate seems to have taken no notice of the observations made by Judge Hackett when hearing the case, to the effect that his Honour "put no faith in Caroline Morris's letter," which letter was produced by plaintiff to prove the death of his first wife, and which letter was ordered to be lodged in court, but has never been so lodged.

That considering all the circumstances of this matter, considering that the plaintiff never proved to the satisfaction of the court which heard the cause that his first wife was dead; that the letter from America, bearing only the Sierra Leone post-mark, signed "Caroline Morris," far from affording any such proof, does, on the contrary, raise a strong suspicion concerning its own genuineness; considering the length of time that had elapsed between the adjourning of this cause in August, 1866, and the sudden judgment in August, 1867, during which interval no proceeding of any kind had been taken in respect of the cause; considering the extraordinary suddenness of the judgment, the personal feeling towards petitioner evinced on the occasion by his Honour, the excessive damages decreed, the want of proof on plaintiff's part of any loss of any kind sustained, the want of means of plaintiff either to pay or to appeal, your petitioner humbly submits that this is a fit and proper occasion to pray that your Excellency may be graciously pleased to use your authority on behalf of the petitioner, and permit the proceedings in this cause to be produced before the Supreme Court, that the justice and legality thereof may be inquired into, and that such relief may be afforded to your petitioner as the circumstances of his case may seem to justify.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.
Cape Coast, Oct. 4, 1867. WM. CHARLES FINLASON.

(A)—No. 11, 1866.

Summons to a Defendant.

Supreme Court at Cape Coast, Gold Coast.

To William Charles Finlason, of Cape Coast.

You are hereby summoned at the suit of John Waller Good,

of Cape Coast, for having falsely, wilfully, and maliciously uttered these words in public of and concerning plaintiff—viz., "That plaintiff has committed bigamy, and that you are going to prosecute and put him in the chain-gang for bigamy," whereby plaintiff's reputation and character have been grievously defamed. Damages, 200*l.* sterling.

This case will be heard in the above court, on Tuesday, the fourteenth day of August, 1866, at ten o'clock, or at a day or hour afterwards in the order of business.

Given under my hand, this 11th day of August, 1866.

(Signed) WILLIAM HACKETT, Chief Justice.
Costs, 4*l.* 7*s.*; fee, 1*s.*—4*l.* 8*s.*

ACT OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD ASHANTEE.

WHETHER as regards the prosperity of trade at Cape Coast or the spread of Christian civilization in the Protected Territories of the Gold Coast, a good understanding with Ashantee is all-important. We are, therefore, very glad indeed to hear of a wise and praiseworthy step taken by Mr. Usher, the present Administrator. He has dispatched Mr. Thomas Hughes, an educated African of Cape Coast, to the Assin country (also in the protectorate) to demand four Ashantees who are detained there as prisoners or captives. Prince Osso Ansah, of the royal family of Ashantee, who lately returned from the capital, Kumasi, with authentic intelligence of the death of King Quaco Duah, and the succession of Coffee Culcary to the throne, is about to make another visit to the new King (who is about thirty-five years of age) and his other relatives at Kumasi, and it is intended that these released captives shall be sent back to Ashantee with him. Mr. Usher will perform an important service if his measures lead to the re-establishment of friendly intercourse between the two countries; but we fear that it would not endure unless the British authorities put an end to the Awoonlah war troubles, because there is always a powerful war party in Ashantee which would be constantly looking with impatience toward those troubled Eastern Districts, and desire to fish in those perturbed waters.

STATE OF THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 7, 1867.

Sir,—I regret that I cannot report any improvement in the state of the country. The Administrator has been here again recently, and also visited Jellée Coffee and Addah. However desirous he may be of restoring order and bringing about a healthy state of things again, it ought now to be patent to him that Governor Blackall's "peace-at-any-price" policy will not do. If it is true that he is bound to follow a course laid down for him by others, it is hoped that he will make such a correct representation of the state of affairs as will induce those superiors either to sanction the adoption of a different course or to leave the management of the affairs of the Gold Coast entirely in his own hands. All parties here are so thoroughly tired of the present state of confusion which is gradually eating us up, that they would give the most earnest and hearty support to any scheme which the authorities might devise for the real settlement of existing difficulties, other than that of making sham treaties with savage tribes who have no idea of such obligations. You will, ere this, have heard of the "treaty of peace and amity" which has been concluded between the King and chiefs of Aquamboe and our Government. Those parties whose names are attached to it, who understood what they were about, find it difficult to explain their reasons for lending the weight of their names and of their profession to a treaty which we have their own authority for saying is not worth anything. The treatment to which these gentlemen were subjected by the King of Aquamboe and his captains after the signature of the so-called treaty was a very appropriate rebuke to them.

I still maintain the opinion that the only way to get a lasting peace is by putting down the Aquamboes and Awoonlahs with a strong hand; and the day will come, perhaps, after we are all ruined, when the Government will be forced to admit the same. I hardly know a single individual who believes otherwise. A few express themselves to the contrary, and maintain that peace can be brought about by begging the enemy and bribing him with presents, at the expense of others who are already more than half ruined, to sign papers the purport of which he is ignorant of and which if he did understand he would not care a fig for.

Time will yet show who those are that have the interests of the country really at heart, and who are the sincerest and most disinterested supporters of the Government.—Yours truly,

ONE OF THE WAR PARTY.

Christiansborg, October 7, 1867.

Sir,—One of your correspondents wrote on the 6th June last,

"Not for a very long time has there been such a lowering aspect on the political horizon as at present; the tornado seems ready to burst over us; and should it do so, none can foretell the havoc it may make." The tornado has partially burst, and a very great havoc it has made. Governor Blackall's wretched policy is consigning us all to ruin. His peace proclamation deserves the name of a murderous one, for it has been the unhappy incentive to the loss of a great many lives. It was issued in April last, when he wanted to go to England covered with false laurels, as a great peacemaker, and since then it has cost above 130 lives, not to speak of the property destroyed, and the other disastrous effects. Only last week we lost thirty Akim men out of fifty who were coming down here with produce. Mr. Freeman has been at Aquapim, and drawn up a treaty, which has been reciprocally signed there. But I do not believe there is any chance of its stipulations being in the least observed; the refusal to allow Mr. Freeman to go up to Krepee after the treaty was signed shows very clearly how little good it was likely to effect; and now the friends of those who have been since killed are crying shame against the Government and everybody concerned for laying this trap after trap for innocent people to fall into. We are all looking to you to expose these things and set them out in their proper light, that the Government at home may see how things are really going on, and not be deluded by false reports of peace and security having been restored by Major Blackall or any other official pretender to success.—Yours, B.

THE AWOONLAH WAR.

(Per Bi-monthly Mail.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, October 21.

Sir,—In continuance of the efforts which have been lately making by the Administrator, Mr. Ussher, it is expected that Mr. T. B. Freeman will leave here again to-morrow for the River Volta and Awoonlah, to try and effect treaties of amity and commerce between the contending tribes.

HUMAN SACRIFICE PREVENTED AT NINGO.

(Per Bi-monthly Mail.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 25, 1867.

Sir,—At the latter end of last month a warrant was sent by the Civil Commandant of this place for the arrest of some dozen canoe men at Pram Pram on a charge of robbery. The headmen of Pram Pram would not allow the constables to serve the warrant, and drove them out of the town. Pram Pram is a small town, about thirty miles from Accra, and although the British possess a fort there, the inhabitants have been permitted to do as they pleased for the last sixteen years.

This recent outrage was duly reported to the Administrator, and on the 17th inst. his Excellency came here by the mail-steamer. At two a.m. on the 18th the Civil Commandant, Lieut. Bolton, of the 1st West India Regiment, was despatched with half-a-dozen policemen to Pram Pram, to arrest the parties charged with robbery and the chiefs who had set the authority of the Government at defiance. The civil power was supported by a detachment of fifty men of the 2nd West India Regiment, under Captain Ness; there were also attached to this force Mr. Elliott, of the Military Store Department, and Dr. Eaton, of the Medical Staff, the former having charge of the commissariat and military stores. Lieut. Bolton was also commissioned to assist the Civil Commandant in his magisterial capacity; and Mr. Robert Bannerman, a native gentleman of great experience in this place, went as Government interpreter and to assist the officers generally.

