

# The African Times.

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

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

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### THE WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The mail steamship Lsgos, from the West Coast of Africa, arrived at Liverpool on Feb. 3, with thirteen passengers and a full cargo.

Her dates were: Fernando Po, Dec. 30; Cameroons, Dec. 29; Old Calabar, Dec. 28; Benin, Jan. 3; Brass River and Nun, Jan. 6; Lagos, Jan. 5; Jellah Coffee, Jan. 6; Accra, Jan. 7; Cape Coast Castle, Jan. 8; Cape Palmas, Jan. 10; Monrovia, Jan. 12; Sierra Leone, Jan. 15; Bathurst, Jan. 19; Tenerife, Jan. 24; Madeira, Jan. 26.

The Lagos encountered fearful weather after leaving Madeira. The heavy gales which prevailed for some days had prepared us for a late arrival, but to the great credit of the African Mail Steamship Company the habitual regularity of the service was maintained by the Lagos.

The steamer Macgregor Laird, with the bi-monthly mail, reached Liverpool on the 15th inst. She brought a full cargo, 600*l.* in specie, and eight passengers.

### WAR IN THE GAMBIA.—PLUNDER OF MERCHANTS' PROPERTY.

(Copy of a Letter from the Official British Resident at M'Carthy's Island to the Administrator at Bathurst.)  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

M'Carthy Island, January 12, 1868.

Sir,—I regret to inform your Excellency that an army is moving in Nyanie, Catabar Territory, and destroying all before it; it is supposed to be a sort of advanced guard of the army of the late Mahba's brother; it is strong in horse and foot, some say 500 horsemen. They took a place only a few days ago (the 8th), near at hand, called Pallang, another place near also to that named Suttoco; and the day before yesterday they also attacked Baragally (fifteen miles from here) and took possession of it, driving all before them; the inhabitants fled, crossing over the river in canoes as best they could, and I hear a good many were drowned. The army, as far as I learn, is composed of all sorts of people, some French Jolloffs, some from Badiboo Sarlun and Yanijah; they are in fact collected together for plunder.

Hearing that the Stag was a short way down the river, I went down on Thursday in my boat to get what letters might be on board, and had reached Baragally when, to my astonishment, I saw what I regret to say is the beginning of a war against Catabar and, report says, Duncasin. The rumour is that the Kooning Marabouts have called the people of Mahba's brother to assist them in a war of extermination against Catabar, Duncasin, and all the Somninkie race.

Only last Saturday the head chief of Kirwan, in Kaboo, one Baccary Doombay, came on this island with a few followers to see me; he said he wished to make a peace between the Marabouts and Somninkies, and being, as he said, a disinterested party, although a Marabout himself, he was desirous of visiting the Catabar people to try and make peace; I did not hinder

him, but told him I could not have anything to do with it, as the Government could not side with either party, and if he wanted to see the Catabar people he had better go and see them himself; he left and I have not seen him since. I have before remarked that when the Marabouts sue for peace war is imminent; in this case it has proved true.

Resuming the subject of the present unsettled state of the country around, I hear the army of Mahba's brother intends attacking Catabar, the King's town; and I also hear they made an attack with a few horse on Kihi, but were repulsed with the loss of some six men.

The people here (M'Carthy's) are in a great state of excitement; at the native fort at Ionkacunda, opposite here, they are on the alert, as most likely Lamally and Iaromey will be attacked. The Marabout fort, Lamin Coto, also opposite here, is much strengthened by reinforcements from Kooning, Dobo, Yuona, Koojow, Dembacunda, Madeina, and other Marabout places; and a fight at Ionkacunda stockade is not at all improbable.

Mr. Yates, a trader for Messrs. Foster and Smith, has been compelled to leave Baragally at a considerable loss, and Mr. W. Robinson, a trader for Messrs. J. Brown and Co., is also leaving; everyone in fact, as the place is pillaged of everything, the rabble army selling goats and sheep at 2*s.* each.\*

Three vessels, the Harry, the Stag, and a cutter, have arrived here with the goods of the traders and full of people.

It is said that Mahba's brother is on his way from Badiboo with large reinforcements, and it is the opinion of everyone here that the country around will be the scene of a war which will lay waste the whole country. Trade is even now stopped.

Mattah, a trader of Mr. Chown's, at Pallang, has been plundered to a great extent; they even took him prisoner, but afterwards released him, and he is now, I believe, trying to recover some of his property.

The militia are under arms (thirty-three men); sentries are posted at Fatoto and Borabacunda, and the shore opposite the forts, and I have taken every precaution that lays in my power.

This letter is sent in my boat, manned by five men, from Messrs. Foster and Smith, and much trouble I had to get them, otherwise this would have left here yesterday morning.

Trusting to hear from your Excellency soon, I have the honour to be your Excellency's obedient servant,  
(Signed) B. TANNER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Gambia, January 17, 1868.

Sir,—I enclose you copy of a letter which has been sent round by the Administrator of the Government of these settlements for the information of the merchants and traders. It is, as you will see, a report from the manager of MacCarthy's Island, as to the state and condition of that portion of the country in

\* Ordinary price, 1*s.* to 2*4s.*—Ed. A. T.

the vicinity of this important outpost. This document speaks for itself; it proves the wretched state of insecurity in which the lives and property of British subjects are placed in those parts of the country to which it refers, and requires but little comment from me.

On several occasions the merchants and traders remonstrated against the withdrawal of the small garrison hitherto maintained at MacCarthy's Island, and the consequent insecurity of that point and the various factories in its vicinity. The maintenance of a garrison and a representative of the Government at that point gave a species of moral and physical guarantee that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to protect the lives and the property of Her subjects whilst engaged in the pursuit of lawful commerce on the waters, and in the regularly established settlements in the upper portion of this river, whereas their withdrawal has had the opposite effect, as any one may see. The inhabitants of the British settlements fondly hoped that as Her Majesty's representatives were instructed to tax us (instructions which they have faithfully carried out), that the merchants and traders would be at least protected in the prosecution of their trade; but unfortunately such is not the case. The trade of the British settlements proper is very small. The great bulk of our commerce is carried on in native territory, yet still the goods and merchandise with which that trade is carried on at our risk and peril are grievously and exorbitantly taxed, and the taxation paid before such goods and merchandise are allowed to be conveyed into these countries; and not only are these goods and merchandise so exported at our risk into the kingdoms contiguous to the banks of the river subjected to heavy duties by our Government, but in addition the very produce which we receive in barter for the same is also taxed before we are allowed to export it. The merchant here has not only to pay duties to the British Government, but also taxes and duties to the native kings and chiefs of the countries in which his goods are bartered.

How would the merchants of England like to have to pay duties on merchandise shipped by them to China or Japan, or to any other countries where the British Government has neither the power nor the authority to protect them, and how would they like to have to pay in addition duties to the British Government on the produce taken in exchange for such commodities before being allowed to export them to foreign countries such as France, America, or elsewhere? Why, the answer is simply this, they would not put up with such a state of things twenty-four hours. And if, in addition to this, when their factories were wilfully robbed and plundered, and their servants maltreated and made prisoners and slaves, if they were told they could receive neither commiseration nor an atom of protection, what would they say? Yet such is our case; we are compelled to pay specific *ad valorem* duties on all our imports, nine-tenths of which are sent into foreign and independent countries to be bartered and exchanged for native produce—countries wherein British authority is no more respected than in the steppes of Tartary or in the interior of Mexico. Take, for example, the staple article of export from these settlements, the ground-nut—the goods with which it is purchased are taxed when imported, the article itself is taxed when exported from here; when landed in America it is there taxed again, and if sent to France, the country which is our greatest consumer of the article, in British shipping, it is also subject to a heavy import tax which, in each and every case, falls on us.

What we have urged, and what we respectfully continue to urge on our Government is this simple fact—since you are unwilling or unable to protect our commerce, do not tax us. Do not compel us to pay import and export duties on our merchandise and our produce which we are bartering and exchanging in savage and uncivilised countries at our risk and peril and without a shadow of protection. The treatment we are subjected to is one which tends to create feelings of exasperation and despair, especially when we contrast our position with that of our French rivals and competitors, who are well and amply protected wherever they go. The natives of the Senegambia respect the property of French traders, but the British trader, whether white or black, is fair game—he can be robbed and plundered with impunity. We may be told, it is true, that we can give up the trade, we may go elsewhere, and so on; but then what is to become of our plant? How can men who have become identified with a particular trade and commerce, give up all their knowledge and experience gained at the risk of their lives and healths; quit the trade they have acquired a knowledge of, and embark in commercial speculations in other countries with which they are totally unacquainted? What is to become of the capital sunk in the Gambian in the shape of stores, factories, ships, and vessels peculiarly adapted for this trade, on the faith of a protection which we hoped would have been continued, but which has been suddenly and most unfairly withdrawn? Within the last two or three years the little pro-

tection we hitherto enjoyed has been taken from us, and the duties and taxes on our goods and produce have been nearly doubled. What we desire to impress on our Government is simply this—since you will not protect us, do not tax us. Leave us to our own resources, if you will, but do not hamper and ruin us with laws and taxes which we have no voice in making. If we are to be taxed, let us be taxed on condition that we shall be either protected or allowed to dispose of the proceeds of our taxation as we think proper; and that this shall be subject, of course, to constitutional restrictions.

With such a state of things there can be no enterprise; we may drag along as best we may; but new capital shuns the risks we are exposed to, and the resources of this magnificent river remain undeveloped. Bathurst, instead of being a free port, is the most expensive port on the West Coast of Africa; the transient trader, be he American or French, shuns it. The tonnage dues and port charges are exorbitant, and trade, instead of being encouraged, is driven away. The mercantile community is not fairly represented—the people have no voice in the Government. We have no power of curtailing the expenditure, our revenues are frittered away, and our Government is administered by incompetent and incapable men. We groan under our troubles, convinced of the utter inutility of remonstrance; we are silent, we no longer address the Colonial Minister, feeling thoroughly convinced of the utter inutility of doing so; but our silence is the silence generated by despair. We have no powerful press to expose our grievances. Public opinion in England is not evoked in our favour, and we are abandoned to the tender mercies of such men as Governor Blackall, and men of his class, who have no sympathy for us—men who come to the Coast of Africa not to benefit us or the country, but simply to make their official positions here the stepping-stone to promotion elsewhere. Let us hope that the advent of a new Governor-in-Chief may be beneficial to us; let us hope that he who is said to be a man of sense and a practical man of business may open the eyes of the Colonial-office to our grievances, and obtain for us some redress against the gross injustice and iniquity of taxing us outrageously, without granting us something in the shape of protection and free institutions.

I would have gone into figures and statistical details to prove to you and to those who still take an interest in this part of the world the hardship of our position, but I fear to trespass on your valuable space. I therefore conclude by subscribing myself, your obedient servant,

Nobody.

#### SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

January 15.

Sir,—There is not much news here beyond the real joy that has been shown at the return of Mr. Rainy to the colony by the last mail steamer. I assure you that he no sooner landed than he was loaded with retainers. The session opened on the 13th, and Mr. Rainy attended in full dress as a barrister.

Governor Blackall, with the late Acting Administrator-in-Chief (Colonel Young), has gone down the coast as far as Lagos, stopping at the Gold Coast to effect the change of territories with the Dutch Government, according to the treaty published last July.

We are, of course, all looking out anxiously for the arrival of Sir Arthur Kennedy, our new Governor-in-Chief, who was so justly popular among us in former times. You may depend upon it he will receive a grand welcome; but many of the present officials whose evil conduct he rebuked severely when he was Governor here, ten or twelve years ago, and who have since had full indulgence for their bad passions and contempt and hatred of the Africans, are now trembling at the thought of his coming. If Governor Kennedy has not changed, and we hope he has not, we feel that not alone Sierra Leone but all the settlements must be very much benefited by his rule. If the Duke of Buckingham could really know how grateful we all are to him for this appointment of Sir Arthur Kennedy we are sure it could not fail to remove many unfavourable impressions that Governor Blackall and others of our enemies have worked so hard to produce at the Colonial-office, and which have caused us to lose some of our liberties.—Yours, &c.,

On the 20th January, the leading native gentlemen of the colony presented an address of congratulation and welcome to Mr. Rainy, an address alike honourable to those from whom it emanated and to the learned recipient, whose reply showed that he was deeply affected by so warm an expression of regard and esteem, and so worthy an acknowledgment of his eminent services. We are not surprised to learn that his hands are full of professional business; but we are convinced that no pressure of remunerated employment will be allowed by him to interfere with his generous exertions on behalf of the needy and oppressed who may be suffering under past maladministration of justice.—Ed. A.T.

#### INCREASED PAY TO HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sierra Leone, January 14th, 1868.

Sir,—Upon my return to this colony, after an absence of two years, I am desirous to make a practical suggestion, which I think would tend much towards the prosperity of the West Coast of Africa, and establish in that hitherto badly governed land a more auspicious and happier state of things. It has long struck me, from a lengthened experience, that high Government officials here were underpaid, and that upon that account this country was cursed with a more discreditable public official staff of representatives of the Crown in high offices than any other settlement under the British Crown. It has been stated in the House of Commons that no good and able men could be got to carry on the Government of Sierra Leone. In fact, that we were necessarily cursed by the official castaways of society, and what Dr. Johnson applied to patriotism might be more properly applied to a Sierra Leone place—namely, "that it was the last resource of a scoundrel." The overstrained and illegal sentences of one judge, the discreditable licentiousness of another, and the vulgar and unrestrained assaults of the Hon. Dr. Bradshaw (all exposed to Parliament last session), will arise to your recollection in proof of the class of men who have held power in Sierra Leone.

Now, Sir, under a larger and more remunerative system of pay a better class of men would accept high official appointments in Sierra Leone, and even if the colony had to bear any additional financial burden in consequence of this change the colonists in the end would be most unquestionably the gainers. I venture to say that the official blunders of the Queen's advocate, Mr. Huggins, have cost the colony a sum of money which would go far to pay the additional expenses attendant upon the appointment of an abler and more efficient man to fill his office. This smallness of remuneration has led as well to hopeless confusion in the bestowal of offices. For instance, Captain Bravo, a military officer, has discharged the highest duties of law, and the present Crown Prosecutor (who is the editor of a newspaper) has only recently been admitted, without examination, by Captain Bravo, the ex-Acting Chief Justice, to practise as an Attorney of our Courts of Law. Under a better state of things, and under a higher standard of remuneration, such a disastrous and helpless state of confusion in the administration of government could never exist.

In suggesting and advocating this improved financial code for officials, I certainly do not advocate its extension as far as the present holders (with the exception of two distinguished men) of office are concerned. Until their offices become vacated by dismissal or death I would leave things as they are in Sierra Leone. Increase of salary, which is the best and most tangible recognition of services, should never be extended to persons who have brought dishonour and contempt upon their respective employments. I repeat I would not interfere with the salaries of high Government officials at present in Sierra Leone, with the exception of two distinguished men—I allude to Sir Arthur Kennedy, the Governor, and Chief Justice French. Not only does the presence of such men become a guarantee in itself that all the Government departments will be cleansed out as opportunity occurs, but their presence further proves that their respective administrations, if they continue, must be graced and upheld by a far higher order of under-officials than Sierra Leone enjoys at present. This most desirable object, I respectfully submit, can only be maintained by increase of Government pay.

With regard to the title of the Governor, Sir Arthur Kennedy, and Chief Justice French themselves to be made an exception in the colony in this question of pay, I will state my reasons. Since he accepted the appointment of Governor-in-Chief of the West African settlements, Sir Arthur Kennedy has been knighted, and we know full well an increased expenditure of living follows upon all such social distinctions; moreover, the whole weight and burden of the management of the West Coast, consisting of various tribes, conflicting interests, and minor Governments, rests upon his shoulders. Nor do I think a more graceful opportunity could occur to the Government than in the person of Sir Arthur Kennedy for establishing an increased salary. He endeared himself to the people of Sierra Leone in his former administration of the Government, and he has since ruled two important settlements with credit to himself and advantage to the colonists he ruled over. His Excellency, too, will have before him an Herculean task to put together the terrible *debris* which the audacity and recklessness of ex-Governor Blackall, combined with official imbecility, had created.

With regard to Chief Justice French, he is a lawyer of high standing and legal training, and brings to the discharge of his onerous duties some higher qualifications than an ex-West Indian attorney of no practice could possibly possess.

It is absurd to imagine that services of the high order of Chief

Justice French's should be remunerated after the fashion of his predecessors—namely, Messrs. Carr and Huggins; for Mr. Carr was made Queen's Advocate of Sierra Leone upon the very day he was called to the bar. From what I learn, Chief Justice French has inspired the natives with a respect for the administration of the law, and that is the most important element in the social advancement of the state.

I fear I have already trespassed too far upon your columns, and leave the good cause to your powerful advocacy which has already rendered such important services to Africa.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. RAINY.

#### DANGER OF FRESH TROUBLES WITH ASHANTEE. SIXTY ASHANTEES SEIZED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, January 15, 1868.

Sir,—Something very serious has occurred, and great alarm is felt here, as to the probable consequences. Some of the kings and chiefs in the interior, near Saltpond, have made prisoners of above sixty Ashantees and put them in log, on the ground that they had bought and concealed a quantity of powder and bars of lead. A report has, of course, spread that the Ashantees will assuredly invade the protected Territories again. I am sorry to say I do not think this report and apprehension to be either wild or altogether unfounded. I know that news has come from Prince Ansah at Kumasi that the King is very angry with him, and will not allow him to return to Cape Coast. As he was in this humour, his having sixty of his people put in log (iron) by the Fantes will, I fear, exasperate him, and may lead to war. Mr. Usher, the Administrator, is away in the Aquapim mountains for his health, but Mr. Elliott, his Chief Clerk, has gone with Mr. Thomas Hughes to endeavour to release the captives and convey them to the Ashantee frontier (the Prah). I hope they will succeed; but it is very questionable if they will, for there have been some very large and influential meetings of kings and chiefs in the interior, at which they have solemnly protested against the exchange of territory, and have declared that they are willing and determined to fight the Ashantees without any Government help. It is a great pity Mr. Usher is away and not well enough to see after this serious affair himself, but Mr. Grant is most assiduous in endeavouring to bring about a quiet state of things.—Yours,

V.

#### EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 7, 1868.

Sir,—Governor Blackall arrived here on the 3rd in his yacht in company with H.M. ships "Rattlesnake" and "Lee"—the commodore was in the first-named ship. On the 4th the Dutch Governor arrived from Elmina in a Dutch corvette, which also had a Commodore's broad pennant. At four p.m. on the 4th the Dutch flag was lowered and the English hoisted over the Fort with much ceremony and under double salutes from the English and Dutch ships of war and from the Forts. The Dutch Governor made a most suitable address to his late subjects, and Governor Blackall a most silly and absurd one. I shall give you full particulars of all that took place by next mail. Notwithstanding disastrous facts Governor Blackall sticks to his celebrated peace proclamation of last year. The very day he arrived official information came from the Volta to report that the Aquamboes had crossed over and attacked our people, killing great numbers. This does not look well for Mr. Freeman's peace; but we wait as patiently as is possible, under the (for us) ruinous circumstances, for the good fruit which is promised to us. Blackall says the Government cannot interfere. Governor Blackall and Administrator Usher both left this morning for Cape Coast and Dix Cove, to hand the latter over to the Dutch.—Yours,

ACCRA.

#### INCREASE OF GOLD COAST REVENUES.—THE EATING-UP PROCESS BEGUN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 21, 1868.

Sir,—When the exchange of territories was coming on, we all surmised that Governor Blackall on his arrival here, finding the state of matters the same as when he left them, would take some steps for finally settling the long-standing question of our war troubles. But he cared very little about our welfare, or whether we go to the devil or not. All he did when he was here was to depose our kings for defending their country, and to levy taxes. It is only eighteen days since the exchange was made, but they have got more than 7000*l.* in spirit licences alone. All this is going in the usual way—in increasing salaries. Blackall, as a legacy I suppose of his now almost defunct administration, has increased the pay of the Chief Civil Commandant here from 300*l.* a-year to 500*l.* a-year—a legacy of 200*l.* a-year out of the

colonial revenues. And all the other officials *except one* only—and that one the most deserving of all—have had an increase of pay awarded to them out of the *to be flourishing* exchequer! Major Blackall told us distinctly, when we called upon him, that we might "rest assured that every farthing collected in Accra should be usefully expended in the district." But I suppose he would call this usefully expended in the district. We do not. I do not say that 500*l.* a-year is too much to give to a Chief Civil Commandant if he be a civilian, dependent on that alone—and *fit for the office*; but to give it to a young subaltern, who is already in receipt of military pay, and certainly *not a luminary*, is what we call downright theft—a robbery of the colonial revenues. Expose it, Mr. Editor, or every increase of revenues will be eaten up by official locusts, without any advantage to this country or people.—Yours truly,  
"A SUFFERER."

#### PUBLIC MEETING AT ACCRA.

The Awoonlah Peace and Mr. Freeman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, December 23, 1867.

