

The African Times.

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

"Talk to me anywhere of Power, and I'll tell you of Protection. Mention a Magistrate, and the idea follows of Property. Show me any Government, and you are to see the proposed interest of those governed. Power constituted otherwise is a monster that is impossible in every system where there is any notion of the justice of God or the good of mankind."—EDMUND BURKE.

"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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*AFRICAN AGENCY

For Transacting Business in England for Native and other Traders on the West Coast of Africa.

IN consequence of wishes expressed from all parts of the West Coast, Mr. FITZGERALD has made arrangements for selling produce consigned to him by ships to London or Liverpool; and purchasing, and shipping goods ordered against the proceeds of consignments or other effective remittances only, from either of the above ports, on a system by which the greatest possible advantage of the markets will be secured to the AFRICAN TRADER, who will not be charged one penny beyond what is actually paid, except only the commission openly debited in account.

All letters and bills of lading, whether the shipments be to or from London or Liverpool, to be addressed

F. FITZGERALD, Esq.,
120, Stockwell-park-road,
London, S.W.

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WEST AFRICA MAILS.

The African R.M.S.S. Company's vessel Mandingo arrived at Liverpool on Monday morning, the 31st of August, with the regular mails, a large amount of specie, and thirty-three passengers, among whom were Mr. Ussher from Cape Coast, Assistant-Surgeon Skues from Accra, and Admiral Patey from the Gambia.

At Sierra Leone writs were served on Mr. Ussher and Mr. Skues for damages for alleged illegal proceedings towards Mr. Finlason; who was released from his barbarous imprisonment at Accra on the 10th of July, by order of his Excellency Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., Governor-in-Chief of the West Coast Settlements.

The bi-monthly mail steamer arrived in due course at Liverpool on the 18th inst.

SHAMEFUL NEGLECT OF THE DRAINS AT BATHURST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, August 15.

Sir,—Will you kindly call attention again to the state of our treasury and the state of our town—the one running over with money, the other with water and filth? Our people are complaining very much; and well they may. Our Administrator, who has gone off again to England this year, seems to think that levying taxes and getting money into the chest is all that is necessary in Government; he does not think of making any improvements, but only to hoard up money. The balance reported at the end of June quarter was 10,000*l.*, yet our streets are now swampy and unpassable from the constant pouring down of the rain during the last few weeks. One passing in the streets has now to wade in water and mud knee deep, because the drains are utterly neglected, and no labourers employed to clean them out, so as to enable them to carry off the water. It is reported that even the merchants, who seem, under the leading of Mr. Brown, to be now our implacable enemies and oppressors, have written a complaint to the Administrator, as they fear that, if the drainage is not immediately attended to, some dreadful sickness will soon come down upon all the inhabitants, white as well as black.—Yours, &c.,
THE COMMITTEE.

SIERRA LEONE LAW PROCEEDINGS.

HEDDLE v. WOOD.

This was a claim of 15,000*l.* against the Sheriff for the escape of Wood from his custody, he having been arrested at the suit of the plaintiff. The Queen's Advocate appeared for the Sheriff, and Mr. Rainy for Mr. Heddle. The argument lasted four days, and the Court took time to consider its judgment.

NIXON v. WALCOTT.—M'CAULAY v. WALCOTT.

In both actions judgment was with the plaintiff, with 8*l.* 8*s.* costs in each.

THOMAS v. ELLIOTT.

This was for an alleged malicious seizure under the Slave-trade Act. Mr. Rainy showed conclusively that Mr. Elliott only did his duty. Judgment for Elliott with costs.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS' COURT.

IN RE WM. CHASE WALCOTT, AN INSOLVENT.

The insolvent had been arrested on a judgment obtained by Mrs. Nixon for 28*l.* and costs. Mr. Walcott applied for release from custody and protection from further arrest. Mr. Rainy opposed, as a creditor, for 179*l.* damages for libel, as Mr. Walcott had no property whatever, and his immediate release would be an entire escape from punishment. Mr. Chief Justice French concurred with Mr. Rainy, and refused to release Mr. Walcott, whose examination under his insolvency was fixed for the 11th August.

BANQUET TO WILLIAM RAINY, ESQ., BARRISTER AT LAW, AND PRESENTATION OF A PIECE OF PLATE, AT SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sierra Leone, August 12, 1868.

Sir,—As a true friend to Africa I know you will learn with pleasure that we have done honour to the above distinguished gentleman at a public dinner, and upon that occasion presented him with a valuable piece of plate. All felt how inadequate any compensation could be when weighed in the scale with the incomparable service he has rendered to our colony. However, we showed that our will was not absent if our power was. I subjoin a report of the proceedings, and would be obliged, in

common with my fellow citizens, for a notice of them in the columns of your valuable journal.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

A SIERRA LEONE MERCHANT.

The great event so long and so anxiously looked for has come off at last with universal *éclat*. Sierra Leone has vindicated itself through its most distinguished citizens, and done honour to Mr. Rainy, who was the guest upon this auspicious occasion.

A public banquet was given to Mr. Rainy on the 11th of August inst., at the residence of Christopher Taylor, Esq., when forty gentlemen sat down to dinner. Upon this occasion a chaste and beautiful piece of plate was presented to the learned gentleman by the chairman (T. W. Hughes, Esq.) and vice-chairman (Joseph Macfoy, Esq.) on behalf of the company.

In his address to Mr. Rainy, the Chairman said that the few lines inscribed upon the gift spoke the feelings of the people of Sierra Leone in more eloquent, truthful, and touching terms than he could command. The following is the inscription: "Presented to William Rainy, Esq., Barrister at Law, by the Principal Native Merchants and other Gentlemen of Sierra Leone, in recognition of the many valuable services rendered by him in his professional capacity for the interest and welfare of the colony.—Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1868."