This force reached Pram Pram the same evening, and on the morning of the 19th, just as the orders of the Administrator were about to be put into execution, a report was brought to the Civil Commandant that the people of Ningo (a town six miles eastward of Pram Pram) were about to sacrifice a man by roasting him alive. This officer immediately despatched two of his constables to the chiefs of Ningo, demanding the delivery of the intended victim and of those parties at whose instigation he was about to be sacrificed. The King of the place was the only individual who was at all disposed to be reasonable; the other chiefs not only declined to deliver the parties up, but sent a message to the effect that if the Commandant wanted them he had better come down himself and fetch them, but if he came at all, to come well prepared.

It having been ascertained that the victim was to be put to death the next day, Sunday, the Pram Pram palaver was put off, and it was decided that the urgency of the case justified a departure from the original programme, and an immediate visit to Ningo was determined upon. Accordingly, at six a.m. on Sunday, the 20th, the expedition left Pram Pram and reached

Ningo at eight. Proceeding direct to the town, the civil authorities went to the King's house, the military taking possession of the market-place. The Commandant having acquainted the chiefs with the cause of his visit, gave them half an hour to deliver up the man they had in confinement, and all those persons who had any hand in the matter. Perceiving that the people were only taking advantage of the time given them to muster what they call the "companies," with a view of intimidating him, the Civil Commandant, at the expiration of the half-hour, resigned his authority into the hands of Captain Ness, a thorough man of business in his own line. In five minutes this officer had succeeded in arresting the principal chiefs and captains of the companies, but the intended victim and the chief culprit were not then forthcoming, and so perfect were his arrangements, that this was done without the least trouble, and with no resistance whatever.

The prisoners were at once marched out of the town in charge of the military; but no sooner were the people aware of this than they beat to arms, and in less than ten minutes some 400 men turned out with arms, and were rushing to the sea-beach to cut off the party. Captain Ness, perceiving this, immediately halted his men, and directing the constables to take charge of the prisoners and proceed with them and the numerous ham-mockmen and carriers to a certain spot, faced the advancing force of Ningos. No sooner did they see this movement on the part of the troops, than they retired hastily into their town. Captain Ness and his party remained on the same spot under shelter of some coconut trees for two hours, where they took their breakfast. The natives were utterly astounded at the cool indifference with which this officer seemed to look upon their warlike demonstrations. After half-an-hour they returned without their arms to the place where the officers were at breakfast, begged pardon for their conduct, and promised, if the Commandant would only wait two hours, they would bring of their own accord the two other persons that were still required. At two p.m. the expedition returned safely to Pram Pram with the prisoners.

The effect of this prompt vindication of the authority of the Government was so great upon the minds of the people of the latter place, that the next morning they surrendered all the culprits required of them before the Civil Commandant had time to demand them, the Ningos at the same time delivering up the intended victim and his accuser.

The whole of these persons were conducted the following day in safety to James Fort, Accra. The chiefs of every town from Pram Pram to Accra, as the troops passed through, came voluntarily and offered submission to the Government, so salutary was the effect of the Ningo affair on their minds.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the good that this business will bring about, and, indeed, has already brought about, in all the Coast towns from Accra to Adah. Nothing has been done like this since Sir William Winniett sacrificed his life in October, 1850, in his expedition to Adah.

Great credit is due to all concerned in this affair. Immense good has been effected by a judicious display of physical force without the shedding of a drop of blood. Credit is due to the Civil Commandant and Captain Ness for not hesitating to take the responsibility of dealing promptly with the Ningos without waiting for orders from Accra, as well as for the manner in which they dealt with the matter at Ningo; the firmness of Captain Ness at a critical moment prevented the shedding of blood, and at the same time conducted to the success of the expedition. An officer who at a similar crisis actually fled—I say fled, and mean to use the word as it is understood in England—from his post, obtained his promotion for his flight. This was not very long ago. Captain Ness may possibly be overlooked, as there was no blood shed and no running away; but his services on this occasion ought never to be forgotten by this Government.

Mr. Elliott's arrangements for the comfort of the troops were excellent. The men lived better than if they had been in barracks. Luxuries were provided for them at every place they came to. There was no confusion, no mixing ammunition with provisions; everything was in its place. The medical department was equally well cared for by Dr. Eaton. In fact, under a man like Ness things could not have gone wrong. The management of details not immediately connected with the military was ably conducted by Mr. Bolton, who was assisted by Mr. R. Bannerman. The Administrator has been lucky in having such men to carry out his orders. On the other hand, it must be admitted that unless they had been sure of his support they would not have acted as they did. Colonel Conran and Mr. Pine would have got no one to move a peg for them in this way. I think now that it will not be long before Mr. Ussher becomes as convinced as I have always been that peace, in this part of the world at least, is easier brought about by a judicious use of armaments than by arguments. I do not wish to indulge in invidious observations, but I am of opinion

that had Captain Ness and his fifty men been sent to Aquamboe six months ago he would have effected a treaty very different from the Blackall peace, the good results of which would have been felt immediately, and have been lasting.—Yours truly,
AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.

P.S.—I have omitted to observe that on arriving at Ningo, there was seen in the market-place a pile of firewood with which the victim was to have been burnt, but for the timely interference of the Government.

RIVER VOLTA.

(Extract of Letter.)

God grant that the British Government may do their duty now, or else we may see dreadful things in these Eastern Districts of the Gold Coast. I am sure what is necessary could be accomplished without war, simply by opening the River Volta from Adda to the Ashantee frontier. The Government could do this at very little cost now that the river is at its highest. The large trade that would be done under the new scale of duties would soon cover the expenses; it would be a great boon for everybody, would stimulate production and civilization in these rich countries, and make the renewal of hostilities among the tribes nearly impossible. We have not heard here yet how the Administrator has succeeded at Adda and Jellee Coffee, but are most anxious to hear of Mr. Ussher's success, because the continuance of the present state of things would not only lead to renewed war with the hostile tribes beyond the protectorate, but to a wide-spread civil war, rebellion, and dissolution among the tribes of the protectorate itself. I think Mr. Ussher deserves more confidence from all parties than he has hitherto enjoyed. His measures have been in general good, and calculated for the peace and prosperity of the country, so far as his very limited power and means would allow. One disadvantage under which he labours is the lost confidence of the natives and their chiefs in the Government, which is to be excused on their part, after so many mistakes, waverings, changes, and disappointments. I hope the Government will get this confidence of the better part again, and labour together with them for good. Nothing would effect this and restore the lost prestige throughout the protectorate so much as securing the navigation of the Volta to peaceful trade as before mentioned, and visiting them, and seeing and settling matters on the spot, as Mr. Freeman once did, or still better, perhaps, by a permanent Government resident on the Volta, say at Kporing first, and later at other places. We trust much to your efforts for the good of Africa, and hope you will continue them, and that they will be crowned with success.—Yours sincerely,
Z.

RETURNING VIGOUR IN THE CAPE COAST GOVERNMENT.

(Per Bi-monthly Mail.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 25, 1867.

Sir,—I am sorry to say that peace does not yet reign throughout our district. Trade is still entirely at an end, in consequence of the state of affairs on the Volta, and it is impossible to form any idea when order will again be restored in those regions, but I think there is hope that all is not yet quite lost.

The Administrator, though still adhering to his "peace at any price" policy in regard to the Awoonlah and Aquamboe question, has recently taken a step which inclines one to believe that if his hands were not tied he would have acted differently in regard to that question, as he seems to be convinced that the Government of the country cannot be carried on and the turbulent natives kept in order by threats on paper. He has within the last two months sent a force from this station to Mumford, a place fifty miles up the Coast, near Winnebah, to arrest the chiefs and captains of that place, who had turned out their people and fought together, killing some forty or fifty persons. This matter was accomplished without trouble by the Civil Commandant of Accra, Mr. Bolton, assisted by a military force under Captain Ness, of the 2nd West India Regiment. The Mumford chiefs are still in prison awaiting trial. More recently the Administrator sent these two officers to Pram Pram and Ningo, the two most unruly towns on the Coast, and they succeeded in bringing up the chiefs, and some other persons, from those places as prisoners to Accra. The Ningos have for the last sixteen years openly committed human sacrifices, and defied every Governor in succession. In 1855, an expedition was got up with the view of bringing them to their senses for roasting three men alive on no charge at all; but the expedition never started. Since that time two dozen such murders have taken place, but the Government contented itself with writing a letter to the chiefs not to kill any one else! Even last year a case occurred. These people have now been brought to reason by a small force of fifty men under Captain Ness.