Sir,—Mr. Freeman, the Commissioner sent by the local Government to notify to the Awoonlahs and the several tribes on the banks of the Volta that peace was proclaimed, returned to this place last week, after an absence of two months. During this period he has visited Crobo, Addah, Awoonlah, Jellee Coffee, and all the towns on both sides of the Volta from Addah to Pong, including the two hostile towns of Vlo and Doffor. The reports that reached Accra as to the reception he met with at various places during his tour were not satisfactory to those who had for two years been relying on the opening of the Crepee roads. Some of these rumours were, doubtless, manufactured; others again were highly coloured, but it must be admitted that not a few can be supported by facts which prove what I have so often said and written—namely, that savage tribes do not hold in much respect a commissioner or negotiator who is not prepared to support his specious arguments with bayonets, however numerous may be his unarmed followers and retainers, and however valuable may be the presents with which he is armed for the purpose of gaining over the enemy.

On the 19th inst. a public meeting was convened in Jamestown, for the purpose (as was stated in the circular inviting attendance) of affording Mr. Freeman an opportunity of imparting to the community information relative to his proceedings at Awoonlah and Aquamboe, and to answer questions on the subject. This meeting was the most scantily but, at the same time, the most respectfully attended one of the kind that I ever witnessed in the place. The mobbish element and that class of semi-drunken, loafing ragamuffins that usually swarm at our public meetings for the sole purpose of joining in the discussion, not of the subject which called forth the meeting, but of the drink generally offered to the respectable persons at the close of the proceedings, were not represented by a single individual of either species; and what was still more remarkable, there was no representative of that party so prominent and so mischievously conspicuous in the May meetings to which reference has been made in a former number of this journal. From what one could gather from the observations of the Commissioner, it would seem that the Aquamboes and Awoonlahs were really desirous of peace. Also, that these two tribes had signed treaties binding themselves to keep the peace towards all those under the so-called protection of the British Government, which treaties were read by Mr. Freeman to the meeting.

The British Government makes itself responsible for the proper maintenance of peace and the strict observance of the treaty by the tribes under its protection; and binds itself to punish as severely as may be in its power any one who breaks the treaty. The British Government further binds itself to pay the King of Aquamboe the sum of 200 dollars a-year for permission to navigate that part of the Volta bordering on his territory but *within* the Protectorate!

This is about the pith of the treaties. The meeting lasted over four hours. Several questions were put to the Commissioner, to each of which he replied in that true diplomatic style which left the inquisitive parties less informed and more curious. One of the rumours that had reached Accra prior to the Commissioner's return, was to the effect that on arriving at Doffor (an Aquamboe town on the banks of the Volta) his party was fired into by the Doffors and his interpreter, Mr. George Thompson, nearly shot; and that the British flag which he had with him was taken from him as well as the canoe which carried him and his staff, &c., &c., but that the flag and canoe were restored to him (minus a few articles which the Doffors found useful) on payment of a certain sum—to wit, ninety-six heads of cowries.

The Commissioner, being questioned on this point, replied that it was certainly a fact that a great number of men, armed with guns, had appeared on the banks of the Volta as he approached

Doffor and had made hostile demonstrations by pointing guns at his party, and "three or four guns flashed in the pan," but otherwise his reception was as loyal as that which he had met at every other place, and that he had reason to be pleased rather than otherwise at the treatment he experienced on the occasion.

The meeting was, upon the whole, satisfactory, inasmuch that everyone now knows exactly how matters stand and what to expect. It was unanimously resolved that all parties should give their willing and hearty support to what it was clear the Government had determined should be the ruling policy of the day, so that come what might, it could not be afterwards urged that the measures of the Government to secure peace had been frustrated by factious opposition. One of the persons present at the meeting, an individual who has been opposed to war in the disguise of peace, was more than once called to order by the Commissioner for giving expression in an excited manner and unparliamentary language to his opinion on one or two questions, which was contrary to that held by the Commissioner himself and the majority of the meeting; but with this exception the meeting passed off quietly. I shall refrain from offering any remarks upon the subject of these treaties at present; and I think that we should neither praise nor censure Mr. Freeman until there has been time for his labours to bear fruit.—Yours truly,  
E. B.

#### THE "PEACE AT ANY PRICE" POLICY A DELUSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Christiansburg, January 20, 1868.

Sir,—I have been blamed and abused by the friends and supporters of the "peace at any price" policy for the opposition I have always offered to that policy as well as for the letters I have from time to time addressed to you condemning such policy, and pointing out the danger to be apprehended from putting too much faith in treaties made with treacherous savages totally unacquainted with the nature of those documents which even the rulers and ministers of the most civilized nations do not consider binding a moment longer than is convenient to them. I have opposed such a policy not, as has been observed, out of mere factiousness, but because I firmly believed that it was against the real interests of the country, and I have always been fully persuaded that a day would soon come when even my opponents would be forced, in spite of themselves, to admit the same. That day has come; and I have the consolation of knowing that amongst those who held the opinion that peace should be *bought* at any price, there was not a single native of the country, nor one independent English merchant—in fact not one person whose experience, position, or stake in the country entitled his opinion to the least consideration. I refrain from mentioning any names; my desire is not to be personal, neither will I gratify the ambition of the parties by dragging them from their native obscurity. After having thrown away 300*l.* in cash, and I don't know how much in foolscap and other stationery, in inducing the Aquamboes and Awoonlahs to attach their names to bits of paper, the local authorities are now compelled to acknowledge that that sum would have been more beneficially and profitably expended in bringing those tribes to reason in the only manner intelligible to barbarians, be they Africans or Germans. If the Administrator will not entirely scorn the advice of the sincerest and most disinterested supporters of peace and order, he may yet extricate the Government and the country from the scrape into which they and it have been inveigled more creditably and with less cost than if he persists in heeding the counsels of sycophants and time-servers, who, having been born and bred in a land where grinding despotism (to escape which they came out here) is the order of the day, consider it a part of their creed to say that black is white, if by so saying they think they can please the powers that be. You will receive letters from others of your correspondents detailing the state of affairs on the Volta.—Yours, &c.,  
ANTI-TOADY.

#### WAR RECOMMENCED BY THE AQUAMBOES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 20, 1868.

Sir,—The peace hoax has exploded; the bubble has burst. After Mr. Freeman returned from Aquamboe with his "treaty of peace and amity" the Government despatched an agent to the capital of Aquamboe to reside there permanently, and to report what passed. This agent, Mr. Jonathan Palmer, of Akropong, was accompanied by a sub-agent, a messenger with a cane, and two of the Gold Coast armed police, named John Vine and Christian Smith.

About the 24th December last a party of Doffors (a tribe subject to the King of Aquamboe) crossed over to Assucharry, and caught one man whom they found in the plantations, killed him, and cut off his head. They carried his head to the King

of Aquamboe, and reported to him that the Assucharrys had attacked them, but that they had driven them away and killed one, whose head they brought to him as a trophy. The King and his chiefs then and there determined to send a large force to plunder and destroy the town of Assucharry. They sent for Mr. Palmer and his companions, and told them that Mr. Freeman had deceived them by telling that peace was established, and that they were determined now to have war. They despatched the sub-agent and Vine, the policeman, to inform the Government of their intentions, and Mr. J. Palmer and the others they made prisoners of. At the same time they despatched a force across the river to attack Assucharry.

The first attack took place on the 1st January, and was repulsed. On the 6th they made a second attack, which was still more unsuccessful. In this last attack the Aquamboes lost several of their principal chiefs, killed, besides others wounded. The King is now so enraged at his ill-success, as well as at finding that the Doffors deceived him in the first instance, that he has left his capital with the whole of his forces, and has encamped near Doffor, where he is now waiting for assistance from his allies, the Awoonlahs, in order to attack our people again.

The above information was imparted to me by the person whom Mr. Freeman left at Assucharry as Government agent, and was present during the fight on the 6th inst. This person, Gabriel Yestropp by name, has assured me that the two attacks were quite unprovoked on the part of our people, and that the Aquamboes took them entirely by surprise. Let the Government look to this. It cannot now be said that we are raising false rumours. The whole country is now arming for the coming conflict.—Yours, &c.,  
ACCA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Assucharry, January 12, 1868.

Sir,—For a very long time we prophesied the futility of treaties signed by ignorant and savage tribes; we saw, argued, and denounced them, but in vain. Blackall, with his accomplices, have now filled up the measure of his iniquity, on the principle of making peace at any price. This peace project, carried on by Mr. Freeman, has now decidedly borne its painful fruits.

Mr. Freeman returned to Accra from Awoola on the other side the Volta in December last, and gave us there perfectly to understand that "there is now peace between the Awoola and its allies on the one part, and the Accras and their allies on the other part, treaties having been signed to that effect." We plainly told Mr. Freeman that peace thus effected would not stand; we had our misgivings and apprehensions, but Freeman insisted upon peace having been made, and challenged a meeting of the Accra merchants, &c., to ask him any question we liked on the subject. We expressed our opinion, we doubted, but he brought in strong arguments to prove that all was right on the Volta and with Awoolah.

A fortnight after this, on the 1st of January, the Aquamboes and their allies made a fruitless attack on Assucharry, on this side of the Volta, for the purpose of plunder, but were shamefully repulsed; not being satisfied, they repeated this attack on a grand scale on the 6th instant, led on by two principal chiefs in Aquamoo, Bakie and Nabla. The attack was made in the morning, and fighting continued till 3 p.m.

The loss on both sides was considerable, but the Aquamboes lost both Bakie and Nabla, their leaders, and about 100 men killed. There were about thirty men killed on our side. You can have no idea how fighting is carried on here; whoever falls must have his head cut off unless his friends manage to remove him in time.

The King of Aquamoo is at Dofu, and is gathering a very large force for another attack; he has got a reinforcement of three companies from Awoolah, and others are coming. In the meantime our people are making ready to defend themselves. I fear this war will be a bloody one—about 30,000 men meeting together in strife. We have to thank Governor Blackall for this; he is responsible to God for so many lives.

After Mr. Freeman published the so-called peace, he sent two policemen, interpreter, and three others to Aquamoo and Anum—they have all been seized and put in log, and are still there on account of this recent fighting, only one of the people having managed to effect his escape. We were never in a worse state than we are at present; never was a country so consigned to wholesale ruin as the eastern district of the Gold Coast now is. We are at a loss to know what the Government intend to do. It is not to be supposed that Her Majesty's Government is fallen so low here that they will leave their agent and messenger in the hands of the Aquamboes to be put to death at their leisure.—Yours,  
VOLTA.

Laudrail, 5, Captain H. L. A. L. Maitland, recently returned from the West Coast of Africa, has been dismantled, and paid off into the third division of the steam reserve in the Medway.

#### THE RIVER "VOLTA": GOLD COAST.

CAPABILITIES AS REGARDS NAVIGATION.