Mr. Rainy, who was greatly moved, replied as follows: Gentlemen,—I need not say with what feelings of deep emotion and profound gratitude I receive this very beautiful token of your esteem. It amply recompenses me for the grave anxieties and cares attendant upon all my exertions in the cause of Africa; and, indeed, I may say in the cause of truth and eternal justice. I have not been able to carry out all my best desires towards our oppressed land; but I can humbly, yet fearlessly, state that in consequence of the powerful aid I received from the *African Times* newspaper (your best friend in England) and my friend Mr. Belgrave, the able and fearless editor of our own local journal, (the *African Interpreter and Advocate*), I have placed her in a position that she never again can be the victim as hitherto of tyranny or corruption. Mine has been the humble task to awaken public opinion, through the Press and Parliament, of England to her wrongs and sufferings; and although Providence may not spare me to behold the rich fruits sprung from the seed I have planted, I know that that hour will come in the career and national destiny of Africa. In the progress of my sacred mission, I have been subjected to every annoyance, both in public and private life, which grovelling jealousy and stupid malignity could suggest; but from the disdain with which I look down upon the assassins of character, and the undying hatred which I hold for sycophants and tyrants, I have been sustained in the noble yet arduous task I sternly placed before me. But, Gentlemen, the Blackall-Huggins government, which did all the mischief that it was my humble endeavour to rectify, has fallen! We are now ruled by a great and illustrious man, whose name is endeared to every inhabitant of the extended dominion over which it is the privilege of Sir Arthur Kennedy to rule; and I have no doubt that his Excellency will fulfil the proud hopes entertained of his rule, and add a second page to the history of Africa. As far as I can see, this distinguished Administrator is sustained in his beneficent rule by the wisdom, purity, and learning of his Honour Mr. French (our new Chief Justice), who fills the great office of administering the laws—the most important branch in the constitution of any country, of whatever nature that constitution may be. This learned judge took up the blunted sword of justice, and his name inspires confidence in his judgments from the proud residence of the merchants down to the humblest dwelling in the humblest hamlet. Our new Queen's Advocate, the Honourable Mr. Philippo, has a noble example set before him, and I am happy to say that he is an ornament to the profession to which I have the honour to belong. Gentlemen, when I look upon the happy change which has taken place in the administration of the government of Sierra Leone, I feel that I am more than rewarded for a life of arduous struggle and misrepresentation, and that my tongue fails even feebly to portray the deep and swelling emotions of my heart. Since my return amongst you I have received many gratifying tokens of your unchanged esteem and confidence, and should I ever feel that sense of despondency creep over me to which the best and purest in public life are but too often subjected, I shall look upon this highly-prized memorial of your appreciation to awake me to fresh energy and labour. Gentlemen, once more I thank you.

Mr. Rainy was loudly cheered in the delivery of his eloquent speech, and the proceedings terminated at a late hour, the company being highly delighted with them.

THE SIERRA LEONE WHIPPINGS.

(SIGNATURES TO THE PETITION PUBLISHED LAST MONTH.)

J. B. Pratt, Christopher Taylor, Wm. Lewis, Isaac Jno. Lake, J. A. Sackey, Joseph Jarrett, T. W. Hughes, S. Boyle, W. W. Osborne, S. G. Bidwell, James Benjamin, T. G. Macaulay, T. J.

Sawyer, G. H. Shepherd, M. G. Thompson, G. P. Bull, B. Marevie, J. H. Coker, John Shaw, W. B. Thomas, Thomas Geo. Hope, John A. Moore, J. F. Thomas, Chas. W. Macaulay, John (X his mark) William, John H. Johnson, William Cole, Peter Nicolls, J. B. Macarthy, Jos. Farmer, Samuel B. Thomas, Thomas Pilot, Josh. E. Gooding, James William Shaw, Isaac W. Paris, Henry Jonathan Coker, Samuel F. Macfoy, Thomas (X his mark) Miller, Thomas Bright, Daniel Carpenter, William Macaulay, T. F. Hazley, Robert T. Taylor, A. C. Williams, William Wilson, Joseph (X his mark) Macaulay, James (X his mark) George, Thomas S. George, Thomas Johnson, George Hart, Charles Pyne, William Thorpe, Henry (X his mark) Reffell, William Pearce, Joseph Depiver, Henry Wilson, Pedro Joaque, Henry William, Fr. S. Gibson, William (X his mark) Walker, Thomas Thorpe, Joshua T. Vincent, George A. Taylor, John (X his mark) Davies, George William Dougan, Edward Cole, Jno. Thomas Davis, D. W. Lewis, John (X his mark) Lake, John (X his mark) Taylor, James Benjamin Cole, Henry Lardner, Thomas Bishop, jun., John W. (X his mark) Shaw, John W. Williams, James Hamilton, James George Decker, John (X his mark) Johnson, Jno. Thomas Cole, William C. Betts, Thomas Buckle, Thomas J. Taylor, James B. Turner, William Knox, A. H. S. T. Pratt, E. B. Davis, M. J. Monday, Thomas Wilcox, D. Jno. Mason, D. J. Bull, J. J. Carew, B. B. Williams, John (X his mark) Lumphin, Solomon Bright, Thomas E. Smith, John C. Cummings.

SIERRA LEONE.

MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS.

A petition addressed to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and signed by the principal merchants of this city, was laid before his Excellency Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., upon Thursday last for transmission to the Colonial-office. In this document the statement made by Mr. Justice Huggins to the Colonial-office, "that the sentences complained against (in two former petitions) were strictly in accordance with sentences which had been regularly imposed for a long course of years by former Chief Justices of Sierra Leone," has been proved to be without any foundation.

The subjoined letter has been addressed to the Colonial-office by Mr. Rainy, in the case of *Fyfe v. Mr. Justice Huggins*:—

"Sierra Leone, August 8, 1868.

"My Lord Duke,—His Excellency Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., has done me the honour to communicate to me the decision which your Grace has arrived at in the case of *Fyfe* against Mr. Justice Huggins, and under ordinary circumstances I should not feel myself justified to trespass another communication upon your Grace upon the same subject. But as it appears that your Grace is under the impression that Mr. Huggins partitioned the whole salary allowed by law to the Judge's Clerk between Mr. Fyfe and some other person, I think it right to draw your Grace's attention to the fact that Mr. Huggins never did any such thing, but that, on the contrary, he desired Mr. Fyfe to sign the Government vouchers for the whole salary, which Mr. Huggins appropriated to his own use. Mr. Fyfe subsequently received two pounds on account of his salary, and when he applied to Mr. Huggins for the balance he dismissed Mr. Fyfe from his situation.

"But the most serious aspect of the case is this, that when Mr. Fyfe petitioned the Acting Governor in 1865 upon the matter, Mr. Huggins stated to his Excellency that he was not in Mr. Fyfe's debt, and Mr. Huggins actually detained the whole salary for three years, and would not have paid it if Mr. Fyfe had not procured my professional services.

"I beg to add that Mr. Joseph, for whom Mr. Fyfe was acting, died on the 15th July, 1865, and from that day Mr. Fyfe received the full Judge's Clerk's salary of 8l. 6s. 8d. per month until the 31st August, 1865. Mr. Fyfe does not, therefore, complain about this; but it is for his salary from the 1st September, 1865, to the 16th November, 1865 that my letter accuses Mr. Huggins of depriving him of.

"As it appears to me that the charge which I made against Mr. Justice Huggins in my letter addressed to your Grace of the 11th April, 1868, remains unanswered—notwithstanding the statement of the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P., in the House of Commons, that the circumstances set forth in that communication had been inquired into and found not to be facts—I feel it a duty that I owe to my character, as a member of the English Bar, again to invite your Grace's serious attention to those allegations, in order that your Grace may cause the error committed by Her Majesty's Under-secretary of State to be rectified and the stigma cast upon my character removed.—I have, &c.,

"WILLIAM RAINY."

DOWNING-STREET, AUG. 24.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Charles Beresford Primet, Esq., to be Auditor of Accounts of the West African Settlements.