It is really gratifying to be able to speak honestly in language otherwise than that of censure of the acts of the Government here. I don't suppose that they care much whether they are praised or censured in your paper, which so many affect to despise; but when the truth is told it must in the end lead to some good, and that good will be brought about by a free ventilation of facts in the *African Times*.

I still adhere to what I have before asserted, that the present Administrator was in May last led astray and deceived by evil-disposed persons to pursue a policy which was not judicious. He was placed, I must confess, in a difficult position. When he assumed office he found persons in the place holding positions entitling them to have his ear. It was not his fault that they were there; he found them there; they gave him their opinion on men and things; it is true they had not been long in the country, but they had been raised by his predecessor into a position of some importance, and he could not ignore their opinion entirely. But he is now able to form his own judgment on most matters, and it must be the sincere hope of all who wish well to the country that he will not in future allow himself to be biased by designing men of straw. The energetic manner in which he has acted in the Pram Pram and other affairs, and his evident desire to bring other portions of the district to the same state of order, have gained over to him many opposed to his past general policy.

It may with truth be said that he has completely re-established the authority of the British, for sixteen years lost, from James Town to Ningo, if not further; there now remain only the interior and Awoonlah. And it is no use mincing matters; he will never succeed in restoring order in those places by sending ambassadors armed with foolscap, pens, &c. He will find that this mode of bringing about peace and quietness will in the end cost the Government more than the "Ness" mode of proceeding would cost. Knowing now, as he must, that when the time of action comes he will receive the sincere and disinterested support of all who have any stake in the country, what is there that deters him from dealing with the Volta district in the same prompt manner as he has done at Ningo? Aquapim, Kroboe, Aquamboe, Krepee, and Awoonlah all still defy the Government to a certain extent, and will do so until Mr. Ussher shows them that he can bite as well as bark.

It has been now satisfactorily proved that the troops can be moved about anywhere, in the Eastern Districts at least, without danger, provided proper arrangements are made for their food and water, &c. What then is there to fear? However, a beginning has been made. Let us wait and see.—Yours,
ACRA.

LAGOS.

It is feared there will be some new difficulties between Lagos and Abeokuta. The Egbas have demanded that the Lagos constabulary should be withdrawn from Ebutamata; instead of which Administrator Glover has sent a few of the 2nd West India Regiment to occupy that place. It is stated that some messengers from Massaleh, King of Nupe (chief town, Egga, on the Niger), who were coming down to Lagos with an escort, had been seized by some of the Egba people, and barbarously murdered. Coso, a British subject of Accra (Gold Coast), who was for some years with the late Dr. Baillie, and much esteemed by him, being one of them.

RIVER NIGER.

When H.M.S.S. Investigator was on shore in the Niger, as stated in our last month's number, the fire kept up against her by the natives appears to have been a very galling one, as they possessed several guns. The Investigator was eleven days before she got away. She has a great many shot-holes in her hull. One European and one native sailor were killed. Several men were wounded.

The West African Company's trading steamer the Thomas Bazley was fourteen days aground, but fortunately it was near Lukoya, one of the trading stations (the confluence of the Niger and Chad), and the natives being friends, rendered all possible assistance in getting the vessel afloat again, and we are happy to say that neither vessel nor cargo sustained any damage.

The screw gun-vessel Myrmidon, 4, 200 horse-power, commander Johnson, took in powder, shell, and ammunition at Upnor Castle on the 10th inst., and left for the West Coast.

FOREIGN-OFFICE.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Charles Livingstone, Esq., now H.M. Consul in the Island of Fernando Po, to be H.M. Consul for the territories on the Western Coast of Africa comprised within the Bights of Benin and Biafra, and lying between Cape St. Paul to the west and Cape St. John to the east, including the mouths of the Niger River and the water communications between that river and the adjoining Banto or Brass River.

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

Mrs. Joseph Moseley gratefully acknowledges the following:—
 Amount already published . . . £467 14 3
 His Excellency the Administrator of the Gold Coast . . . 4 4 0
 Lord Alfred S. Churchill (second donation) . . . 1 1 0
 A Friend, by Mrs. Fitzgerald . . . 0 5 0
 Contributions are earnestly requested to enable Mrs. Moseley to leave for Cape Coast in January next, if possible.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Unavoidably deferred till next Month.

Odonko Azu, a Gold Coast Chief.
 Governor Blackall's (worthy) Substitute for King Aggery.
 Suggestions for keeping good relations with Ashantee.
 Riots in Abeokuta. (Lagos.)
 The Charge of Murder against Colonel Conran.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., 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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1867.

EUROPEAN POLITICS.

SCARCELY had our last month's paper been dispatched, when news arrived of the escape of Garibaldi from Caprera, where he was supposed to be safely guarded by Italian ships and troops. After some uncertainty, the 26th October brought us news that he had entered Roman territory, and taken the command of the scattered invaders. On the 28th it was known that, after new orders and counter-orders, the French troops were on their way by ship to Civita Vecchia. A proclamation of the King of Italy deprecated any hostility to the French. On the 29th it was announced that Garibaldi was before Rome, but that the French were also at Civita Vecchia, ready for any emergency. The Italian troops also crossed the frontier. On the 10th November, Garibaldi, having drawn together all his men, about 5,000, and being at Mentana, near the Italian frontier, was attacked by a larger force of French and Papal troops, which led to the remains of his army evacuating the Papal territory. They were disarmed by the Italian troops; and Garibaldi was sent prisoner to the fortress of Varignano (Spezia), where he still remains. The French Government disapproved of the Italian troops having entered the Roman States, and they finally withdrew, the French intervention alone continuing.

Apprehensions of war between France and Prussia are still felt. The conversion of the old pattern rifles into breech-loaders is actively going on throughout Europe.

The Emperor of the French opened the Legislative Session in person on the 18th inst. His speech is considered pacific. There is to be no war unless the interest or dignity of France requires it.

MISCELLANEA.

YELLOW FEVER.—The West India mail steamer, which arrived at Southampton on the 28th October, was put in quarantine. She had then on board eight cases of yellow fever (attacked between the 22nd and 27th), and forty yellow fever convalescents. There had been six deaths, four of them by yellow fever.

The Bosphorus, with stores for the Abyssinian expedition, has foundered in Algoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope. She was 1,999 tons burthen.

A telegram from New York states that the Island of Tortola, Gulf of Mexico, has been submerged; 10,000 lives were lost. But subsequent telegrams induce the hope that there has been some exaggeration in the first report.

PERUVIAN SILK PLANT.—This plant, which we mentioned some time since, is said to be also a native of the Eastern provinces of the Cape of Good Hope, and to be there called the *Milkbooth*. It is reported to grow in great abundance near the Orange River.

FIELD SPORTS.—It is stated from Natal that Colonel Towers and Captain Chaplain, of the Coldstream Guards, have returned from a hunting tour in the Zulu country, where they bagged 120 hippopotami, 23 rhinoceroses, 5 lions, 12 buffaloes, besides a great many antelopes and other small deer.

DESTRUCTIVE NEW WEAPON.—The American revolver cannon which has been constructed at Liege was tried two days back at the proof-ground. It has eight chambers, placed like those of a

revolver. Two are discharged at each stoppage in the rotation, and it throws explosive projectiles a distance of 2,500 metres. This weapon can fire 100 shots a minute, and, with its carriage and ammunition, it weighs about 600lb.