The mouth of the River Volta is a little below the town of Addah. Ascending from Addah to Amedeka, a distance of from 100 to 120 miles, there are neither rocks nor rapids, but a broad sheet of water with a depth of about six feet in the dry season, and of twenty feet and upwards in the rainy season. At Amedeka rocks commence in the channel of the river and extend to Kporng; but these rocks have a depth of six or eight feet of water above them when the river is full. Again, commencing a little above Kporng there are rocks throughout the next twelve miles, then a good depth of water for about twenty miles; again rocks for a little more than a mile, then good full water. After the last mentioned rocks have been passed, rapids are here and there met with. During the dry season, therefore, the river is always navigable in the 120 miles between Addah and Amedeka; and navigable throughout during the rainy season, when the river is full.  
B.

#### THE AWOONLAH WARS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Christiansburg, Accra, December 23, 1867.

Sir,—Mr. Freeman has returned from Awoolah and has brought a treaty signed by the Chiefs of that place and Mr. Freeman, on the part of the Government. The spirit and letter of the treaty is peace with Awoolah. I must here ask, for what purpose are these treaties? for they have never served their end. Governor Blackall proclaimed his peace in April last, Freeman also signed a treaty with the Aquamboes in August last, yet matters remain the same, if not worse. We are now of course waiting to see the result of the newly-drawn treaty. I wrote you some time ago that the Aquamboes regard the treaty made with them as their wages book, to draw their monthly stipend; this is literally true, as by the treaty they are to have 50*l.* a-year from the British Government. I should like to know the reason of this disgraceful act, whether this is done in acknowledgment of our allegiance to them, or what? Was this done to support them for their outrages and for attacking Dodi, killing and taking poor people prisoners? We want an explanation of this. Was this done to encourage them in their belief that they are the sole owners of the River Volta? Can peace not be obtained on more honourable terms than begging and offering them money? We shall thank you to expose these matters. I am sure the British Government will find it necessary to change this line of policy.—I am, yours truly,  
ONE OF THE SUFFERERS.

#### LAGOS.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN 1867.

Imports.

Total for the year ending December 31, 1867,  
value . . . . . £321,977 19 10

Exports.

Beniseed, Black Oil, Cotton, Ivory, Ground Nuts, Palm Kernels, Palm Oil; and Sundries £31,893 6s. 6d., value . . . . . 513,157 13 3  
N.B.—The above are the official Government returns.

SHIPPING.

Vessels entered inward.

British . . . 119 vessels, 44,391 tons, 2,692 crews.  
Foreign . . . 79 " 20,053 " 856 "

Totals . . . 198 64,444 3,548

Vessels cleared outward.

British . . . 124 vessels, 43,137 tons, 2,728 crews.  
Foreign . . . 80 " 20,411 " 838 "

Totals . . . 204 64,248 3,566

Details of the Lagos exports will appear in our March number.

#### COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held pursuant to notice on the 21st inst., at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, London, William Dent, Esq., the Chairman of the company, presiding. The accounts showed a net profit for the year 1867 of 34,463*l.* after having carried 3,936*l.* to depreciation fund. This profit was thus appropriated: Dividend, July, at 8 per cent., 5,000*l.*; ditto, December 31, at 15 per cent., 9,000*l.*; directors' fees, 1,600*l.*; income-tax on dividends, 291*l.* 13s.; carried to credit of insurance account, 3,530*l.*; ditto to profit and loss account for 1868, 15,041*l.* 15s.

TRADE WITH THE COLOURED RACES OF AFRICA.—An interesting paper on this subject was read before the Statistical Society, in St. James's-square, on Tuesday evening, 18th inst., by Archibald Hamilton, Esq. The Right Hon. W. Gladstone, M.P., was in the chair.

## CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

Mrs. Joseph Moseley gratefully acknowledges the following:—

|                                                           |      |    |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|----|---|
| Amount already published . . .                            | £513 | 4  | 3 |
| Rev. Capel Molyneux, from Church offerings . . .          | 5    | 0  | 0 |
| Collected by daughter of Judge Parker, in Edinboro' . . . | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| Wm. Rainy, Esq., B.L., from Sierra Leone . . .            | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| E. Gwyer, Esq., per F. Fitzgerald, Esq. . . . .           | 0    | 7  | 6 |
| Wardlaw Scott, Esq. . . . .                               | 0    | 5  | 0 |
| Mr. Ardassan Curesjee, Parsee of Bombay . . . . .         | 0    | 10 | 0 |
| W. H. Thompson, Esq. . . . .                              | 1    | 0  | 0 |

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

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## The African Times.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1868.

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## THE STATE AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

It has now become more or less an admitted social law in so-called Christian states that "property has its duties as well as its rights." And what is true as regards "property" is also true as regards "dominion." Dominion in states is like property in individuals; it has to do with human beings as well as with things, and therefore it cannot properly be enjoyed, or its rights exercised in a spirit of narrow selfishness. Dominion, like property, is a trust; and its possession and exercise involve responsibilities which cannot be neglected or disallowed with impunity. Great Britain has established her dominion over certain portions of West Africa. It matters not by what considerations or process she was led to do this, whether it was through lust of possessions, through the supposed necessity of not allowing certain positions to fall into the hands of other European powers, through the commercial activity of her people, or through a chain of unavoidable circumstances arising from a great preceding national iniquity. The result is all we have to look at: there she is, holding colonies or possessions, ruling and governing, issuing laws, and raising revenues; there she is, holding on the Coast the keys of a populous interior, abounding in undeveloped resources, and a prey to the horrors of ignorant, barbarous, and cruel superstitions, the one and the other of which can only be made available or destroyed by a proper exercise of her influence in opening the way for the progress of Christian civilization. No Christian man can dispute that this position which she has assumed on the outskirts of a most revolting barbarism is one of very great responsibility. Superstitions which insult God and outrage humanity have been given into her hand for peaceful extirpation; God has given to her the means for gradually but surely effecting that extirpation; and every delay, at the suggestion of an ignorant selfishness, in earnestly using those means, makes her virtually an accomplice in all those deeds of darkness and of blood which the energetic exercise of her influence might have prevented. What we call for, therefore, with regard to Western Africa, is an enlightened Christian policy. We do not ask that Imperial funds shall be lavished in Africa; we do not want this country to make pecuniary sacrifices for her. We do not believe any such course to be necessary. The West African countries are countries of unbounded though at present dormant and undeveloped wealth, and all that is required to make these available for the introduction and increase of Christian civilization,

is to make such introduction and increase the real and steadfast aim and object of British policy. Then no man will be selected for official employment on the Coast who cannot identify himself with that aim and object, and be depended upon to govern his conduct thereby. Then the public works indispensable for an increased development of industrial resources over a constantly-extending area will be carefully studied and promoted. By a wise and economic management of the public revenues of the settlements, these will be made to afford a steady surplus to secure the interest and ultimate redemption of loans raised at moderate rates of interest under imperial guarantee. For it must be borne always in mind that unless there should be great changes in climatic influences, resulting from sanitary improvements and the spread of cultivation over the land, there is not likely to be any adequate introduction of British capital, except under such guarantee; while to leave the several countries without such works until the natives should possess a realised surplus capital that might be employed on them, would be to consign those countries to a long and indefinite term of scarcely perceptible advancement, while we stood sentinels over a murderous idolatry and the most hideous abominations, alike regardless of the honour of God and the interests of humanity. In struggling, then, for a wise, just, generous, Christian administration of the British West African settlements, we are struggling for what is of the most vital importance there; for that without which their steps towards civilization and wealth, and the blessings that Christianity confers, must be slow, feeble, and uncertain, instead of rapid, vigorous, and firm, as we would have them to be. In thus struggling we are therefore necessarily at war with every one of the old official abuses; with every interested intriguer who for his small personal ends would retard the advancement of the African people, and the enjoyment by them of all the rights and privileges which the name of British subject ought to confer, because such abuses and intrigues bring reproach upon the imperial policy, while they are an insult and an injury to Africa.

## MR. SHERWOOD, EX-COLONIAL SURGEON AT THE GAMBIA.

It was for a long time our painful duty to expose the unpardonable excesses and neglect of Mr. Sherwood, in his office of Colonial Surgeon at the Gambia. The native people did not believe their lives safe in his hands, and they were exceedingly grateful to the Secretary of State for the Colonies when they learned, in a brief notice in this journal, that he had been dismissed the Government service. They are now in dismay, and have sent us hasty news of their trouble *via* Goree and France. Mr. Sherwood, they say, has prayed the Secretary of State for the Colonies to re-appoint him to Bathurst, or some other settlement on the Coast.

It is also stated that the Duke of Buckingham has forwarded the memorial through Sierra Leone to Bathurst to see if it will be supported there. On the day they wrote us, a memorial had been signed by several Europeans, to whom Mr. Sherwood is said to be in debt, and who would like him to be reinstated that they may be paid. We do not hesitate to say that the re-appointment of Mr. Sherwood (who has now, we believe, obtained his diploma as surgeon, having been before illegally in practice) to any part of the West Coast will be a most grievous act of oppression and wrong, and we protest against it. If Mr. Sherwood must be re-appointed in the Government service, let it be to some colony where he would be kept under control in the exercise of his duties by public opinion, which he would not be anywhere on the West Coast of Africa. We had previously heard that Mr. Sherwood had applied to the Colonial-office for a pension. This, of course, the head of that office may recommend Her Majesty to grant; but, we shall ever maintain, NOT OUT OF THE FUNDS OF THE GAMBIA, for upon these Mr. Sherwood can have no claim, as we should easily establish, should the necessity be forced upon us by any attempt thus to dispose of Gambia revenue.

## THE RIVER CONGO AND AFRICAN RESOURCES.

WHEN the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton, one of the most worthy among the chief worthies who warred against the transatlantic slave-trade from Africa, and warred for Africa—when, we say, the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton called attention to the wonderful productiveness of those lands which the slave-trade was deluging with blood and robbing of its labourers, the great sceptical majority who would not admit that any good thing could come out from Africa looked upon him as a visionary enthusiast—as an earnest man who rode his hobby to the death, and was worthy a niche in the Temple of Fame only beside the author of those most true and sober tales, the "Arabian Nights!" The unbounded natural wealth of those tropical lands seemed to them as a dream; and even the late Lord Palmerston, when he endorsed Sir F. Buxton's statements, and predicted a great industrial future for Africa, almost hazarded that reputation as a practical statesman which was the corner-stone of his political success. "Some of us," said Buxton, "may live to see a reverse of that picture from which we now turn our eyes with shame and regret. We may live to behold the natives of Africa engaged in the calm occupations of industry, and in the pursuit of a just and legitimate commerce."\* And the late Lord Palmerston persisted in the face of every opposition in measures for the forcible suppression of the foreign slave-trade, with an unalterable conviction that Sir F. Buxton was right. Subsequent experience has been continually establishing that he *was* right. We have alluded from time to time to the extensive palm oil-trade, which became rapidly developed in what are called specially "the oil rivers" so soon as the discontinuance of the slave-trade had been forced upon the native authorities there; and we shall show on another occasion that if the oil-trade is not still advancing at an equal ratio in those localities, it is not because of any impoverishment as regards the resources of the countries of which those rivers form the outlet. But at present we desire to call attention exclusively to the last instance of industrial results, proving the immense wealth of inter-tropical Western Africa, which was only waiting to show itself until the traffic in human beings should be at an end.