FOURAH BAY COLLEGE, SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Regent's-town, August 13, 1868.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper to explain my views, and satisfy my friends both here and in England with reference to the letter of "Sierra Leonist," which appeared in your last issue, this month. The writer, whoever he is, has, unconsciously perhaps, put myself and the native clergy in a false position. The letters appeared at a time, Sir, when a misunderstanding existed between the European missionaries and the native pastors, and it would convey an erroneous impression in the minds of people far and near that the native clergy wish to get rid of the European missionaries. I am therefore obliged to state, plainly and unequivocally—especially as my name is mentioned in the communication—that I do not at all participate in the views propounded by "Sierra Leonist" in the letter. Those who know me well will bear me out when I say that I always advocated and, when in England in 1862, urged upon the committee of the Church Missionary Society the necessity of sending out to the colony two or even three university men, of high character and attainments, to take charge of our educational establishments. Such men will, we are sure, secure the confidence and respect of the native clergy. The native Church and the colony are not so far advanced in education and intelligence as to be independent of foreign aid. The supposition then, for it is nothing more, that the native clergy desire to be disconnected from their European brethren must be utterly abandoned, and cannot be maintained without injury to the native clergy. We have not been able to get a clue to the discovery of the writer. I am told it is a trick played upon the native clergy by someone, to put them in the worst light possible during the unhappy affair. With regard to the misunderstanding to which "Sierra Leonist" alludes, I am happy to say that the Bishop has written, and there has been an amicable adjustment.—Yours truly,

Geo. Nicol,
Native Pastor of Regent.

NATIVE PRINCIPAL FOR FOURAH BAY COLLEGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Chief's Farm, August, 1868.

Sir,—With "Sierra Leonist," I would gladly hail the auspicious day when Sierra Leone can produce a native principal and superintendent over the College at Fourah Bay; but whilst the subject is still fresh in your readers' minds, permit me to throw into public a few considerations which may indirectly serve as an amendment to his estimate of the qualifications of a native principal:—

1. Capability to teach, not even excepting the facility to impart instruction, does not, of necessity, make one entitled to that position.
2. Nor even if he had filled a second place efficiently is he therefore competent for the first—for experience has taught us that some men are born to "pass an order," not to originate it—to carry out plans proposed, not to suggest them; being deficient in the initiative faculty. "Besides," says poor Richard, perhaps, "it requires a steady hand to carry a full cup."
3. It requires a man of mature experience, sound judgment and prudence, and one sufficiently acquainted with the character, feelings, and disposition of the different classes of his brethren.
4. It requires a man who, considering the great responsibility that devolves on him in that important institution, will not make his work a *sinecure*.

It is difficult, I am aware, to have all good qualifications combined in the same man; but as it is "excelsior" that is required in that seminary, if the revered gentleman suggested by "Sierra Leonist" has no more reasons to recommend himself than those already noticed in him—viz., his having occupied the second place for a long time, and being qualified to teach (to impart, too?)—he lacks the *maxima desiderata*, and therefore we can well afford to drink the old wine a little longer, instead of desiring you, Mr. Editor, to trouble the Parent Society now for what may be considered an innovation.—I am, yours truly,

CAUTION.

CAPE COAST AFFAIRS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 7, 1868.

Sir,—You will learn by this that Mr. Ussher, the Administrator of these settlements, is going to England by this mail steamer. He shipped himself off this afternoon at four o'clock, on board the *Pandora*, one of Her Majesty's war ships recently stationed here for the use of the Administrator, to await the arrival of the mail steamer to-morrow. The Ashantee messengers have been sent away, and ere this time they will have arrived in Ashantee.

Elmina and Fantee affairs remain the same as I wrote you

last; there has been no movement of any kind. The meetings of the Fantee kings and chiefs at Mankassin has broken up. They will meet again after their Yam Custom, which latter takes place the middle of next month. The Elminas have applied to their Governor for a loan of money to assist them in preparing against the expected attack from the Fantees, and having obtained the loan (I am not sure of the amount, but some say 200 ounces of gold) have sent to the Windward Coast and allied themselves to some of the tribes there, who are also Dutch subjects, to come to their help whenever the Fantees are about to march against them. The Elminas are still suffering from want of food. Since the Fantee camp broke up the Elminas generally get their supplies from here. Their bush-people who work in farms are still in the town, and unable to return to their crooms, fearing that they would be made captives of by the Fantees—several of them who did venture had been caught and made prisoners already.

Mr. Simpson, the Collector-General, who will be sworn in to-morrow noon as the Acting-Administrator, seems to be a more experienced man; and I heard it said yesterday that he will adopt a different system to what his predecessor did, meaning that he will govern the people mildly, and let them have their innocent amusements, as they had hitherto been deprived of by both Conran and Ussher.

The proposed treaty between the Elminas and Fantees was knocked on the head. The Fantees said they never proposed any such thing, and for that reason they will never sign the treaty, which compromises their honour. Some of the parties have admitted that they acted contrary to the instructions of the chiefs, as they never commissioned anyone to proceed up to Elmina and propose peace, more especially with such terms and provisions as were in the treaty. No sooner did their refusal to sign the treaty reach Mr. Ussher, than he wrote to the chiefs that Her Majesty's Government does not acknowledge them any longer, and in future they are not to expect any help from that Government. You shall soon have all the correspondence on these matters.—Believe me yours very truly,

FANTEE.

P.S. Doctor Jones advised Mr. Ussher to go to England, owing to his delicate health. Doctor Jones will receive 300l. per annum as Acting-Collector-General, in the place of Mr. Simpson, while the Administrator is away.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 7.

I hope you have inserted my former letters. Things continue in pretty much the same state, but the civil action (I sent you Chief Magistrate Parker's summons in my last) against Mr. Edmund Bannerman, in the same matter for which he has been also criminally indicted, sentenced, and imprisoned, has all ended in smoke. Mr. Parker says it must have been a mistake, and it must be confessed we have of late been making funny mistakes here in every department of public administration. Mr. Bannerman has sent a petition to the Governor-in-Chief at Sierra Leone for his and his brother's release, and demanding an enquiry into certain charges which they bring against Mr. Ussher and Mr. Parker, asking also an opportunity of proving those charges. I have not seen the petition, and do not know what these charges are. You will, I dare say, hear of the death of that poor chief mate of a ship, in that foul prison at Accra, and of the inequest and verdict. *Is nobody ever to be punished for these enormities on the Gold Coast?* Look at the facts in this case. The poor man was chief officer of the brig *Emily*, of London, and a very respectable old man of some fifty years of age. He was sentenced in May last by Dr. Skues to three months' imprisonment with hard labour for a breach of discipline on board the *Emily*, one of Foster and Smith's vessels, consigned to Mr. Irvine. After the poor man had been in gaol two days, Skues sent an order in writing to Irvine to the effect that he must receive the man on board again to be sent home a prisoner. Both Irvine and the captain protested against this, but Parker and Skues forced the man on board, and ordered the captain to bring the ship's official log-book on shore so that these facts might be entered therein by him as Civil Commandant and Collector of Customs. This entry was made in Skues' own hand, and signed by himself. It was to the effect that the prisoners at Accra being unfit for the reception of *white men*, and that the life of the mate would be endangered if kept in prison there, he had ordered the master of the *Emily* to receive him on board again and take him home as a prisoner, and, on arrival in port, to hand him over to the proper authorities to undergo such portion of his sentence as might be unexpired at the date of his arrival in port. We all looked upon this as an illegal and arbitrary act. Mr. Irvine had prosecuted the man as a matter of duty, and to prevent a mutiny on board; but as the offence was very slight, both he and the captain begged the Court to forgive him, but Dr. Skues gave him three months. This was a few days after the four J.P.s had resigned. As before said, Dr. Skues has the mate