EAST AFRICAN PRODUCTS.—Among the specimens of produce brought lately from Inhambane to Natal were *Coffea*, a remarkably small berry, with aromatic flavour and perfume; and *India-rubber*, run from the tree in blocks, and also wound like bobbins.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE Session was opened by Commission, in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, on the 19th inst.

The Queen's speech does not contain anything calling for remark from us.

The debate in both Houses on the night of the 19th was confined to the discussion of addresses in reply to the Speech from the Throne, which were both adopted.

GOVERNOR BLACKALL REMOVED FROM SIERRA LEONE.

GOVERNOR BLACKALL has been appointed to be Governor of Her Majesty's Colony of Queensland, North Australia. We offer our hearty congratulations to the people of the West Coast of Africa at this removal from among them of a man who cannot be regarded in any other light than as their inveterate enemy. After robbing them of trial by jury, and officially conniving at that French occupation of the Mellicourie River, &c., which, if accomplished, would have been so fatal to Sierra Leone as a British colony, and a possibly future independent State, his continuance in office as Governor-General was certainly inadmissible, and we thank the Secretary of State for the Colonies for having found a new employment for Major Blackall. Of course the question now uppermost in our mind is, who is now to be made Governor-General? There is only one man that we know of pointed out by past good services and good feeling towards the people on the Coast as eligible, and that is Sir Benjamin Pine. We regret that time and space only allow of these brief observations this month, but we purpose returning to the subject in our next.

HIGH OFFICIALS IN WEST AFRICA.

We are all familiar with the adage that "Example is better than precept," which is only a brief and imperfect mode of saying that precept comes more forcibly home to the hearer when it is illustrated and enforced by the conduct of the teacher; and that precept cannot be expected to have much weight and influence when what it enjoins is in direct opposition to the acts and conduct of the utterer. The evil practices of the mere verbal moralist do not annul the holy precepts that may fall from his lips; but they do impair, if not destroy, their efficacy even among those who may have had the inestimable advantages of religious and moral training. And if this be the case where there ought to be sufficient mental enlightenment to enable the hearer and beholder to separate between the precept and the man whose office or position makes it a part of his duty to promulgate it, even when daily transgressing its commands, how much more injuriously must it obtain among the poor ignorant, uneducated, and unenlightened people of Africa, who, if they reason at all, can only reason from the facts that are brought under their notice. One of the first things that forced itself upon us when we commenced our public labours for Africa, was the mightily pernicious influence on the African mind and conduct of the evil examples set by Europeans exercising authority on the West Coast. We shall not recapitulate charges which from time to time it has been our painful duty to make against officials, and which have been always most reluctantly made by us. Thank God there has been a gradual improvement in these matters; but there is yet much to condemn. Our officials do not yet seem to have quite got rid of the old feeling among their class, that in taking service in Africa they were freed at once from all those religious and moral restraints to which they were more or less subject in Great Britain and Ireland; and that they may do with impunity all such things as may be done by irresponsible traders frequenting the Coast in the legitimate search for gain, and who are only answerable to their own consciences as before God. British officials represent the British nation and its Sovereign, and ought to represent also the precepts of the Christian religion which these profess. The declared policy which they have to carry out or help to forward, is one of the Christian enlightenment of the natives, and their preparation for the responsible duties of self-government as members of dependent or independent African communities; and whatever may have been previously the case, they are now amenable to public opinion in England and Africa as represented by the *African Times*. We have for some time past, influenced by very weighty considerations and by those

feelings which ever actuate us, endeavoured to avoid the task now before us; but additional evidence of the necessity for performing it makes it impossible for us longer to delay. As we have lately, acting under a painful sense of duty, protested against the appointment of certain persons to be judges of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, equal justice, as well as the best interests of Africa, demand that we should warn those exercising magisterial, judicial, and other high functions in other settlements on the Coast as well as Sierra Leone, of the impossibility of their retaining that respect which is due to them in their several positions from the natives and others, and which is indispensable to their usefulness, if they allow themselves those freedoms from moral restraints which they are forced in the discharge of their official duties to condemn and punish in others. They are surrounded by sharp and keen observers, who reason, as we have before said, only from patent, visible facts; and when these people see that a close and grasping avarice, exhibited but too strongly in other ways, prompts to the covert appropriation of a neighbour's goods, even though it may be only the tempting fruit in a garden; when they see men whose high duty it is to denounce and punish vice, forming in a wheelbarrow at midnight the drunken centre of a boisterous native procession; or traversing the streets in the morning divested of hat and coat when returning from nocturnal orgies, and incapacitated by scratches and other evidences of past inebriety and disorder from the performance during several days of the public duties of office, the effect is disastrous in the extreme, not only to the poor ignorant beholders, but to the reputation and power for usefulness of the erring actors. Men with whom the considerations of religious, moral, and official duty which would have been mighty and triumphant with them in towns or cities at home, are powerless against the demoralizing influences with which they are surrounded on the West Coast of Africa, will at all times do well seriously to consider whether it would not be better for them in every way that they should relinquish appointments which from weakness of character they are liable to disgrace. Public duty and unbridled private licence cannot be reconciled in the same individual. The highest of all authorities, the Divine incarnate on earth, declared, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon," and no man can effectively inculcate morality and virtue from his official seat whose private hours are notoriously and openly devoted to guilty excess. A word to the wise is often sufficient, and we do most earnestly hope that the few words we have now penned with so much painful feeling may be instrumental in working that reformation which will render any such observation from us unnecessary in future. We never desire to expose or punish, but only to reform, in order that the work of God, so arduously performed by his servants the missionaries in Africa, may not be impeded by the evil example of secular officials who ought equally to do honour to the sublime precepts of Christian morality.

SCANDALOUS JOBBERY AT SIERRA LEONE.

Our columns are so full that we can only briefly notice here the most recent attempt (surely it will be only an attempt) at plunder on the colonial chest of Sierra Leone. We have repeatedly denounced the spending of nearly 14,000l. a-year on police and gaols, and only 295l. a-year on the education of the people. To blunt the point of our argument, a new office has been created. The Rev. Mr. Hartshorn, Colonial and Army and Navy Chaplain at Sierra Leone, for which offices he receives 700l. a-year, is appointed *Inspector of Schools*, with a salary of 300l. a-year! Three hundred pounds a-year to overlook the expenditure on schools of 295l. a-year. This is certainly about one of the most scandalous jobs on record. True, Mr. Hartshorn has been one of the most sycophantic abettors of Governor Blackall in all his sins against the revenue and people of Sierra Leone, and it is no doubt a *laudable* ambition in Mr. Hartshorn to have his official income raised to the same amount as Judge Carr's retiring pension—viz., to 1,000l. a-year; but ought the Sierra Leone people and their chest to be therefore plundered of the necessary sum? But we repeat, it is, of course, only an *attempt to plunder*, because it is impossible that any Secretary of State for the Colonies could sanction such a shameful misappropriation of public revenue.

THE ASSAULT ON MR. HARRY FINDEN.