The River Congo (or Zaire) enters the ocean in about 6° South, and 13° East of Greenwich. Captain Tuckey, R.N., who was sent out by the British Government to survey it in 1816, found the ideas previously entertained of its wondrous magnitude to be incorrect, but, nevertheless, that it was a river flowing through a country of great beauty and abundant resources, and that could not fail to attain to considerable industrial importance if the slave-trade, which was then draining it of human beings, could be suppressed. But that slave-trade held its sway in the Congo long after it had been put an end to in the so-called Oil Rivers. The peculiar conformation of the river gave great facilities for carrying on the slave-trade with secrecy. Slave ships could lie so securely hidden as not to be detected by British cruisers on a mere casual visit; and even when steam-ships had superseded sailing ships in the West Coast squadron, the mouth of the river was frequently left unguarded while the ships of the squadron went elsewhere to coal. This continued until about three years ago, although the work of industrial substitution for slave-trade had commenced, and become firmly established because of the numerous seizures effected by the slave suppression squadron. But since 1864, when arrangements were made by Her Majesty's Government with a Dutch house at the mouth of the river, for coaling Her Majesty's steamships there, the slave-trade has been all but extinct; and the industrial results shown by the legitimate commerce since carried on are such as would have made good Sir F. Buxton's heart leap with joy. It is estimated that the legitimate trade has increased more than tenfold during the last six years, one Dutch house alone having sent away *seventeen cargoes of produce* in the year 1867. The exports for 1867 from this river so recently redeemed from the slave-trade are estimated by houses engaged in trade there to have been of the value of a *quarter of a million sterling*.

\* Buxton, Slave-trade and Remedy, 1840, p. 459.

The chief articles of produce making up this considerable sum were:—

|                                        |       |
|----------------------------------------|-------|
| Palm oil . . . . .                     | Tons. |
| India-rubber . . . . .                 | 2,700 |
| Palm kernels and ground nuts . . . . . | 300   |
|                                        | 5,000 |

May we not justly point with triumph to this, and ask once more when will Great Britain arrive at a correct estimate of the real value and importance of West Africa in an industrial point of view? And surely the results obtained in this river must be received as a triumphant vindication of the employment of a West Coast squadron for the suppression of the slave-trade, and of the great philanthropists who have fought the battle for Africa against unholy interests, in spite of all the obstacles arising from a most culpable Christian indifference among the British people. Plunged in ignorance and victims of cruel superstition, the natives of the Congo, like almost all other parts of West Africa, still are; and no adequate efforts are being made by British Christians to preach among them the everlasting Gospel. But we do not believe that the apathy which at present exists as regards them can much longer continue. British Christians will yet awake to their great responsibilities toward a people so long "scattered and peeled;" the Word of Life will be widely proclaimed among them, and there can be no reason why another *dream*, as it was called of the immortal Buxton, should not be realised as well as that now so rapidly realising of Africa's vast industrial wealth. Continuing from whence we have before quoted, he says, "We may behold the beams of science and philosophy breaking in upon their land, which at some happier period in still later time may blaze with full lustre, and joining their influence to that of *pure religion* may illuminate and invigorate the most distant extremities of that immense continent." Our own individual prayer is that God may give us the power to work vigorously for these great ends.

## THE COURTS OF JUSTICE IN THE GAMBIA, ETC.

We were much struck with a paragraph in the very able letter of "A Native Oyster," which appeared in our number for December last. On the subject of the so-called administration of justice at the Gambia, and the changes introduced or sought to be introduced therein, the "Native Oyster" says: "Mr. Brown shows clearly, to the satisfaction of Mr. Chalmers at least, that he (Chalmers) had stultified himself by issuing a writ out of a court whose existence by a law which he assisted to enact was destroyed; and that he had actually allowed a judgment to be obtained in a court which had long since ceased to exist." Now, no form of words could state a position more clearly than this does—viz., that the Supreme Court of the Gambia had been abolished; that Mr. Chalmers was one of the active instruments in abolishing it; that after having thus abolished it, he had himself issued a writ out of it, and allowed a judgment to be obtained in it; and that Mr. Brown having shown this to Mr. Chalmers, certain results very prejudicial to Mr. Reffles and his clients followed. But we have had grave doubts whether the position is such as our "Native Oyster" has thus graphically described. We cannot find any satisfactory evidence whatever that the Supreme Court of the Gambia had ceased to exist at that period. We have evidence of the intention to establish another court—"a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice of the Settlements on the Gambia"—so far as a printed Ordinance bearing no number, issued by Colonel D'Arcy as having been passed at a Council held on the 26th November, 1866, *without any announcement of such Ordinance having been confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen*, could establish it. But unless it be so distinctly stated and proclaimed as law, we have yet to learn that the establishment of the new court, even if this has ever been legally effected, necessarily put an end to the existence of the old one. The two might co-exist; they might have co-ordinate jurisdiction. We have nothing to do with the subject of the confusion such a state of administration of law and justice would create. All that rests solely with the legislating

## WEST COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

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| by B.L., from Sierra Leone                            | 1    | 0  | 0 |
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| Esq.                                                  | 0    | 5  | 0 |
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## THE STATE AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

It now become more or less an admitted social law in Christian states that "property has its duties as well as its rights." And what is true as regards "property" is also true as regards "dominion." Dominion in its true sense is the property in individuals; it has to do with the rights of the individual as well as with things, and therefore it is properly to be enjoyed, or its rights exercised in a manner which is not selfishness. Dominion, like property, is a right which cannot be neglected or disallowed with impunity. Great Britain has established her dominion in various portions of West Africa. It matters not by what process she was led to do this, or it was through lust of possessions, through the necessity of not allowing certain positions to fall into the hands of other European powers, through the moral activity of her people, or through a chain of noble circumstances arising from a great preceding infatuation. The result is all we have to look at: she is holding colonies or possessions, ruling and administering laws, and raising revenues; there she is holding the keys of a populous interior, and in undeveloped resources, and a prey to the most ignorant, barbarous, and cruel superstitions, the other of which can only be made available or used by a proper exercise of her influence in opening up the progress of Christian civilization. No man can dispute that this position which she has taken on the outskirts of a most revolting barbarism is a very great responsibility. Superstitions which God and outrage humanity have been given into and for peaceful extirpation; God has given to her means for gradually but surely effecting that extirpation, and every delay, at the suggestion of an ignorant and fanatical priest, in earnestly using those means, makes her vicariously accomplice in all those deeds of darkness and of which the energetic exercise of her influence might have prevented. What we call for, therefore, with regard to Africa, is an enlightened Christian policy. It is not that Imperial funds shall be lavished in the support of a country to make pecuniary gain for her. We do not believe any such course to be wise. The West African countries are countries which though at present dormant and undeveloped, and which that is required to make these available for the education and increase of Christian civilization,

is to make such introduction and increase the real and steadfast aim and object of British policy. Then no man will be selected for official employment on the Coast who cannot identify himself with that aim and object, and be depended upon to govern his conduct thereby. Then the public works indispensable for an increased development of industrial resources over a constantly-extending area will be carefully studied and promoted. By a wise and economic management of the public revenues of the settlements, these will be made to afford a steady surplus to secure the interest and ultimate redemption of loans raised at moderate rates of interest under imperial guarantee. For it must be borne always in mind that unless there should be great changes in climatic influences, resulting from sanitary improvements and the spread of cultivation over the land, there is not likely to be any adequate introduction of British capital, except under such guarantee; while to leave the several countries without such works until the natives should possess a realised surplus capital that might be employed on them, would be to consign those countries to a long and indefinite term of scarcely perceptible advancement, while we stood sentinels over a murderous idolatry and the most hideous abominations, alike regardless of the honour of God and the interests of humanity. In struggling, then, for a wise, just, generous, Christian administration of the British West African settlements, we are struggling for what is of the most vital importance there; for that without which their steps towards civilization and wealth, and the blessings that Christianity confers, must be slow, feeble, and uncertain, instead of rapid, vigorous, and firm, as we would have them to be. In thus struggling we are therefore necessarily at war with every one of the old official abuses; with every interested intriguer who for his small personal ends would retard the advancement of the African people, and the enjoyment by them of all the rights and privileges which the name of British subject ought to confer, because such abuses and intrigues bring reproach upon the imperial policy, while they are an insult and an injury to Africa.

## MR. SHERWOOD, EX-COLONIAL SURGEON AT THE GAMBIA.

It was for a long time our painful duty to expose the unpardonable excesses and neglect of Mr. Sherwood, in his office of Colonial Surgeon at the Gambia. The native people did not believe their lives safe in his hands, and they were exceedingly grateful to the Secretary of State for the Colonies when they learned, in a brief notice in this journal, that he had been dismissed the Government service. They are now in dismay, and have sent us hasty news of their trouble *via* Goree and France. Mr. Sherwood, they say, has prayed the Secretary of State for the Colonies to re-appoint him to Bathurst, or some other settlement on the Coast.

It is also stated that the Duke of Buckingham has forwarded the memorial through Sierra Leone to Bathurst to see if it will be supported there. On the day they wrote us, a memorial had been signed by several Europeans, to whom Mr. Sherwood is said to be in debt, and who would like him to be reinstated that they may be paid. We do not hesitate to say that the re-appointment of Mr. Sherwood (who has now, we believe, obtained his diploma as surgeon, having been before illegally in practice) to any part of the West Coast will be a most grievous act of oppression and wrong, and we protest against it. If Mr. Sherwood must be re-appointed in the Government service, let it be to some colony where he would be kept under control in the exercise of his duties by public opinion, which he would not be anywhere on the West Coast of Africa. We had previously heard that Mr. Sherwood had applied to the Colonial-office for a pension. This, of course, the head of that office may recommend Her Majesty to grant; but, we shall ever maintain, NOT OUT OF THE FUNDS OF THE GAMBIA, for upon these Mr. Sherwood can have no claim, as we should easily establish, should the necessity be forced upon us by any attempt thus to dispose of Gambia revenue.