sent on board again. Next day, or a day or two after, he sends for him again and puts him in the very same prison which he himself had declared would cause his death. Skues assigned no reason for this change in his mind—he wanted the captain to bring his log on shore again, so that he might erase the entry he had made, but, the end of the affair being foreseen by others, he was advised not to do so, and he did not. Everybody in Accra knew that the poor man must die if kept in one of those horrid dens; and he has died, and that under the most heartrending circumstances. The man himself remarked on the second day of his being in prison that he should die if treated as he was being then treated. He was at the time locked up in a cell 12 feet by 9, containing eight naked criminals. Fancy that! Nine human beings, one a white man from a cold climate, in a small den hardly 9 feet square in a country like this! The description the poor man gave of the night he had passed with his eight companions in that den was enough to melt a stone. I shall give it you in full in another letter. Recollect, too, that at the very time Skues was saying that the prisons were unfit for white men, Finlason was actually in one of them, having been sent up from here expressly to them. Dr. O'Callaghan, the principal medical officer on the Gold Coast, died here on the 2nd inst. He had been ten or eleven years on the Coast. I don't know what disease he died of. We have not got a single doctor now on the Gold Coast. We have a lot of inexperienced young quacks who have just crawled through some examination, and that is all. I speak facts. Davies and Horton (the two clever African Staff-Assistant-Surgeons) and the late O'Callaghan were the only men whom the public would trust. Even the Government officials were afraid of all the other "apothecaries' boys," who are here called Staff-Assistant-Surgeons. Horton and Davies, the only two native Africans ever educated for and admitted into the Army Medical Service on the West Coast of Africa, would make a fortune on the Gold Coast in a few years, such is the confidence that everyone, even their enemies, has in their abilities as physicians and surgeons.—Yours,

A TREMBLER.

MR. EDMUND BANNERMAN'S RELEASE, &c. TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Aug. 18.

Dear Sir,—I am happy to inform you that Mr. Edmund Bannerman was released from prison on the 11th inst. His brother James is, however, still detained there.

Mr. Usher has left the country in a state that such a man as Mr. Simpson, who knows nothing of it except what he has learned under the bad auspices of Usher, Elliott, Skues, &c., is not at all able to deal with. What has become of Mr. W. A. Ross? Could not the Colonial-office get him to come out and try to unravel the tangled threads of this Government? Perhaps he, backed up by Sir Arthur Kennedy, on whom all our hopes are now fixed, could do it. It ought to be borne in mind not only that the honour of England is at stake, but that if Government affairs are properly managed so that there is peace and contentment, which there would be with a wise and just administration, this will not be any longer a settlement of starvation revenues. Here at Cape Coast alone the revenue will then exceed 20,000*l.* a-year. Among other things, commandants ought to be stationed at the different forts along the seaboard, and some twelve soldiers at each place (or more), in addition to the police—say six policemen at Anamaboe, Tantum, Winnebah; and Addah ought to be properly taken up.

The Legislative Council now consists *effectively* only of Government men—viz., the Administrator, the Chief Magistrate, the Commander of the troops, and the Collector of Customs; Mr. Blankson, the only native member, being four hours' journey distant, and never at the sittings. You will thus understand better our helplessness against the late tyrannical, oppressive, and licentious administration.

The present is a favourable time, under good management, for reconstructing the administration of the Government, and defining the power of the kings and chiefs in the interior. Setting aside Mr. Usher's absolute unfitness to be in authority, he is not the kind of man for the present times, which are at the same time very critical, and yet affording an opening for much good. It is providential that we have at this crisis such a man as Sir Arthur Kennedy at Sierra Leone. I think if he would come down before Christmas, and have a grand meeting with the principal kings and chiefs of the *Protectorate* (!) a long, solid, and prosperous peace for the country might be brought about; and with the large revenue the new tariff would then give, say 30,000*l.* sterling, much good *could* be done; and rapid strides would be then made in civilisation and Christianity. If we had roads and conveyances the quantity of produce that would be brought down would double the revenue within a few years, and the progress would be constant. I do pray that this may be effected—that *really good government* may be established here under God-fearing men, and then, that the whole Gold Coast may be under

England. The Dutch will never do any good here; it is not in them—and for any other power than England to succeed to the Dutch settlements would be entire ruin.

It is astonishing to see and hear how the Wassaws and Denkeras up to the Ashantee frontier cling to the English flag. They can never forget Sir Charles Maccarthy; his name descends among them from one generation to another. I think Sir Arthur Kennedy will be liked when he is seen here; and, if what I hope takes place through him, his name, yours, and Mr. Rainy's will in future be ever remembered in Africa as those who laid the foundation for Africa's advancement and prosperity.—Yours very truly,

"CAPE COAST."

NATIVE PRACTICES.—LIVES SAVED BY MR. G. H. NELSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Fantee, Gold Coast, July 30, 1868.

Sir,—At Ayessam, in the Bkkoonsie District, a certain man, being charged with witchcraft, had been stabbed through. King Ackinee, of that (Bkkoonsie) district, had, some time since, proclaimed that all practices of trying dead bodies should be discontinued and abolished in his district; but it did not appear what steps he had taken in punishing, or how far he had dealt with, the offenders. This took place in April last.

On the 27th ult. a similar outrage was going to take place at Mumford, Gomora District, when Her Majesty's landing-waiter and sub-collector of Customs duties, Mr. G. H. Nelson, stationed there, went forward in the name of Her Majesty's Government, and took away the unfortunate man from the hands of his accusers, and gave him in charge of Mr. C. W. Bentill, merchant and native chief magistrate. King Henry Acquah, of Winnebah, happening to be there at the time on his return from the camp, took the man down with him to Winnebah, thereby saving his life.

On the 26th ult., also, a native of Elmina having been sent with a number of letters from Elmina by Mr. John Boham, a Dutch subject and merchant carrying on business at Appam, a newly-ceded town, was seized by the people of Mumford, and they were about to cut his head off, when the aforementioned officer, Mr. Nelson, went out at once, and rescued him from them, and handed him over to Mr. Bentill to keep in his safe custody, until he (Mr. Nelson) had written to, and heard from, the Colonial Government on the subject. The man is now, therefore, remaining with Mr. Bentill for the safety of his life.

We hope all public officers will always be encouraged by the Government to help, more or less, in removing our native abuses and evil practices.—Yours,

A GUINEA MAN.

DANGER FROM PRIVATE POWDER STORES ON THE GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Anamaboe, August 8, 1868.