It is now twelve months since a most disgraceful and unprovoked attack was made on our respected agent at Bathurst, Mr. Harry Finden, by two officers of the Army Medical Corps, Dr. Oakes and Mr. Elliott, the former a principal medical officer, and the latter a staff assistant-surgeon to Her Majesty's forces on the West Coast of Africa. It was an attack not only disgraceful to the parties making it, but which might possibly have led to the massacre of many innocent persons. When the news reached us, we lost no time in bringing the matter before the Secretaries

of State for War and the Colonies. It seems to us that we could not have done this in a more temperate manner than is shown in the letters which, with the subsequent correspondence, it has now become our duty to publish. And we do not think that any impartial person will accuse us of precipitancy. The replies of General Peel and Earl Carnarvon induced in us the belief that in this instance, at least, we should not have appealed in vain to the superior authorities. We think those replies as now published will produce the same impression on our readers. As our aim is at all times to obtain a permanent remedy for proved abuses, and not to excite passion or gratify feelings of revenge, we were content. There was no attempt on our part to make newspaper capital out of an event that we deplored as much as we condemned; we stated in our pages that we had so referred the matter to the Secretaries of State, and there we let it rest. We knew that no Government department is particular about a mail or two, and therefore that it must necessarily take some time before Her Majesty's Secretary for War would be in a position to communicate the result. We waited patiently, and quietly the full time that we thought we ought to wait; and then, no voluntary communication being made to us, we applied again to the War-office. And we got our answer from Sir John Pakington—an answer in which the Quarter Sessions magistrate shines forth in every word, and which gives one the idea of endless coils of red tape around it. No one will feel surprised that we were not satisfied with such an answer. It might have done very well to some application for a warrant against the gamekeeper of a brother Quarter Sessions luminary for maltreating an unoffending peasant on the ground that he believed him to be a poacher. It just shadows forth the sort of justice the poor injured fellow would be likely to meet with from such authorities. This comes of making Secretaries of State of mere diligent Quarter Sessions magistrates. What a contrast with General Peel and the Earl of Carnarvon! We have unhappily had occasion to blame the latter in the matter of the Sierra Leone Ordinance No. 4, November, 1866, but it has ever been our firm belief that had he remained in office he would speedily have discovered how grossly he had been deceived and misled by Governor Blackall, the late Chief Justice Carr, and other co-conspirators against the public liberties of the West African people, and would have restored that trial by jury which they must re-obtain if the light of freedom is to be fed and not quenched in their rising communities. We replied, as will be seen, by urging our right and that of Mr. Finden and our other West Coast agents, to a knowledge of the contents of those reports from Dr. Oakes and Mr. Elliott which have satisfied the military authorities. And there the matter rests for the present, with a gross denial of justice which reflects the greatest discredit on those authorities. It must be borne in mind that Dr. Oakes, the principal offender, was on his way from the Gold Coast to England on *sick leave*; that he landed at Bathurst; that, after dining with other officers there, he went with Mr. Elliott, also an army medical officer and passenger by the mail steamer, to search out an unoffending merchant trader of Bathurst; that he grossly insulted him without the shadow of a provocation, committed a most violent assault because his insults were properly resented, and that when a warrant against him was applied for and had been reluctantly granted by conniving authorities, he, having notice thereof, got hastily into a filthy shore boat, lay down in its stinking bilge water that he might be unobserved, and finally hid himself on board the departing mail steamer, which conveyed him to England. And we want to know, we are entitled to know, and we will know if it be possible to obtain the information, what report of these *very creditable* circumstances this man can have made that has been deemed satisfactory by the military authorities. The answer of the War-office places the affair on a totally new footing. It is not so much Dr. Oakes and Dr. Elliott with whom we have now to do, as the military authorities, who venture in effect to state that they find such conduct as we have above represented (without one word, we believe, of exaggeration) to be that which an officer and a gentleman is justified in adopting toward any peaceful civilian whom from natural brutality or at the instigation of others he may choose to select for insult and violence. The tendency of the military toward tyrannical excesses is, unfortunately, but too well established; but we confess we did not expect at this advanced period of the eighteenth century that such a reply could emanate from the military authorities of Great Britain. We have no doubt they calculate on the indifference to African matters manifested by Parliament, but we hope and believe that in this instance they have erred in their calculation. The military authorities, be it observed, do not deny any one of the allegations made through us, but, leaving them without contradiction, express themselves satisfied; and we know of nothing more calculated to brutalize the armed force in our distant depen-

dencies, and thus conduce to the most lamentable excesses, than to have it promulgated by authority that such assaults as that on Mr. Harry Finden may be committed with impunity.

JUSTICE WITHOUT JURIES.—GOOD v. FINLASON.

THE evidence in the case of Good v. Finlason which was promised us in the letter we published in our Sept. number (p. 30), is now in our hands, and includes the entire legal history of the case from its commencement up to the extraordinary judgment pronounced by the Hon. W. A. Parker on the 1st August last. If anything had been wanting to convince us that there can be no general safety for persons and property on the West Coast until the infamous Ordinance No. 4, November, 1866, is repealed, and trial by jury in civil as well as in criminal causes is restored, this case of Good v. Finlason would have supplied all that was wanting. The history of the case as established by the evidence now in our hands, is this: The cause was first heard in the Supreme Court at Cape Coast, before Sir William Hackett, then judge of that court, on the 15th August, 1866, the damages being laid at 200*l.* sterling. Judge Hackett found nothing in the plaintiff's evidence to submit to the jury. The plaintiff had relied upon a letter which he put in evidence, but which Judge Hackett said "I have no faith in"—"it is not worth anything." And he would evidently have dismissed the cause altogether but that the defendant stated the probability of a person arriving soon on the Coast from America whose evidence it was advisable the court should hear. Sir William Hackett therefore adjourned the further hearing of the cause for two months, and, on the 20th of August, further adjourned it *sine die*—i.e., till the arrival of the said expected witness. And so far as public proceedings in the cause are concerned, this was the end of the case until the 1st of August, 1867. Meanwhile, in the month of December, 1866, the Hon. W. A. Parker, appointed to be "Chief Magistrate and Judicial Assessor," under the new regulations, for the administration of justice on the Coast, arrived at Cape Coast, where he subsequently became a tenant of the plaintiff Good, and was in very frequent communication with him. On the morning of the above-mentioned 1st of August, 1867, Judge Parker sent round the notice (see September number, p. 30), convening a court for that same day, for the delivery by him of judgments in all pending causes. Among these was this cause of John Waller Good v. W. C. Finlason, in which, without hearing any further evidence, Judge Parker gave judgment for the full amount of damages claimed, and 10*l.* costs, well knowing at the same time that such a judgment must consign the defendant to prison, and that he had no means of giving those securities which would enable him to appeal to the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone. We here merely state the simple and leading facts according to the evidence now in our hands. We do not publish that evidence at present, nor shall we make any further comments upon it, for the following reasons: The defendant, who is in prison for the above-mentioned damages and costs, not being able to appeal *in forma pauperis* to the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone (see our leader in our October number), has petitioned Governor Blackall, the great prime mover in abolishing trial by jury in civil causes on the West Coast, to refer the evidence and judgment to the Chief Justice and Court of Appeal in Sierra Leone. That petition we now publish (see p. 54). It is not for us to determine whether a revision of the sentence may be thus obtained; we leave that for the decision of Governor Blackall. He who may be considered the author of the infamous Ordinance No. 4, November, 1866, which he passed through his council by three readings at one sitting, and without previous notice to the unofficial members—he of course best knows what power he possesses for the redress of wrongs inflicted in the profaned name of justice under that Ordinance. We therefore take leave of the matter for the present, merely adding what seems to us most extraordinary—viz., that the letter respecting which Judge Hackett made the remarks we have quoted has never been filed in court, and remains in the hands of the plaintiff if it still exists at all.*

While writing the last lines of the above, the bi-monthly mail brought us the letters at foot,† which give us the impression that

* See Petition, p. 54.

† GOOD v. FINLASON.

Gothic House, October 14, 1867.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Administrator, that I am willing to file a solemn declaration, or an affidavit on oath, that during the last twelve months I have never received any notice whatever from the court, or the plaintiff in the above suit. In fact, Mr. Parker's note-book will furnish sufficient proof of this, because no notice of any kind can be given to parties that cases will come on, or judgment delivered, without consent of court, which always makes a note of it at the time. If, therefore, Mr. Parker's note-book can prove that Mr. Good or his agent made any such motion, it will be for them to prove whether they ever gave me such notice; to that end I humbly request that his Excellency will cause the matter of notice to be investigated publicly in court in my presence, as it is of vital importance to one of the points in my petition that

the Administrator, Mr. Usher, had questioned the possibility of judgment having been thus pronounced by Mr. Parker without any further hearing in court, or any notice of court or plaintiff to defendant until the 1st August, 1867, when the said judgment was so suddenly delivered. The concluding phrase of Mr. J. Grant Elliott's letter, "the whole matter will be referred to Judge Parker in England," recalls to our mind some very apposite remarks made by our great contemporary the *Times*, when it was announced that an official inquiry by the Poor-law Board would be made into the serious abuses at the Farnham work-house, and rumour alleged that the inquiry was to be made by the very Inspector who, if the allegations were true, had been guilty of most culpable neglect of duty. The *Times* observed: "The inquiry appears to have been entrusted to the Poor-law officer of the district. The impropriety and indeed absurdity of such an arrangement needs little comment. Of the persons immediately responsible, the Poor-law Inspector is the very one who would be most to blame for the abuses that have been described." And to refer to Judge Parker in England as to whether justice had really been properly administered by the same Judge Parker at Cape Coast, could certainly never be excused by any other than official red-tapists and the upholders of official abuses and absurdities in general on any other ground than the old one of an appeal "from Philip drunk to Philip sober." The cool air of Scotland may have given to facts a different aspect from that they wore in his eyes through the heated atmosphere of Cape Coast; but the system is a bad one, and no good results can ever be expected under it. Meanwhile, we watch the case. The evidence, as we have before observed, is in our hands; and the official verdict, whatever it may be, will be followed by our officious one, which at least will be given without fear or favour.