## THE RIVER CONGO AND AFRICAN RESOURCES.

WHEN the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton, one of the most worthy among the chief worthies who warred against the transatlantic slave-trade from Africa, and warred for Africa—when, we say, the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton called attention to the wonderful productiveness of those lands which the slave-trade was deluging with blood and robbing of its labourers, the great sceptical majority who would not admit that any good thing could come out from Africa looked upon him as a visionary enthusiast—as an earnest man who rode his hobby to the death, and was worthy a niche in the Temple of Fame only beside the author of those most true and sober tales, the "Arabian Nights!" The unbounded natural wealth of those tropical lands seemed to them as a dream; and even the late Lord Palmerston, when he endorsed Sir F. Buxton's statements, and predicted a great industrial future for Africa, almost hazarded that reputation as a practical statesman which was the corner-stone of his political success. "Some of us," said Buxton, "may live to see a reverse of that picture from which we now turn our eyes with shame and regret. We may live to behold the natives of Africa engaged in the calm occupations of industry, and in the pursuit of a just and legitimate commerce."\* And the late Lord Palmerston persisted in the face of every opposition in measures for the forcible suppression of the foreign slave-trade, with an unalterable conviction that Sir F. Buxton was right. Subsequent experience has been continually establishing that he was right. We have alluded from time to time to the extensive palm oil-trade, which became rapidly developed in what are called specially "the oil rivers" so soon as the discontinuance of the slave-trade had been forced upon the native authorities there; and we shall show on another occasion that if the oil-trade is not still advancing at an equal ratio in those localities, it is not because of any impoverishment as regards the resources of the countries of which those rivers form the outlet. But at present we desire to call attention exclusively to the last instance of industrial results, proving the immense wealth of inter-tropical Western Africa, which was only waiting to show itself until the traffic in human beings should be at an end.

The River Congo (or Zaire) enters the ocean in about 6° South, and 13° East of Greenwich. Captain Tuckey, R.N., who was sent out by the British Government to survey it in 1816, found the ideas previously entertained of its wondrous magnitude to be incorrect, but, nevertheless, that it was a river flowing through a country of great beauty and abundant resources, and that could not fail to attain to considerable industrial importance if the slave-trade, which was then draining it of human beings, could be suppressed. But that slave-trade held its way in the Congo long after it had been put an end to in the so-called Oil Rivers. The peculiar conformation of the river gave great facilities for carrying on the slave-trade with secrecy. Slave ships could lie so securely hidden as not to be detected by British cruisers on a mere casual visit; and even when steam-ships had superseded sailing ships in the West Coast squadron, the mouth of the river was frequently left unguarded while the ships of the squadron went elsewhere to coal. This continued until about three years ago, although the work of industrial substitution for slave-trade had commenced, and become firmly established because of the numerous seizures effected by the slave suppression squadron. But since 1864, when arrangements were made by Her Majesty's Government with a Dutch house at the mouth of the river, for coaling Her Majesty's steamships there, the slave-trade has been all but extinct; and the industrial results shown by the legitimate commerce since carried on are such as would have made good Sir F. Buxton's heart leap with joy. It is estimated that the legitimate trade has increased more than tenfold during the last six years, one Dutch house alone having sent away seventeen cargoes of produce in the year 1867. The exports for 1867 from this river so recently redeemed from the slave-trade are estimated by houses engaged in trade there to have been of the value of a quarter of a million sterling.

\* Buxton, Slave-trade and Remedy, 1840, p. 459.

## The chief articles of produce making up this considerable sum were:—

|                              | Tons. |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Palm oil                     | 2,700 |
| India-rubber                 | 300   |
| Palm kernels and ground nuts | 5,000 |

May we not justly point with triumph to this, and ask once more when will Great Britain arrive at a correct estimate of the real value and importance of West Africa in an industrial point of view? And surely the results obtained in this river must be received as a triumphant vindication of the employment of a West Coast squadron for the suppression of the slave-trade, and of the great philanthropists who have fought the battle for Africa against unholy interests, in spite of all the obstacles arising from a most culpable Christian indifference among the British people. Plunged in ignorance and victims of cruel superstition, the natives of the Congo, like almost all other parts of West Africa, still are; and no adequate efforts are being made by British Christians to preach among them the everlasting Gospel. But we do not believe that the apathy which at present exists as regards them can much longer continue. British Christians will yet awake to their great responsibilities toward a people so long "scattered and peeled;" the Word of Life will be widely proclaimed among them, and there can be no reason why another dream, as it was called of the immortal Buxton, should not be realised as well as that now so rapidly realising of Africa's vast industrial wealth. Continuing from whence we have before quoted, he says, "We may behold the beams of science and philosophy breaking in upon their land, which at some happier period in still later time may blaze with full lustre, and joining their influence to that of pure religion may illuminate and invigorate the most distant extremities of that immense continent." Our own individual prayer is that God may give us the power to work vigorously for these great ends.

## THE COURTS OF JUSTICE IN THE GAMBIA, ETC.

WE were much struck with a paragraph in the very able letter of "A Native Oyster," which appeared in our number for December last. On the subject of the so-called administration of justice at the Gambia, and the changes introduced or sought to be introduced therein, the "Native Oyster" says: "Mr. Brown shows clearly, to the satisfaction of Mr. Chalmers at least, that he (Chalmers) had stultified himself by issuing a writ out of a court whose existence by a law which he assisted to enact was destroyed; and that he had actually allowed a judgment to be obtained in a court which had long since ceased to exist." Now, no form of words could state a position more clearly than this does—viz., that the Supreme Court of the Gambia had been abolished; that Mr. Chalmers was one of the active instruments in abolishing it; that after having thus abolished it, he had himself issued a writ out of it, and allowed a judgment to be obtained in it; and that Mr. Brown having shown this to Mr. Chalmers, certain results very prejudicial to Mr. Reffles and his clients followed. But we have had grave doubts whether the position is such as our "Native Oyster" has thus graphically described. We cannot find any satisfactory evidence whatever that the Supreme Court of the Gambia had ceased to exist at that period. We have evidence of the intention to establish another court—"a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice of the Settlements on the Gambia"—so far as a printed Ordinance bearing no number, issued by Colonel D'Arcy as having been passed at a Council held on the 26th November, 1866, without any announcement of such Ordinance having been confirmed by Her Majesty the Queen, could establish it. But unless it be so distinctly stated and proclaimed as law, we have yet to learn that the establishment of the new court, even if this has ever been legally effected, necessarily put an end to the existence of the old one. The two might co-exist; they might have co-ordinate jurisdiction. We have nothing to do with the subject of the confusion such a state of administration of law and justice would create. All that rests solely with the legislating

power. The question with us at present is, *Has the Supreme Court of the Gambia been legally abolished*, except in so far as it is abolished by the shameful Ordinance No 6, December 2, 1867, and if so, when was it thus abolished? Clearly the Ordinance November 26, 1866, did not repeal it, for such repeal is not legally set forth therein, and no law can be repealed by implication. Again, has Ordinance November 26, 1866, ever been approved of by the Crown? This question we cannot answer—but it will have to be answered somewhere sooner or later, though it must ever remain a most incomplete and imperfect specimen of Ordinance manufacture. Sec. 1 enacts: "That from and after the passing of this Ordinance there shall be established, &c., a court," &c.; but does not say one word of such a court being thereby also established, as is always the case where such establishment does not remain to be effected by a subsequent Ordinance or law. The question thus widens, and is not only "Has the Supreme Court of the Gambia been legally abolished, and when?" but also, *Has the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice ever been legally established? and if so, when?* The only evidence of this that we can find is the insufficient evidence by implication in the ORDER IN COUNCIL, No. 2, February 26, 1867, where it is stated in the preamble, "Whereas Courts of Civil and Criminal Justice have been established by Ordinances in Her Majesty's Settlements of the Gambia, the Gold Coast, and Lagos," &c. Surely this is not such legal evidence of the establishment of the new court as would give validity to any judgments in it; and is still less legal evidence of the abolition of the old Supreme Court, which was also a Court of Civil and Criminal Justice. But we have more than this, for we have not only the absence of legal evidence of any abolition of the Supreme Court and the creation of a new court before the 2nd December, 1867, but we have the fact of the present chief magistrate, Mr. Chalmers, who was sent out, as it is supposed, to be the head of the new court, having been, in April or May, 1867, appointed to be *Acting Chief Justice*, the title of the judge of the supposed to be abolished Supreme Court, and having in that capacity held Sessions, effected a gaol delivery, and tried other causes. Thus we have the Supreme Court in vigour six months at least after the date of the Ordinance of November 26, 1866, and three months after that of the Order in Council. Are we not then justified in assuming that the Supreme Court did still exist, until at least the 2nd December, 1867, Mr. Brown's and Mr. Chalmers' late convictions to the contrary notwithstanding? and if the said court did thus legally exist, and if Mr. Chalmers had never been deposed from the office of Acting Chief Justice (and we have no evidence that he had been so deposed), all the regulations and forms of procedure under the Supreme Court were still in force, as well as the court itself in existence—writs issued by it, and judgments delivered in it, were good—the subsequent revocation of such judgments by Mr. Chalmers as Chief Magistrate of the supposed-to-exist Court of Civil and Criminal Justice must be null and void—and poor lawyer Reffles, instead of being in the "Slough of Despond" described by our "Native Oyster," is entitled to all his costs, and to ample redress for losses and prejudice sustained. As regards the new court, which, we repeat, was not created by Ordinance November 26, 1866, the "Native Oyster" says that (subsequently to May, 1867, we infer) the Governor-General paid a flying visit to the Gambia, formed himself, the local Administrator, and the Chief Justice, as Chief Magistrate, into a Council, and then drew up and passed "all of a heap" an Ordinance creating a Court of Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction; but as, at least up to November 17, the date of his letter, the "Native Oyster," who had only then lately heard a rumour of such an Ordinance, did not know that it had been even printed, much less promulgated, we do not feel inclined to admit the possibility of there having been any legal defect in the judgment obtained by Mr. Reffles under the rules and regulations of the Supreme Court, prior to such promulgation, if even such promulgation has been at all yet made. Or even if the promulgation had been made so secretly that no one knew of it, we have yet to learn

whether such Ordinance did formally abolish the Supreme Court, and in creating the new court did appoint for the latter rules and forms of proceeding differing from those which had regulated practice in the Supreme Court. It is surely time that all these doubts were set at rest, and if there has been illegality and wrong, that these should be remedied and proper atonement and compensation made for them; and this cannot be done by furtively smuggling the repeal of Ordinance June 11, 1861, into an Ordinance for regulating the selection and service of jurors. Let everything be done fairly and openly as becomes a Christian Government. The "evil genius" of the West Coast, the late Administrator in Chief, Major Blackall, no longer rules its destinies and those of its injured people; and we hope that a clearer official head and better official heart than his are now on the scene, and will exert themselves to remove the mystification and confusion in which Major Blackall seems to have delighted. And no time should be lost. There is now lying beneath our eyes the *Order in Council* No. 2, February, 1867, before quoted, in the preamble of which it says that "Courts of Civil and Criminal Justice have been established by Ordinance in Her Majesty's Settlements," &c., and it is from courts that have been thus established, and not from courts to be subsequently created, that appeals lie to the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone. It gives us pain to open so large a question; but as we write the doubt has become stronger and stronger in our mind as to whether there has been, up to the present time, such a creation of the new courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction under the presidency of the new chief magistrates either at the Gold Coast or Lagos, as could make judgments delivered by such magistrates in such courts legal and valid, so that the Executive may have been justified in enforcing them. If there has not been such a legal creation, what a chaos! how worthy of the sublime genius of a Blackall! and what a just claim on his part to official advancement on the part of Her Majesty's Government's it bestows. So far as the Gambia is concerned, the repeal of the Supreme Court Ordinance, and consequently the abolition of the court, was not at all effected until the enactment of the Jury Ordinance, by a clause in which the Ordinance of June 11, 1861 is repealed in a way which to our simple mind reflects an indelible discredit on all parties who were concerned. In conclusion, we can only express the hope that both Her Majesty's Government and the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone will inquire immediately into these matters, and that all doubts may be set at rest by necessary laws and ordinances, duly and carefully prepared, and promulgated with the Royal sanction, so that all may know what are the laws which they are called upon to obey, and what the courts which have jurisdiction over them and their affairs.

#### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Both Houses of Parliament met again after the recess on Thursday, the 13th of February. This being the continuance of the Session which opened on the 19th of November, there was, of course, no Speech from the Throne or Royal Message, and the ordinary business of Parliament was forthwith resumed.

#### PRODUCTION OF PALM WINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Palm Land Mountain Gardens, Accra, Gold Coast.

Sir,—The palm-tree can be put to many useful and valuable purposes, amongst which is the extraction of a very luscious beverage called *Palm Wine*. The process of extraction is as follows: First, the roots of the tree are cut while it is still standing, which prostrates it. It lies in the same state twenty-one days, when it is tapped by making a gap in it toward the upper part of the trunk, about six inches long and four inches wide, in the lower part of which a reed is inserted; an earthen pot being placed beneath to receive the wine as it drops from the reed. After three or four days a torch is made from the dry branches of the same tree, and towards the close of the day one end of this torch is lighted and applied to the upper part of the gap, and blown by the mouth until the interior of it becomes completely dry; after which the gap is carefully pared at the lower part. This is done only in the evening, but in the morning the paring part of the process is repeated without the torch; this is continued for the space of five or six weeks, when the tree is said

to be "dead," or producing no more wine. This is the simple method by which the wine is extracted from the tree by us, but I am of opinion that this could be effected in an easier, more effectual, and less destructive way. Your correspondent would feel highly and extremely obliged by your assisting him with any mechanical or other method by which the wine could be extracted from the tree, as he is resolved, with your kind assistance, to do all he can for the benefit of his country.

R. F. F.

#### FULL VINDICATION OF BISHOP CROWTHER BY A NATIVE PASTOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Regent's Town, Sierra Leone, January 25, 1868.

Sir,—My attention was directed to an article in your valuable paper, headed "Troubles in the Niger—the Bishop detained and held to ransom at Idda, &c.," in which you endeavoured, according to the scanty information you possessed, to vindicate the character of a good man, who for about a quarter of a century has been engaged in advancing God's glory and promoting the welfare of his fellow-creatures, often at the risk of his life and regardless of personal ease and comfort. Thanks for your noble efforts on behalf of Africa. It is the allusion in the preface of that article to a portion of the English press which, you stated, "represented the Bishop as 'skedaddling' in a very undignified way, and as if regardless of everything but his own escape from the unpleasantness to which he had been subject," that has induced me to say a word on his behalf. I have not seen any of the papers to which you refer which seemed to derogate from the Bishop's character, good sense, and zeal. The Bishop himself is one of those who cares little for such insinuations. Prudent silence is the rule which he always inculcates upon those by whom he is surrounded, and which he invariably practises himself. And I know, also, that his character stands so high for zeal and courage, and patient endurance, that it is not likely that any hasty remark or any exceptional view of his conduct, such as that to which you have alluded, could influence the large majority of thinking men in England who are watching with intense interest the progress of Africa in Christian civilization. But as I am closely connected with the Bishop, I feel I must assist you in your laudable endeavours to uphold the reputation of Africa's first Bishop. Thirty native ministers, Sir, the fruits of missionary labours on this coast, repel with honest indignation the least insinuation of cowardice, come from whatever quarter it may, against the chief representative of the Sierra Leone Native Church. I trust, then, that you will not refuse some further reliable particulars respecting the Bishop's detention and rescue, which, "bettered by your own learning," will enable you to put to silence prejudice and ignorance.

Upon the arrival of the company's trading steamer, the *Thomas Bazley*, at Idda, in September last, the Bishop took his own boat, accompanied by his son Dandeson, to prosecute his missionary work at Lokoja and the out stations; whilst the steamer proceeded with the bishop's two eldest sons to Egga, higher up the river, to take in produce. On his way to Lokoja, the Bishop called at a place called Okokein to see Aboko, the chief, an old friend of his. Aboko at once embraced him, apparently warmly, and said, "You are the very man I have been longing to see. You know I am a great man in this river; and I know too you are a great man; you have many ships. All the ceobos (white men) are under your direction; you send them wherever you like. You take them to Abeokuta to open trade there, to Lagos, to Bonny, to Onitsha and Idda, in this river. You never bring trade to my place, nor give me a suitable present. I detain you here until your people or friends pay me the sum of 1,000*l*. or 200 slaves for your ransom." The Bishop's boat was hauled up, and everything in it seized—his tin-box, his rug, tea-kettle, &c. He was kept a prisoner for ten days.

The Bishop then afterwards requested to be allowed to send a message to his friends, to apprise them of his situation, and asked for his tin-box containing writing materials, &c. He asked for his tin-box containing writing materials. Upon wrote to the Consul at Lokoja, by the chief's messengers. Upon the receipt of the letter, the Vice-Consul at once despatched a messenger with a suitable present to the chief, requesting that the Bishop should be liberated forthwith. Aboko was not satisfied with the present sent him. He was resolute; he still demanded 1,000*l*. The Consul's messenger therefore returned to Lokoja, and reported the result of his interview with the Chief. Opportunely, the *Thomas Bazley* returned, and the Consul at once communicated the news of the Bishop's detention. The *Thomas Bazley* then proceeded to Aboko's place, joined by Mr. Fell and Mr. Rolston, and the Bishop's two eldest sons. The party landed, and an interview at once commenced with the Chief. The result was fruitless as before. The Chief still demanded 1,000*l*. Upon this the gentlemen went to the Bishop in the little hut assigned him, and advised him to

escape quietly into the boat. That, they said, was the only chance left him; for no argument could move the covetous Chief to consent to his release. The Bishop hesitated, and, with his usual caution and prudence, said he feared that an attempt at secret flight might probably be attended with serious consequences. Again and again it was insisted that he should go at once into the boat, and they would instantly join him and pull off to the ship. He was conducted, and, *volens volens*, pushed into the boat with his son Dandeson. Then all jumped in, and the boatmen shoved off. The moment the Chief and people perceived that their prisoners were gone, they came to the water's edge with clubs, bows, and arrows, &c., and commenced the attack upon the Bishop and party. Unfortunately the boat got aground; there was the real danger. They were not 100 yards from the shore, and whilst the boatmen were trying to get the boat into deep water, the arrows were flying in all directions. To save the Bishop (for he was particularly aimed at by the natives) the gentlemen advised him to lie down in the boat; and these four gentlemen—Mr. Fell, Mr. Kolston, and the Bishop's two eldest sons, stood up, each with a revolver, and kept off the natives,—a noble instance of heroism and self-sacrifice we have in modern times. "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet, peradventure, for a good man some would even dare to die." It was under such circumstances that Mr. Fell received his mortal wound, the fatal arrow having first grazed Mr. Josiah Crowther's breast, who stood by him; and had not the Bishop's sons and the other gentlemen kept up a brisk fire with their revolvers, and the steamer from behind dispersed the savages with her brass guns, the consequences would have been fearful to contemplate. The boat was soon got off, and the party reached the ship; but Mr. Fell, after Mr. Samuel Crowther's best exertions in his behalf, in a few hours breathed his last, to the great grief of all.

Such, Sir, are the facts connected with this case. No one mourns more than the Bishop does its sad conclusion. But I ask who would not, under such circumstances, justify, or even recommend an escape where it is possible? What end or purpose could be served by adopting a contrary resolution and remain an exile? And I ought to mention that the Chief had intimated his determination, in default of the payment of the full ransom, to send the Bishop and his son right into the interior, where nothing would have been heard of them. Is it true Christian heroism to sacrifice a life for no legitimate purpose and when Providence seems to open a way of escape? May it not be regarded as rashness or presumption? The case widely differs from that where a missionary is shut up with his converts. Desertion here is unpardonable. Have we not the examples of our blessed Lord himself, and of his Apostle Paul to bear us out? Do we not read that when our Lord was led by the Jews to the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, to be cast down, he worked a miracle and extricated himself from their hands? And did not Paul escape death—a cruel death—through the intervention of his friends, and how? by being let down over the wall in a basket?—a very undignified way indeed for an Apostle! Wisdom, however, is justified of her children.

Wishing you every success in your great work, yours truly,  
GEORGE NICOL,  
Native Pastor of Regent Town.

#### THE AQUAMOO AND AWOONLAH PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, December 21, 1867.

Sir,—In the columns of your journal for last month (October), p. 43, I observe inserted a letter from one of your correspondents at Accra, referring to the subject of the *cutting short*, if I may use such a term, of the late Awoonlah war by his Excellency Governor Blackall, and to the efforts recently made by the Government for the restoration of peace and order among the protected tribes of the Eastern Districts, and the Awoonlahs, Aquamoos, and other tribes over the Volta. Assuming that your correspondent, whose published letter is now before me, feels sincerely and deeply interested in the ultimate restoration of peace among the tribes already mentioned, and therefore that any error which he may have committed is quite unintentional, and done in all good feeling towards the cause which he advocates, I beg leave, in a spirit of kindness and moderation, and for the sole purpose of perhaps aiding your readers in arriving at a just and correct estimate of the interesting questions involved, to call in question the correctness and the propriety of some of the views which he has expressed, the conclusions at which he has arrived, and one of the statements he has made.