Sir,—I wish you would call attention to the existence of an enormous atrocity which every trader on the Gold Coast has a hand in—I mean keeping quantities of gunpowder in their houses. There is hardly a house in Cape Coast, Anamaboe, or Accra, but contains gunpowder, in larger or smaller quantities. What would become of us all at Anamaboe, Cape Coast, or Accra, if one of the principal merchant's houses was to catch fire, these houses being really powder magazines? I'm a fool for asking such a question. Why, we should all go to blazes, that's the fact. Any mischievous man might at any moment involve all Anamaboe or Cape Coast in ruin. It is surely for the interest of the merchants themselves, as well as of all the residents, that they should make a movement to get up regular powder stores in some convenient spot outside the towns, otherwise they will find themselves some day in a very awkward fix. At present a flash of lightning or a spark of fire may be the means of blowing all Cape Coast, Anamaboe, or Accra to atoms.—Yours obediently,

AN OLD COWARD.

DISSATISFACTION IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Gold Coast, Aug. 21.

Sir,—Referring to my late communication relative to these eastern districts, I may remark that considerable dissatisfaction with the Government exists on two, among many, points. The first is, that the new duties have now been in force over six months without any measures being adopted conducive to the public benefit; and three civil commandants, all unacquainted with the country, having succeeded each other in that office during the past four months. The other grievance tells more powerfully on the interior, and involves the question of domestic slavery; some of the recent proceedings of Judge Parker having led to an impression that the Government intends to liberate the domestic slaves by force. I forbear any comment on these

questions just now. It is clear to me, however, that, humanly speaking, if our authorities at the Colonial-office do not bestir themselves, and efficiently reorganise and pacify the whole country, both the coast and interior, they may, ere long, as a point of national honour, bitterly regret the delay, and either have to abandon a ruined country, or call upon the nation (England) for the means of a large outlay of money to destroy the hydra which has been so unhappily allowed to grow into such mischievous proportions.

AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.

SHAMEFUL IMPRISONMENT OF MR. JOHN DODOO FOR EIGHTY DAYS WITHOUT EXAMINATION.—HIS RELEASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, August 18, 1868.

Sir,—Lebrecht Hesse, Esq., late J.P., is not the only victim of Mr. Chief Magistrate Parker's late judicial campaign here. Mr. John Dodoo, a highly respectable merchant at Accra, has just been released from a filthy dungeon, where he has been incarcerated for eighty days, on no grounds whatever. I was the means of obtaining an investigation, which had never been held by the authorities. The result of this preliminary investigation was Mr. Dodoo's immediate discharge from his filthy dungeon, where he witnessed the death of poor Williams, mate of a ship, some few days before his acquittal, and which was the subject of an inquest, presided over by Captain Russell, as Coroner (see page 30). You are already aware of the verdict of the jury, and Dr. Skue's evidence. Mr. Dodoo has retained Mr. Rainy, the champion of the oppressed, to commence an action against Mr. Parker for false imprisonment, and claims 2,000*l.* damages. We do not know how far the Sierra Leone Coast can give compensation to this injured man, but nothing could justify the arrest of Mr. Dodoo. So far as can be ascertained no information whatever was laid against unfortunate Mr. Dodoo. He was performing the duties of a juror, and immediately after the verdict he had assisted to record, Mr. Parker signed a warrant arresting him on a charge of "levying war." I need scarcely inform you that there could not have been the least reason to believe that such was the case. Yet, for eighty days was this poor educated African gentleman confined in a filthy cell on an imaginary crime; and during those eighty dismal days poor Dodoo never received a morsel of food from the British authorities; and had it not been for his friends, he would have been starved to death. Remember, too, that during all this time Mr. Skues was acting civil commandant, magistrate, governor, inspector, and medical attendant of the prisons. However, Mr. Dodoo is out, and those who have been guilty of this infamous oppression will, I hope, find to their cost, that Dodoo has got friends who will insist on ample justice being awarded to him through the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone. It escaped my memory to state that bail of an extraordinary nature was demanded in Mr. Dodoo's case, which it was well known could not be procured—viz., 200*l.* in sterling money, to be lodged in the Colonial chest.—Yours truly,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

DEATH OF A EUROPEAN FROM IMPROPER TREATMENT IN THE PRISON AT ACCRA.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE INQUEST BEFORE CAPTAIN RUSSELL, CORONER AND J.P. ON THE 27TH JULY, 1868.

The Coroner opened the proceedings by informing the jury that the deceased came by his death very suddenly, and it would be for them to say whether he died from violence, poison, or other means.

Mr. Lovell, the new agent for Messrs. Forster and Smith, of London, desired to know whether he would be allowed to examine the witnesses, as he was the agent of the firm who employed the deceased, and that he represented the family of the deceased. Having obtained permission to do so,

Dr. F. M. Skues, the Commandant (and as such the supreme prison authority) and medical officer, was then sworn, and he deposed as follows: I attended the deceased some time ago for fever, and he recovered. On Friday last I saw him again; he had another attack of fever; I gave him medicine. Yesterday he had a collapse. Nothing remarkable occurred except extreme prostration. Suitable treatment was adopted but without avail, and he died at half-past seven o'clock last night.

Cross-examined by a Juror: I am Acting-Commandant here. Deceased was committed for a breach of maritime law and drunkenness. His sentence was three months' hard labour, or such hard labour as he was able to undergo. I do not know the size of the cell deceased was confined in. Deceased never complained but once of being ill. I do not know what his diet was. Mr. Addo can answer that question. I consider the prison is a very bad place for Europeans or anyone to be confined in. I reported the fact to the Executive, but never received an answer or authority to make any changes. I mentioned that the con-

dition of the prison was in a very bad state to the Executive. No minister of religion ever visited the prisoner. I am not aware that there is any rule for calling in a minister of religion. I am not aware that the deceased desired to communicate with anyone. He had no friends here. It was about three weeks ago he first got ill. I never had any communication with the parties connected with the prosecution of the deceased. I never recommended the prisoner's removal during his illness, as I did not consider it necessary, nor was it my duty so to do. Before the prisoner's confinement to prison the risk was pointed out to the prosecutors, and I very strongly urged his being sent on board as a prisoner. The moment a man becomes a prisoner, prosecutors have no right to interfere further with him. It was after the committal of the deceased that I communicated with the prosecutors. I committed the prisoner to the gaol, such as it is, having no alternative. I believe the door of the deceased's cell was locked only at night. I cannot say whether it was locked night and day. Deceased was allowed to walk about the gaol-yard. *For the last day or two he had bedding. I am not aware he had any bed.* He had prison clothes sometimes, and his own at others.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lovell: I was one of the committing magistrates. I began to attend him from Friday last for his last illness. (Coroner here remarked that these questions had already been put and answered.) I attended the deceased prisoner when I came to the prison. The deceased had ague. (Here Dr. Skues objected to Mr. Lovell putting questions, and refused to answer.) Mr. Lovell insisted on his doing so, stating that, in his opinion, Dr. Skues was bound to give every facility for a thorough investigation for the satisfaction of the family of the deceased, whom he represented.

By a Juror: The deceased died of fever.