THE MELANCHOLY EVENTS AT ABEOKUTA

WE can only briefly allude to these, the full intelligence of which only reached us on the 20th inst. We cannot express the intensity of our regret to see that the heathen portion of the Abeokuta people are entering upon such a course of violence and outrage upon those to whom they owe all the consideration and friendship with which Abeokuta has been regarded in England. Such a course, if persisted in, may yet throw them into the power of the Dahomans, whose animosity is unrelenting. We have reason to believe they have been urged on to these deplorable acts of violence by the instigation of the King of Jebu; and if such counsels continue to prevail with them, and the Bashorun and principal chiefs who act with him cannot control them, we look upon Abeokuta as in a very dangerous position. Great Britain, represented in their neighbourhood by the British colony of Lagos and its Governor, is their only true friend; and if in close friendship and alliance with Lagos, every good is before them. But we fear that even the Bashorun and his friends have entered upon a course in which they are like the dog on the banks of a lake, the piece of meat in whose mouth was magnified by reflection in its waters, and who lost the substance by greedily and foolishly trying to seize the larger but deceitful shadow.

DESTRUCTION OF CHURCH AND MISSIONARY PROPERTY AT ABEOKUTA.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Memorandum of Occurrences at Abeokuta on the 13th instant. Church at Ake partially destroyed; Mission House at Ake partially destroyed, but the effects of the resident missionary totally plundered; Mission House at Ogebe partially destroyed, but the effects of the resident missionary totally plundered; Mission House at Igbein partially destroyed, but the effects of the resident missionaries totally plundered; Mission House at Alabama partially destroyed, and effects partially plundered; Mission House at Owu partially destroyed, but effects of the catechists and schoolmasters totally plundered; merchants' houses and property at Aro totally destroyed; merchants, traders, converts, &c., some deprived totally, some partially of their goods and effects, wounded, and maltreated.

By order of his Excellency the Administrator,
WALTER LEWIS, Chief Clerk.

Secretary's Office, Lagos, October 16, 1867.

this allegation should be out of the reach of doubt.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. Grant Elliott, Esq., Private Secretary,
Government House, Cape Coast.

Reply to above.

Government House, October 14, 1867.

Sir,—In acknowledging receipt of your letter of to-day's date, his Excellency the Administrator directs me to say that he cannot interfere further in your case, but his Excellency having made such remarks on your petition as he deems necessary for the information of the Governor-in-Chief, the whole matter will be referred to Judge Parker in England.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,
Mr. W. C. Finlason,
Gothic House.

PROMISED ASSISTANCE OF CAPE COAST GOVERNMENT TO MRS. MOSELEY'S SCHOOL.

We are happy to be able to give the following extracts from a letter received by last mail from Mr. Usher, Her Majesty's Administrator at Cape Coast, addressed to Mrs. Moseley:—

"I am thoroughly convinced of the utility of your scheme, and I anticipate good results from it in every way.

"I do not like to pledge myself to a stipulated sum at present. You may, however, depend upon at least 50*l.* per annum, and perhaps more, toward your establishment as a commencement, and upon my earnest support in every other particular.

"I think all classes of natives here will be eager to testify their approval of your philanthropy, as the memory of your deceased husband is held in great veneration, notwithstanding the short time he was spared to fill the duties of his position, and they also retain a lively sense of your Christian charity and goodness of heart.

"Allow me to enclose you an order on my agents for 4*l.* 4*s.* towards your scheme. Were I a rich man it should be far larger."

W. RAINY, ESQ., B.L.

WE regret to state that this distinguished advocate has been suffering for some weeks past from a severe rheumatic attack; but we are happy to add he is now convalescent, and intends, we believe, as soon as he can complete the necessary arrangements, to return to Sierra Leone, with which so many of his forensic triumphs are associated. By our report, condensed from a more detailed one in the *Times*, it will be seen that Mr. Rainy distinguished himself in the case of Portilla v. Carr, before the Court of Queen's Bench, where he well sustained the reputation he had already achieved before the Privy Council.

SALE OF THE DANISH WEST INDIA ISLANDS TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE sale of the Danish Islands to the United States Government seems now to have been positively made. The Copenhagen paper *Fadrelandet* states that the treaty for the sale of St. Thomas, St. Juan, and St. Cruz has been concluded. The price to be paid is eleven and a-half million dollars. A reserve is, however, made as regards St. Cruz, the consent of France being required. Should France not give her consent, the United States Government will pay seven and a-half million dollars for the other two islands.

THE METEORS ON NOVEMBER 13 AND 14.

THICK fogs and rain clouds in England prevented any view of the heavens on the night of November 13 and 14 this year. But from Paris, it is said, "The sky being clear, this spectacle was witnessed to great advantage, and between one and three in the morning (of the 14th) the number of aërolites was so great that they could not be counted."

We wish our friends in Africa would observe and send us accounts of such events. A correspondent wrote us last year about this annual meteoric display, which he witnessed at Kroboe, Gold Coast, at about the same hour we had it in England. Will our friends in future keep a look-out on the nights of the 12th, 13th, and 14th November, and let us know the result?

ABEOKUTA.

TRADE REPORT.—Trade remains dull. Less has been done than in the former months of this year, as prices continue high, and the produce of last season is becoming exhausted. The next season is looked forward to, and hopes are entertained that it will prove a more abundant one than the last. Unbaled cotton may be quoted at 22 *s.* per lb., baled ditto, 25 *s.*; palm-oil, 14 *hds.* per 10 Imperial gals.; Black oil, 12 *hds.*; benniseeds, 2 *s.* 20 *cow.* per lb. A considerable quantity of ground-nuts have been sent to Lagos at 50 *cowries* per lb. Exchange, 8 *hds.* 15 *st.* to 3 *hds.* 30 *st.* per dollar of 4*s.* 2*d.*

PRODUCE EXPORTED DURING SEPTEMBER.—Cotton, 314 bales, containing 41,407 lbs.; ivory, 4 pieces, 196 lbs.; benniseed, 66,328 lbs.; palm-oil, 1,305 gals.; black-oil, 782 gals.

VACCINATION.—Above 250 persons have been vaccinated; but lymph is scarce, it being difficult to get at the persons vaccinated at the proper time for removing the lymph from their arms.

OLD CALABAR.

THE King of Duke Town has made an attack on Adabo, up the river, in consequence of a dispute which originated some two years ago, when, one of his subjects and a man of Adabo quarrelling, the latter was killed in the fray. Old Town and Adabo were thus set at variance, and the quarrel was referred to King Archibong, of Duke Town, to be arbitrated by him. He declared the death to be accidental, and that the man who had committed the involuntary homicide was not to be given up.