In so doing, I have first to consider the point from whence I shall set off, among the varied subjects which the letter in question embraces, and I think the proper one will be that where his Excellency Governor Blackall determined to discountenance and

oppose further hostilities. Commencing my *critique* at that point, I have to observe that whether that act on the part of the Governor-General was based on the highest political wisdom, or whether it was, on the contrary, a great political error, is a question which I leave to be determined by competent judges, among whom I will not venture to assume a place, for I candidly confess that I am not sufficiently well acquainted with it in all its bearings and circumstances to be able to speak with confidence, though my general opinion has been that the Awoonlahs and not the Addahs were the first aggressors.

I think I may lay it down as a true axiom that, viewing the position of the British Government relatively to the Protectorate at large, Government undoubtedly possesses the prerogative of deciding for itself on any and every question of peace and war involving its own interests and responsibilities. If this be true, and if the Government have pronounced its final decision that war for the present shall not be carried on by any tribe or tribes of the Protectorate under its auspices; then it seems to me that the true interests of the protected states lie in respectful submission to its recorded determination; first, because a loyal protected state owes, if not a willing, at least a peaceful acquiescence in the decisions of the protecting Power; and second, because there could be no chance of successful warfare on so large a scale as that which an Awoonlah war would involve, unless entered upon and carried out under the auspices, the guidance, and assistance of the Government.

If I understand the question rightly, Governor Blackall refused to countenance further hostilities, because he considered the causes and circumstances of the quarrel too intricate to admit of successful investigation with a view to pronouncing judgment; and he therefore called upon all parties concerned to come to terms of peace, threatening to direct the power of the Government against whichever party should wilfully violate that decision.

This conclusion and resolve on the part of the Governor-General was either right or wrong. On that point I repeat that I must decline expressing an opinion for reasons already stated; but it appears to me that from the moment they were clearly pronounced, the duty of the protected tribes interested was submission; and their interest was to try and prevail on the Government, since war under its auspices was no longer possible, to carry out in detail such measures for the re-establishment of peace and order as were demanded by the undoubtedly peculiar circumstances in which they were placed. I therefore assume that the Government had a right to expect from the protected states interested, peaceful submission to its views and decisions; while from the opposing tribes outside it was necessary to obtain, if practicable by honourable means, positive assurances of their peaceful disposition towards the Protectorate, and their desire for the restoration of friendly relationship therewith; and that while such assurances were being given, and until they should be thereafter violated, the only honourable course left open to the Government in the new position it had assumed was that of peaceful negotiation. Now this is what the Government has been engaged in for some months past; and the true aspect of the question at issue, as matters now stand, is, not whether the outside tribes, the Awoonlahs, Aquamoos, &c., really intend to observe treaties, but whether, after due explanation and deliberation, they are willing to agree to, and sign, such treaties, and thereby commit themselves to the obligation of henceforth observing peaceful relationship with the Government and the Protectorate. It is certain that they have never before broken such treaties, because, with the exception of Ashantee, no such regular and formal treaties have ever been made between the outlying states and the Protectorate; and hence it seems to me unfair to prejudice either the outlying states on the one hand, or the Government on the other hand; and I would ask your correspondent what other course of action he would suggest, the Government having positively determined that it will no longer countenance war on the basis of former misunderstandings?

I would further ask your correspondent whether it would not be better, and savouring more of true patriotism, to leave the Government at quiet to complete its work of peace-making as far as it can; and also whether it would not be more fair and just towards the outside states to wait until, having signed treaties of peace, they afterwards clearly violate them, ere any further war be invoked? and again, whether, with the trade of the eastern districts almost ruined, and many men of business careered on towards bankruptcy as an inevitable consequence, it is not more desirable rather to put up with the present views and plans of the Government, though greatly opposed as they are to his own opinions, than to desire to risk those fearful further disorganizations of the eastern districts which would necessarily follow any great hostile movement of our tribes to the other side of the Volta? If the treaties now being made should be wilfully violated by the outside tribes, the whole case will assume a new aspect; and whatever may be the present reluctance of the Go-

vernment to countenance war, I for one shall be grievously disappointed in my expectations if it do not then demand ample satisfaction from the offending parties, and vindicate its own honour and dignity and the rights and interests of the eastern districts. I maintain also that if, in the inscrutable permissions of Providence, war in the immediate future be imminent, though not now clearly foreseen, between the recently hostile tribes, the present plans of the Government constitute the best possible preparation for such an event, inasmuch as the cause for war will be thereby placed on a clear foundation, easily seen and understood by all parties concerned; and then the open justice of the case would, I presume, unite the Government and the Protectorate in a firm determination to demand and, if necessary, to enforce redress.

I now beg to make an observation or two on the error of your correspondent in stating that when Mr. Freeman and the missionaries were last in Aquamoo, and effected the Treaty, they were not allowed to proceed to Anum and Krepee. This statement is incorrect. I well know that the King and chiefs, having signed the Treaty on a certain evening, refused to give messengers to proceed with the party to Anum the next morning; and I do not consider that circumstance any matter of surprise. Down to the day of the signing of the Treaty, the Aquamoos had, for some time past, been in a state of open hostility against the Anums and Krepees; and I cannot but think Mr. Freeman would have risked a serious compromise of the powers vested in him as a Government commissioner, had he suddenly either attempted to force a passage, which I do not think it likely the King and chiefs would have dared actually to resist; or had he, on the other hand, returned and accused them of signing a Treaty one evening and violating it the following morning. I am well informed that their answer to Mr. Freeman's request was something to the following effect: "We cannot bar the path before you, neither can we now supply you with messengers or guides; the country is in a disturbed state on account of the war; and there are, to the eastward, hostile parties of Awoonlahs infesting the roads, so that we cannot guarantee your safety, and we now warn you of that danger."

This being the case, it was clearly Mr. Freeman's duty either to wait patiently for a few days, and see whether by consultations and advice, and other available influences, he could overcome their present reluctance to be foremost in a peaceful advance towards the Anums and Krepees, which, in their opinion, the sending on of messengers and guides with Mr. Freeman and his party would have implied, or to leave the question of a fully carrying out the provision of the Treaty therein involved, for a suitable occasion in the early future. I am also well informed that Mr. Freeman was, by his instructions as a commissioner, and by other circumstances, so time-bound that it was imperatively necessary for him to choose the latter alternative.

I may also observe on the question of the expressed desire of the Aquamoos to have the Anums and Krepees forced under their rule, that I well know that Mr. Freeman informed them, during the debates which took place in public ere they signed the Treaty, that the Government would on no account consent to such a measure; and when they demanded the restoration of certain of their own people, who were held captive in Krobo since the early part of the late war, Mr. Freeman said that eventually the Government would be willing to authorise their restoration; but that such matters must be deferred until it would be known what counter-claims are pending on the part of any of the protected tribes which may have been engaged in the war.

I may remark with confidence that it was clearly apparent to those who had an opportunity of personal observation on the spot, that Mr. Freeman, while treating with the Aquamoos, in no way compromised the honour and dignity of the Government, and that, on the other hand, although he was for the time being entirely in their power, and dependent on them for canoes and canoe-men to enable him to recross the river into the protected territories, he finally warned them in terms so strong as to actually verge on severity, that if they wilfully violated the treaty they would run the risk of the whole hostile weight of the united tribes of the Eastern districts being directed against them, and that it was only the interposition of the Government, and its determination to give all parties concerned an opportunity of settling down into peace, which had saved them from invasion on their own territories over the river.

It is evident, on the whole face of his statements and conclusions, that your correspondent, in the letter in question, means everything kind, well-intentioned, and honourable towards Mr. Freeman personally, and yet I cannot refrain from remarking that on one point at least, he, doubtless unintentionally, treats him unfairly. "It is placing Mr. Freeman," he observes, "in a false position to give him such a thing to do" as to "dictate terms of peace to the Aquamoos, in their present temper, with any prospect of success." Now I would ask, where was Mr.

Freeman's judgment all the time he was consulting with our Administrator on the nature of the duties he was to undertake, that he allowed himself to be so overruled as to engage in work so hopeless, so impracticable, and indeed, so dishonourable, as your correspondent represents it to have been? Instead of allowing himself to be placed in a false position, may not Mr. Freeman, on the other hand, have viewed the weighty questions involved from such a different standing-point to that of your correspondent that, not losing sight of the great ruling fact that the Government, whether right or wrong in so doing, had asserted its own undoubted prerogative, and determined to try the effect of an effort for peace, that he considered that the course of action proposed by the Administrator was wise and prudent, and if acted upon would be the best means of simplifying and clearly bringing out the true relative positions of the recently hostile parties; and if war must again intervene ere the tribes settle down into permanent peace, evolving a *casus belli* so plain and undeniable as to ensure the most harmonious action between the Government and all the states of the Protectorate? May it not also be that while it is well known that the tribes who, in situation, border on Aquamoo, which is undoubtedly the most mischievous and troublesome of all the outlying states—namely, the Aquapims and Kroboes, amounting together in population to at least from 70,000 to 80,000—are, first, either willing at this time to leave the question of peace or war entirely in the hands of the Government; or, second, are earnestly desiring the immediate restoration of peace on the present plan of the Government; or, third, are ready obediently to march to war at any time when the Government may deem it proper to call upon them to do so,—may it not be, I repeat, that the Government may consider that, humanly speaking, the advantages for future war are all on the side of the protected states, and that it may, therefore, well afford to be patient and long-suffering until the time may come when its honour being clearly insulted, and the true interests of the Protectorate jeopardised by some overt act of its enemies, it may properly inflict the merited chastisement?

Your correspondent must also be aware that the relative situations of all the Volta tribes are such that the most extreme caution is necessary on the part of the Government relative to questions of peace and war. For instance, the Krobo and Aquamoo plantations and villages run up, on the south-western bank of the Volta, closely parallel to each other, and in several instances they actually intermingle, while the Doffors and Votoes, on the north-western bank, and the Assucharies on the south-western bank, farther down the stream, and nearly opposite each other, have their respective plantations intermingling on both sides of the river. They are also connected by ties of consanguinity, intermarriages being very frequent among them; and the same may be said of the Awoonlahs and Addahs.

If war on a large scale be inevitable, then let every brave man say, "Let it come, and God speed the right" but if it can possibly be avoided without dishonour, a great act of humanity will have been accomplished, for which all should rejoice, and the more especially so when the undeniable fact is considered, that in no case has the Government or any one of the protected states taken the initiative in proposals for peace. The Aquamoos made the first advance to the Kroboes, and the Awoonlahs to the Governor-General.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AD VALOREM.

#### DEATHS.

MUSGROVE.—At Cape Coast, on Thursday, December 12, 1867, Mr. George Musgrove, native merchant of this place. He leaves a widow and son to mourn his loss.

SAVAGE.—At McCarthy's Island, River Gambia, of apoplexy, on Saturday, January 11, 1868, James Gray Savage, Esq., agent for Messrs. Forster and Smith. Mr. Savage was born in Sierra Leone in the year 1824.

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