By Mr. Lovell: I did not consider it my duty to have reported the case to those interested in the deceased. (Here the Coroner remarked that unless Mr. Lovell desisted from asking irrelevant questions, he must request of him to sit down.) Mr. Lovell resumed his cross-examination by asking Dr. Skues how many hours the deceased's cell-door was open during the day.

Dr. Skues refused to answer the question, stating as his reason that Mr. Lovell had no right to put questions to him.

Mr. Lovell then continued to cross-examine through the jury.

Dr. Skues: I received a conditional pardon for the deceased whenever I could get a vessel to take him. I could not have said that the deceased would die to the Executive, as it would have been impossible for me to know, I merely said it was a great risk. (Mr. Lovell here called for the communications that passed between Dr. Skues and the Executive at Cape Coast. Dr. Skues refused to produce them, stating that Government despatches were private.) Since I obtained the conditional pardon no ship to my knowledge has been here that offered to take deceased. No request was made to me for this by the deceased. I never applied to the Astarte to take the deceased. I knew that the deceased belonged to the same employ. (Mr. Lovell here remarked that the Astarte had been in Accra since the 16th of this month, that he and Captain Gray, of the Astarte, had been several times in Dr. Skues' quarters, and that they were never asked to take the deceased, nor were they aware that the deceased was in prison.)

By a Juror: I never applied to anyone to take the deceased. An American vessel left here the other day which lost its captain. I think I applied to some captain, but on his hearing of the prisoner's character, he refused to take him. I might have sent deceased home in the mail, but I did not consider it necessary. I do not consider the prison in this place a fit place to confine Europeans in.

Henry Richter: I am head gaoler at Accra. On the night of the 16th, when I arrived from Cape Coast, I found deceased had been sick. He gave me a vial to get some medicine. Deceased got a little better on the 23rd inst. A prisoner confined with deceased sung out that deceased was dying. It was last Thursday I gave him some water, and he was better. There were two prisoners with deceased in his cell, named John Dodoo and Quaque Ajamauka. The prisoner was never locked up during the day. When deceased got ill, I went next day and reported it, and Dr. Skues sent some pills. Deceased used to walk up and down the yard. The prisoner had a country bed to lie on. I have been away from Accra for seven weeks. Joseph Peters was gaoler in my absence. Since the 16th the prisoner had had no change of clothes. The prisoner has never had any clothes as a change since his imprisonment—not even a shirt (witness here contradicted himself and said he always saw prisoner with a white shirt). He never had a change from the 16th to the 26th. The deceased never bathed. It was not my place to compel deceased to wash himself. It was my place to compel the prisoners to wash their faces and hands only, not their bodies.

Since the 24th I have been in close attendance on the prisoner night and day. Since the 24th Dr. Skues came three or

four times a-day. Dr. Skues came on Friday last, about three o'clock. Prisoner got medical comforts. Deceased got brandy, but no wine.

Joseph Peters: I am under-gaoler, now nearly two months. I attended the deceased on the 23rd of this month. He was taken ill, and called for water in the night. He could not breathe. I have never seen any prison regulations. I have none. The prison-doors are opened at 6 A.M., and shut at 6 P.M. Prisoner (deceased) said he did not know where his clothes were. Deceased used to be locked up with Mr. Dodoo in the day. The deceased used to get his change of clothes from Mr. Addo. The deceased, since my taking charge, was locked up with Dodoo and another prisoner until he died. Since these three have been locked up together is seven weeks. The deceased always expressed a wish to be locked up. They were locked up only two hours a-day. There were four prisoners in this same cell; but one escaped. When deceased became ill, seven of us slept in the cell. The cells are made to contain six men.

John Dodoo: I know the deceased. I have been locked up in the same cell with deceased for more than a month. The cell-door is opened at 6 o'clock A.M., closed again at 7 A.M.; opened again at 10 A.M., closed again at 11 A.M.; opened again at 4 P.M., and closed for the night at 6 P.M. The deceased was locked up all the time. The deceased was locked up in the day in his own cell before he came to mine. My cell was better than his, so he begged to be allowed to come in my cell. I do not know what I am in prison for. In twenty-four hours we have only four hours' relaxation. For a month the deceased never changed his shirt. Deceased never complained about his food or his treatment.

Mr. Addo: The prisoners of the deceased's class are supplied with rice and other food. The Government allow me 1s. 6d. per diem for Europeans. For this sum I am expected to supply sugar, tea, and other necessaries. I lose by it. I get 4d. per diem for natives. I never supplied deceased with any clean linen. There are no hospitals to take prisoners to when they get sick. (Here No. 3 paragraph of Prison Regulations was referred to by Foreman of jury, which stated that when prisoners got sick they were to be taken to the hospital. The Foreman observed that the prisoners have been in the state they now are for years, and that the Administrator had been down and seen them repeatedly.)

The jury here retired to examine the cell in which the deceased had been confined, and where he had died, and after a few minutes' consultation returned the following verdict in writing:—

"The Jury are of opinion that the deceased Charles Williams came to his death from natural causes, accelerated and aggravated by the deplorable state of the cell in which he was confined; also that the cell in which he was confined was too crowded with three persons sleeping in it, and, on inspection, there does not appear sufficient ventilation in the cell in which he was confined, and the jury think that great negligence is to be imputed to the Government for allowing the prisons to remain in such a shocking state, and the jury are sorry that Dr. Skues, the Acting-Commandant, knowing the prison to be unfit for Europeans, did not release him or have him removed.—(Signed) Charles Russell, J.P., Coroner, John J. Clayton, Foreman, Edward Walker, T. H. Ashmore, W. A. Lutterodt, W. G. Bruce, G. F. Cleland." Accra, July 27, 1868.

ACCRA.

Captain Charles E. Russell has succeeded Mr. Skues as Acting Civil Commandant.

TRIAL OF RICHTER, THE GAOLER, FOR ASSAULTING MR. FINLASON.

Henry Richter, the gaoler, was tried on the 28th July, before the Acting Civil Commandant and J.P., on the charge of assault and cruelty to Mr. Finlason, while undergoing his late illegal confinement. The specific allegation in this case was that Richter knocked Mr. Finlason down when he pleaded earnestly for some drinking water, and then kept him from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. locked up without the water he was suffering for want of. Richter was said also to have been boasting that he reported the circumstances to Chief Magistrate Parker (in presence of Dr. Skues), who approved of what he had done.*

The evidence for the prosecution fully established the charges. The only evidence we think it necessary to give here is that of Dr. Skues, who was called by the gaoler in his defence.