The relations of the slain man then hired an assassin, who shot the Old Town man. The King thereupon demanded that the murderer and his employers should be given up to him. This the Adabo people refused to do. War was then declared by the King. A night attack on Adabo was made lately, and many captives were taken. A day or two afterwards the Europeans in the river heard that these captives, men, women, and children, were being put to death. The Rev. W. Anderson, the Scotch Presbyterian missionary, then used all his influence to save at least the lives of the women and children, but without avail. On Sunday, the 2nd September, the missionary informed his congregation that six women and some children were to be killed that night if something was not done by the Europeans and educated African traders to prevent it. A general deputation went to the King after service, but met with no success: the King said he would kill every man, woman, and child he could catch. At night, therefore, two women and a child were rescued and sent on board one of the ships, and at midnight the whole body of the traders went and roused the King from his slumbers, and brought him to terms by some pretty serious threats, which he knew they had the power to carry into execution. He then promised that all then in his hands, and others that might be brought in, should be sent unharmed on board the ships. Instead of doing this, after three days he demanded the return of the two women and the child before mentioned. The traders insisted on the release of whatever captives still remained alive, and the result was that six were taken by the steamer Lagos to Fernando Po, and given into Mr. Chas. Livingstone's (the British Consul's) care, a sum of money for their present maintenance having been also subscribed by the traders and sent to the Consul. It is believed that above thirty poor creatures had been massacred during the three nights.

HURRICANE AT ST. THOMAS, WEST INDIES.

A dreadful hurricane occurred at and around St. Thomas on the 29th of October. There was a great loss of life and property. Several large steamers were totally lost, and fifty or more steamers and other vessels stranded. The Royal Mail steamers Rhone and Wye were totally lost. The Columbian, West India and Pacific Company's steamer, new, 2,000 tons, with a valuable cargo, also totally lost.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

The advanced brigade left Aden on the 29th October in twelve ships for Zoulla. It consisted of 3rd Bengal Irregular Cavalry, 10th Native Infantry, two companies native sappers, 453 men of the Land Transport Corps, one mountain battery, 467 horses, and 458 mules.

H.M. corvette Satellite left Aden for Annesley Bay on the 25th October, on special survey duty, having on board guns and stores, and towing flats for landing guns and horses.

ALEXANDRIA, November 14.—Intelligence received here from the camp at Zoulla, dated the 2nd inst., announces that the advanced brigade of the Abyssinian expedition, under Colonel Field, arrived at Zoulla on the 21st October, and landed all well. Preparations for the reception of the coming forces were progressing rapidly, and one good pier was approaching completion. Abyssinians from the neighbourhood were flocking to the camp in search of employment. The latest dates from the captives were of October 6.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, WESTMINSTER, NOVEMBER 4. (Sittings in Banco, before the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Shee, and Mr. Justice Lush.)

PORTILLA v. CARR

This case was of some interest, not only as regards its subject-matter, and the novelty of the action, but also on account of its being, it is believed, the occasion of the first appearance in this court of a coloured gentleman as a member of the English bar. It was an action by the owner of a Spanish vessel, which had been seized and condemned at Sierra Leone as a slaver, against the Judge of the Court there, for illegal seizure of the vessel. The application was for a *mandamus* to the Chief Justice of the Court to hold a Court to take evidence on the part of the plaintiff of witnesses resident there; and also for a commission to examine the plaintiff resident at Cadiz. The case arose thus: The 6 William IV. cap. 6 (1836), an Act for caring into effect a treaty made between his Majesty and the Queen Regent of Spain for the abolition of the slave-trade, gave certain powers for the suppression of the slave-trade, and contains a variety of provisions as to seizure and confiscation of slave vessels, and as to the proceedings of the Courts at Sierra Leone established for the purpose of condemning such vessels. Under the powers of this Act, which embodies a treaty concluded between England and Spain, a vessel called the America, the property of the plaintiff, was brought into the port of Sierra Leone on the 14th

day of June, 1864, alleged to have been engaged in the slave-trade. Proceedings were taken against that vessel in the Courts at Sierra Leone established under that Act; but the case was not brought on for trial and final determination until the 18th of August following. When the Court then met it was contended that it had no longer jurisdiction, as under the 6th William IV. the Court ought to have sat twenty-one days after seizure, and their judgment should have been given within two months. The Spanish judge took this view, the English judge the contrary; and Mr. Carr, as Arbitrator of the Court, ruled that the Court was capable. The case was then heard on its merits. Again the Spanish and English judges differed; and Mr. Carr, as Arbitrator, condemned the vessel. The present action was therefore brought against Mr. Carr to recover the value of the ship and cargo, on the ground that she was illegally condemned by the defendant, who was not justified under the statute to pronounce any such order of condemnation, after the period limited by the statute for giving final judgment had expired, and no application made or security given to extend the period.

The affidavit on the part of the plaintiff then stated that in order to establish the plaintiff's case, the evidence of the Spanish judge, the registrar, and the marshal of the Court at Sierra Leone is necessary, and that the plaintiff cannot proceed to trial without it.

There was a similar affidavit in support of the application for a commission to Cadiz upon these materials.

Mr. Rainy, a native gentleman, a member of the English bar, who practises at Sierra Leone, and who conducted the case for the defence in the Court there, now moved, under certain statutes, on the part of the plaintiff for a *mandamus* to the Court at Sierra Leone, and for a commission to Cadiz to take the evidence. The learned gentleman, whose appearance excited some interest at the bar, stated the case very clearly and with considerable ability. He was proceeding to enter into the facts as disclosed in the affidavit, on which he moved, and as above set forth, when

The Lord Chief Justice said the Court could collect that there was an action by the plaintiff in the courts of this country, in which it was stated that witnesses who could give material evidence for the plaintiff were abroad. That being so, the plaintiff was entitled under the statute to have them examined, and it was not necessary to enter into the merits of the case, or to pronounce any opinion upon it. The learned counsel had made out an abundant case for his application.—Rule nisi accordingly.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE RE ASSAULT ON MR. HARRY FINDEN.

London, December 21, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honour to inclose proof copy of the substance of communications addressed to me as editor of the *African Times* from Bathurst, River Gambia.

By these communications it would appear that an abominable outrage has been committed at that place on the person of Mr. Harry Finden, a native trader of great respectability, by two officers of the Army Medical Corps—viz., Dr. Oakes (P.M.O., I believe) and Mr. Elliott, an S.A.S.

These officers were personally unknown to Mr. Finden, who is the agent at Bathurst for the *African Times*, and was there brutally insulted and attacked by them, solely in consequence of his connexion with the *African Times*, a journal established by the late African Aid Society, of which I was honorary secretary.

I think it my duty to state (although, were it not so, there would be no justification of such an outrage) that no communication whatever relative to either of those medical officers had ever been made by Mr. Finden to the *African Times*; and that neither of their names, so far as I am aware, has ever been mentioned in the *African Times*, except on one occasion, when that of Dr. Oakes appears as plaintiff in an action at Cape Coast for money said to be due to him for medical services rendered to a civilian there.

It is also my duty to state that, even could either or both of these officers have been served with the warrant for the assault alluded to in the inclosed, there is at present no court at the River Gambia possessing powers to inflict even the shadow of such a punishment as is due to officers so disgracing Her Majesty's service by a brutal and unprovoked outrage against an unoffending African, solely because he is of what they choose to consider an inferior race, and agent to a newspaper established for the protection and the social and material advancement of the natives of the West Coast of Africa.

I have abstained from any lengthened commentary this month on the conduct attributed to these medical officers, because I venture to hope that they will receive at the hands of the Army authorities, as a consequence of this communication, such a measure of punishment as will render further action on my part

unnecessary, and will effectually discourage the perpetration, by officers in Her Majesty's service, of outrages on native Africans, which, if not thus energetically put a stop to, may lead to such dreadful popular retaliation as every friend of civilization and humanity would deplore.—I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

F. FITZGERALD,

Proprietor and Editor of the *African Times*.

To the Right Hon. General Peel, M.P.,
Secretary of State for War.

War-office, December 29, 1866.

Sir,—I am directed by Secretary-Lieutenant-General Peel to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., and its enclosure on the subject of an assault alleged to have been committed by two officers of the Army Medical Department upon Mr. Harry Finden, of Bathurst, Gambia.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that your communication has been transmitted to the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, with a request that the medical officers alluded to may be called upon to furnish for his Royal Highness's consideration a full report and explanation of their conduct on the occasion.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) EDWARD LUGARD.

F. Fitzgerald, Esq.

London, January 25, 1867.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Edward Lugard's communication of the 29th December last, in reply to my letter addressed to you on the 21st idem, relative to an assault alleged to have been committed by two officers of the Army Medical Department upon Mr. Harry Finden, of Bathurst, River Gambia, and to express my thanks for the promptitude with which you transmitted my communication to the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief with the request stated in Mr. Lugard's letter.

I have now the honour to forward a copy of the *African Times* of the 23rd inst., in which will be found the substance of the depositions made by Mr. Finden and his witnesses before Mr. Melton, the police magistrate, when applying for warrants, together with other particulars relative to the escape of Dr. Oakes, and the subsequent appearance of Mr. Elliott before Mr. Melton.—I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. FITZGERALD

To the Right Hon. General Peel, M.P., Secretary for War.

War-office, January 31, 1867.

Sir,—I am directed by Secretary-Lieutenant-General Peel to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., and enclosure on the subject of an assault upon Mr. H. Finden of Bathurst.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. Fitzgerald, Esq.

C. TALBOT.

London, December 22, 1866.

My Lord,—With the *African Times*, containing the brief account alluded to therein, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter addressed by me under date December 21 to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War.

The peace of the West Coast is imperilled by acts such as those which the two officers therein named are alleged to have committed, and, I venture to hope, that your lordship will admit the necessity of such measures on the part of Her Majesty's Government as will assure the natives of the West Coast of that protection and redress to which they are entitled as subjects of Her Majesty, and which they cannot obtain from any ordinary tribunal at Bathurst.—I have the honour, my lord, to be your obedient servant,

F. FITZGERALD,

Proprietor and Editor of *African Times*.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Downing-street, January 18, 1867.

Sir,—I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, respecting the conduct of Dr. Oakes and Mr. Elliott, two army medical officers at the Gambia, and to state that his lordship is glad to have had his attention called to the alleged offence of these two officers, and that he will communicate with the Administrator of the Government of the Gambia on the subject. He hopes that any inadequacy of the existing tribunals to deal effectually with such cases as you describe will be remedied by an ordinance which has been recently passed; but meantime he would be glad to learn from you what is the defect in the existing law or in its administration to which you allude when you state "that there is, at present, no court in the Gambia possessing power to inflict even the shadow of such a punishment as is due to officers so disgracing Her Majesty's service" in the manner which you describe.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, (Signed) FREDERICK ROGERS.

F. Fitzgerald, Esq.

London, January 25, 1867.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Rogers' communication of the 18th inst., in reply to my letter addressed to your lordship on the 22nd December last, relating to the conduct of Dr. Oakes and Mr. Elliott at the Gambia.

Your lordship expresses the hope that any inadequacy of the existing tribunals to deal effectually with such cases will be remedied by an ordinance which has been recently passed. As your lordship has not stated the nature and provisions of such ordinance, I am, of course, unable to offer any opinion on the subject.

Your lordship will, however, I hope, excuse my stating that another ordinance, said to have been passed by Col. D'Arcy with express reference to the case of Mr. Elliott, was, in my opinion, of a nature and effect to aggravate rather than remove the inadequacy of which I complained. It appears that the Acting Police Magistrate at the Gambia is Mr. Melton, a junior clerk of Messrs. Foster and Smith, merchants, at Bathurst. By the laws of the colony, the presence of two magistrates on the bench was necessary. The case of Dr. Elliott was to have been heard on the Monday; but in order to enable Mr. Melton alone to deal with it, it was postponed to the Tuesday, and during the interval Col. D'Arcy is reported to have made or passed an ordinance conferring the desired powers on Mr. Melton, who, on Mr. Elliott appearing and admitting the charge, declined hearing any evidence either from Mr. Finden or his witnesses, and dismissed Mr. Elliott with the penalty of twenty shillings, a punishment totally inadequate to prevent the repetition of such outrages on the natives by Europeans. With reference to your lordship's desire to learn from me what is the defect in the existing law or in its administration to which I alluded when I stated that there is at present no court in the Gambia possessing powers to inflict even the shadow of such a punishment as is due to officers so disgracing her Majesty's service, I beg to state that I did not intend to attribute any defect to the existing laws, provided those laws which have for some years been in force in the colony have not been recently annulled or modified by ordinances such as above referred to, or in some other way. But I did intend to attribute a defect in the administration of such laws. When I wrote there was not any Chief Justice, or Queen's advocate, or competent stipendiary magistrate. There was, in fact, no adequate machinery of justice in the settlement; there had, as I am informed, been no gaol delivery for more than nine months, and crime had consequently been increasing.

It is true that by the mail since received—viz., January 3, 1867, news arrived that a session of Oyer and Terminer was to be held on the 20th December. But what was the constitution of the court? Mr. Thomas Brown, a merchant at Bathurst, had been named Acting Chief Justice, and Dr. Mosse Acting Queen's Advocate. And without any disrespect to the former, who has been for many years resident at the Gambia, or to the latter, who I have no reason to doubt possesses as much legal knowledge and ability as is ordinarily to be found in medical doctors or surgeons on the Coast, your lordship will, I trust, pardon my asking, is a court of justice thus constituted a court likely to inspire respect, or to be considered as guaranteeing a due administration of justice? I feel compelled to state that I cannot thus regard it.

Sincerely devoted to the progress of Christian civilization on the West Coast, and firmly impressed with the conviction that good government in the name of Her Majesty, and a pure, prompt, and enlightened administration of justice are essential to that progress, I cannot refrain from expressing the hope that your lordship will speedily put an end at the Gambia and at other settlements on the West Coast to irregularities which have but too long prevailed, and produced results greatly to be deplored.—I have the honour to be, my lord, your lordship's most obedient servant,

F. FITZGERALD,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,
Hon. Sec. of State for the Colonies.

(To be continued.)

H.M.S. PLOVER.—The Plover, double screw gun-vessel, 3, 663 tons, 160 horse power, Commander Poland, ordered for a term of service to the West Coast of Africa, will first make a short experimental cruise in the Channel. The Plover is the first of her class in the Navy, and it has therefore been determined to make a few experiments with her under steam before dispatching her to the West African station.

AFRICA AND HER FRIENDS.—In a letter addressed to Dr. Horton, Staff Assistant-Surgeon, by the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, late Secretary of State for the Colonies, referring to the native and European population on the Coast of Africa, he said: "I assure you that I shall always have the strongest interest in everything that tends to the advancement of the native races in Africa, and to the mitigation of the sufferings and discomforts to which the Europeans who labour to civilize and improve them are exposed."

IMPORTANT NEW WORK ON WEST AFRICA.

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Physical and Medical Climate and Meteorology of the West Coast of Africa,

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Subscribers' names, with the amount of Subscriptions, will be received by the Agents of the *African Times* on the West Coast, and by William Edwards, Esq., Manager of the *African Times*, 4, Coleman-street-buildings, Moorgate-street, London.

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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 LAGOS, 1,300 tons, and 275-horse power, A. J. M. CROFT, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on SUNDAY, the 24th NOVEMBER, at 10 A.M.

Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the Prince's Landing Stage at 8.30 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, a Shipping Note required with each cartload, and contents of packages described therein.

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.—Parcels addressed to different consignees, and made up in one package, will be charged freight on each parcel as if shipped separately. All freight must be prepaid.

NOTICE.—The MACGREGOR LAIRD will be despatched on the 10th December 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.



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Any garment can be supplied by sending the following measures: Give, in inches, whole height of person. For a Coat—Round the breast, round the waist, from centre of back to the wrist; for length of sleeve, arm bent. For Waistcoat—Round breast and waist. For Trousers—Length outside seam from top to bottom, length inside seam from fork to bottom, round the waist, round the seat.



LAMPLOUGH'S

EFFERVESCING

PYRETIC SALINE.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is particularly recommended to all who have at any period of life taken Calomel, or Mercurial preparations, in order to their removal. For such it is necessary to take the 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 Diarrhoea and Febrile affections generally, and have found it an admirable Refrigerant Medicine, well calculated for diseases incidental to warm climates, more particularly in Cholera and Fever, as it possesses chemical properties capable of furnishing the blood with Saline matter.—Pentonville, August 8, 1857."

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

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

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

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

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.
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