Dr. Skues, late Acting Commandant, being sworn, demanded to see the charge against the prisoner. The prosecutor objected. Captain Russell overruled prosecutor's objection, and read the indictment to Dr. Skues. Dr. Skues was then examined by prisoner: "You told me on one occasion that you had shoved (or words to that effect) prosecutor in his cell because he pre-

* Since when have the offices of judge and governor of the gaol been amalgamated on the Gold Coast?—Ed. A. T.

vented your locking his cell-door. I took no notice of it. I do not recollect if Judge Parker was present. The prosecutor never made any complaint to me about this charge, nor did he show any marks of violence. I attended him several times as a medical man." (Here Dr. Skues wanted to give his opinion, but was immediately stopped by prosecutor, who protested against Dr. Skues expressing any opinion, as he was not there for that purpose. Captain Russell quite agreed with the prosecutor), and Dr. Skues was then cross-examined by prosecutor: "You were locked up by my orders all day, with the exception of one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. You came down here as a prisoner, and I allowed such liberty as I thought necessary. You once complained to me about a gaoler, and I told you that I must believe him in preference to you. I was not present when the gaoler reported having knocked you down. This closed the defence.

Captain Russell remarked that it was unnecessary for prosecutor to address the Court, as he was satisfied he had fully made out his charge against the prisoner, and would deliver judgment on Thursday next; in the meantime, as the prisoner was a Government officer, he would undertake to produce him on the day that sentence would be pronounced.

August 5, 1868.—Since the above trial no sentence has been passed upon the prisoner, and he is still at large performing his duties; and it is reported that Dr. Skues has interfered with Captain Russell's honourable intention of doing justice, and recommended the proceedings to be sent to Mr. Wm. Alexander Parker, Chief Magistrate at Cape Coast, for his opinion.

The prosecutor has most respectfully asked for the committal of the prisoner until his punishment is settled upon by Mr. Parker; but Captain Russell says he is not yet in the position of Commandant, that he was only acting for Dr. Skues, and therefore cannot do anything more until Mr. Parker replies to the communication sent him with the proceedings.

As Mr. Parker is seriously affected by the conviction of Gaoler Richter, we wait with some curiosity for his opinion. In the meanwhile this throws some fresh light upon the mode in which justice has been dispensed on the Gold Coast under Mr. Parker and Dr. Skues.

THE CASE OF POOR WILLIAMS, WHO DIED IN PRISON AT ACCRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 14, 1868.

Sir,—Facts speak for themselves, and if ever there was a time for a public inquiry into the conduct of Government officials anywhere you must admit the present is one for an inquiry here. It would be unreasonable to expect a British public to believe what has really taken place at Accra, a town situated on the Gold Coast, and governed by the British Government; but should any doubt exist as to the truth of what I am about to relate I beg most respectfully to refer the incredulous to the records of Her Majesty's Court at a place lately named Fort Ussher, but for 250 years known as Fort Crève Cœur, adjoining James Town, Accra. By last mail I forwarded a correct report of an inquest taken before Captain Charles Edward Russell, J.P., Coroner, on the 27th July, 1868, on the body of one Charles Williams, chief officer of one of Messrs. Forster and Smith's vessels on the Coast, who died in a filthy dungeon at James' Fort, Accra, where he was undergoing an imprisonment of three months passed on him by two of Mr. Herbert Taylor Ussher's newly-created justices of the peace.

Several remarkable features presented themselves at the inquest, which, as a public reporter, I should feel myself culpable if I refrained from bringing under your notice as the exponent of public opinion on the Coast of Africa. First, then, Dr. Skues, the Commandant and Medical Officer at Accra, deposed on oath, before the inquest, "that the prisons were not fit to confine even natives of Africa in." That he had reported the circumstance to the Executive at Cape Coast, but never received instructions to make any changes. That some three weeks before the death of the deceased he had received a pardon for the deceased, if he could obtain a passage for him in any vessel. That several vessels had been at Accra. That he had seen the captains and agents of these vessels, but never asked them to take the deceased. That he did not consider it his duty to do so. That he did not know what diet the prisoner was fed on. That it was not his business to know. That the prisoner was subjected to attacks of ague and fever, but had recovered. That the deceased had a relapse, and on the night of the 26th July, extreme prostration ended his existence. That no minister of religion was asked to visit the prisoner. That he was not aware that there was any rule for calling a minister of religion to the deathbed of a prisoner. That he never communicated the state of the deceased's health to those connected with him, as he did not consider it necessary. That he strongly urged on the prosecutors to allow the deceased to be sent on board again after his

conviction. That he was one of the justices who committed the deceased to the gaol, such as it is, having no alternative. That the deceased was allowed bedding the last two or three days. That he could not have known that the deceased would have died. The Astaré (a ship belonging to the same employ as the one in which the deceased was engaged) has been here for some time. The captain and agent have often been in my office. I never made an application to them to take the deceased on board. At the time they came to my office, I had the conditional pardon in my possession. I knew that the deceased belonged to the same employ. I might have sent deceased home by the steamer, but I did not consider it necessary. I do not consider this fort a fit place to confine anyone in." Such, Sir, is the sworn evidence of a British Commandant, exercising at the same time the position of medical officer to a "Black Hole," for I will not call it a prison, situated at James Town, Accra. But the most important part of the proceeding is the verdict arrived at by six of the principal merchants of Accra, three of whom were Europeans.

They say that "The deceased Charles Williams came to his death from natural causes, accelerated and aggravated by the deplorable state of the cell in which he was confined, also that the cell was too crowded with three persons sleeping in it, and on inspection there does not appear to be sufficient ventilation in the cell in which he was confined, and the jury think that great negligence is to be imputed to the Government for allowing the prisons to remain in such a shocking state, and the jury are sorry that Dr. Skues, the Acting Commandant, knowing the prisons to be unfit for Europeans, did not release him or have him removed.—Signed, Chas. E. Russell, J.P., Coroner, J. J. Clayton, Foreman, Edward Walker, T. H. Ashmore, W. G. Bruce, W. A. Lutterodt, G. F. Cleland."

Mr. Ussher knew of the state of the prisons, because he frequently visited them.

On the 17th March last he took away from the chest at Accra 600l., amount collected for duties and rum licences, and spent it at Cape Coast in absurd political missions and travelling allowances to himself and others. Is such a man as this a fit and proper person to represent the British Sovereign? That is a question that has already been answered by every intelligent man on the Gold Coast, and it is to be hoped that her Majesty's Government will see the urgent necessity of permanently removing from the Gold Coast a man whose only qualification to govern was derived from his close connexion with the beef and pork barrels of a commissariat store. We want men whose position and character differ totally from those of Mr. Ussher.

Dr. Skues proceeded by last mail with his patron, Mr. Ussher, to Europe. Poor Williams has been buried, and I suppose that is all that his poor wife and helpless children in England will know of his cruel treatment and awful death in a filthy dungeon at Accra.—I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,

WM. CHARLES FINLASON.

A ROAD AT BONNY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, July 3, 1860.

Sir,—Bishop Crowther has arrived here in good health from Bonny, and on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., he gave us a very interesting account of his mission there. The church was densely crowded with people to hear him. He said that success does not at all times favour a missionary, although every true Christian desires that it should do so. He instanced the Apostles, how they were sometimes persecuted, and at other times were able to rejoice exceedingly at the success which attended their ministry. Missionary experience must necessarily be the same now. He had previously told us in a similar meeting, about a year ago, that the King of Bonny desired him to establish mission stations and schools in that place, for the education of their children. He then told the King he was very glad to learn of his good intentions, but that a missionary station, and the erection of schools, would at the least cost him 3000l.; if the King could pay half he would willingly establish a station. The King, to show his earnestness, said that he and his chiefs would do so. The Bishop, therefore, took with him carpenters, and other working men, to commence building, and they have finished a comfortable church and station for Divine worship and a missionary's residence. The natives were not backward in sending their children to school, and some of the aged, too, came to know something of the Bible. Each parent promised to pay 2l. per annum for each child's education. He held lately an annual examination after a very short notice, at which some of the captains and supercargoes of vessels then laying in Bonny River were present. He read the programme of lessons on which they were examined—and to the astonishment of the audience the Bishop said that their lessons were repeated by heart, without the least mistake, following and pronouncing their proper stops

and words so distinctly that the different parents who were there assembled, with the captains and supercargoes, were so perfectly satisfied that they paid down, in hard silver and gold money, 2l. for each child, some having nine, some ten, &c., making a total sum of above 100l. He further added that he had promised to take to Bonny a horse to show them, which they had reminded him not to forget, as none of them ever knew what a horse was, excepting the King. He bought a horse and took it down, and no sooner was the horse landed than the whole town was in confusion; everyone wanted to see a horse; some persons who came in contact with the animal threw themselves in the bush—(of course this set the audience in a great fit of laughter)—and there were gathered together not less than 500 persons, men, women, and children, asking various questions, as to what sort of food the horse can live upon. He said that, to satisfy their curiosity, he ordered his son to ride on the noble creature saddled, and go about the town, that everyone might be satisfied. He then again called their attention to the construction of roads in their town. He said to them: "You wanted a church, and station, and school—I have builded them. You wanted to see a horse—I have shown you one. But if you want horses to live here they must have exercise, and how can this be got without making roads in the town." He consulted with the King, who had a meeting with his chiefs, and, to his great surprise, at midnight the King came to him, and told him that he was just from the meeting of his chiefs, who agreed that the Bishop should open roads and streets; and accordingly he lost no time in asking for the great Fetish bush, which they granted to him, and through which, after some little trouble, he cut a way. The meeting was not a little shocked when the Bishop said that a great way in this bush was a Fetish house, in which were the skulls of human beings whose flesh had been eaten, the people being cannibals. The Bishop deeply deplored the superstitious notions of this people, in destroying the lives of those women who may have been delivered of twins—with the infants. He had used strenuous efforts to save one, but they refused, as it was the custom of their country. He, however, seized an opportunity of having an open-air preaching, which was attended by many of the people, to whom he preached from the words (in Genesis xxv. 23)—"Two nations are in thy womb;" and he said that they paid every attention to his sermon, which he hopes may take effect in their hearts, and be the means of putting an end to those diabolical practices in which they have so long indulged.

The Bishop says he was persuaded by some of his friends not to attempt to establish a mission there, because the people of Bonny at the end would not fulfil their promises. In spite of this he made a trial, and is glad to be able to tell of the success with which God has favoured him. May this be the means of further encouragement in the good work; and the Lord, who has promised to be with His servants wherever they go, even to the end of the world, will doubtless be with them here.

The Bishop is expected to leave this month for the Niger.—Believe me to be, Sir, your obedient servant, Lagos.

P.S.—It is more than fifty years that merchants have been trading in Bonny, but none of them were suffered to live in the town. We hope the Bishop's new road will make the people feel the want of building along the road, and that gradually the country will become healthy for our Sierra Leone friends in their trading operations.

FOREIGN-OFFICE, Sept. 15.—The Queen has been pleased to approve of Don Miguel Suarez y Guanes as Consul for the West Coast of Africa, to reside at Sierra Leone, for her Majesty the Queen of Spain.

LAKE ALBERT NYANZA.—At the anniversary meeting of the American Geographical Society, held in New York May 14, the President, the Hon. Chas. P. Daly, exhibited, among various antique maps belonging to the society, a map of Africa two centuries ago, which it is declared shows that the Dutch and Portuguese hydrographers of that period had a knowledge of the Lake Albert Nyanza and other points which have been claimed as recent discoveries.

THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA GOLD-FIELDS.—The discovery of a rich gold country to the north of the Limpopo River, on the borders of the Transvaal Republic and Portuguese settlements, has been fully confirmed. This new field of glistening quartz veined with gold has been named the Victoria Diggings, in honour of Her Majesty the Queen. They are immediately situated on the south-eastern face of the Matoppo Hills, in a triangular wedge of land, whose base is about 40 miles, and its two other sides respectively 80 and 90 miles in length, between two minor rivers, the Tati, Thati, or Tatin, and the Ramaquaban, that run into the Shashe, which is one of the chief tributaries of the great river Limpopo. The longitude of the part of the diggings being worked being between 29 and 30 deg. E., and the latitude between 20 and 21 S.

CAPE COAST FEMALE NATIVE SCHOOL.

Mrs. Joseph Moseley gratefully acknowledges the following:—	
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Miss Howard	0 10 0

NOTICE.

We feel it to be our duty to state that Mr. Mayne, late Stipendiary Magistrate at Lagos, denounces as false some of the statements made in a letter, published in our August number, opposing the grant of a pension to Mr. Mayne out of the revenues of the Colony of Lagos; and that we shall be happy to insert Mr. Mayne's refutation of those statements whenever it may reach us, as we never knowingly give currency to anything that is untrue.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1868.

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H. S. Swatson, 5s.; John Swatson, 5s.; R. A. Ferguson, 5s.; T. Penny, 20s.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—An Imperial decree, dated the 12th inst., has been promulgated in Paris, permitting the importation of merchandise from any foreign port, and sailing under any flag whatever, on the French settlements on the Gold Coast and the Gaboon. Such merchandise will be subject to a maximum tax of 4 per cent. on the declared value. Merchandise loaded in foreign vessels from the above-mentioned settlements, when imported into France, will be subject to a surtax of 20f. on the bottom. This decree is to come in force on Jan. 1, 1869.

SPAIN.—A report is current that a general insurrection has broken out in Spain, and that the Queen has abdicated.

CORON.—The total United States' crop for 1867-8 amounted to 2,431,000 bales, not including that taken for consumption in the South, which is estimated at 150,000 bales. The total quantity exported and consumed amounted to 2,474,000 bales, or, including Southern consumption, to 2,624,000 bales. News from China states that the cotton crop is a decided failure this year. Reports from the upper provinces of Bengal state that the cotton crops are unusually small. The Cotton Market at Liverpool was without any change worth recording.

DEBTORS' RELIEF ORDINANCE FOR THE GAMBIA.

ONE of the evils attendant on the course pursued as regards the application of English law to the British settlements on the West Coast of Africa has just now come prominently before us; and we are so firmly convinced of the desire of Her Majesty's Government that equal justice shall be administered to all classes in those settlements, that we feel sure it is only necessary for us to point out the particular evil now requiring remedy to cause that remedy to be immediately applied. There must manifestly be great risk of injustice being perpetrated under the name and form of law, when only a part, instead of the whole, of the English system is introduced in a British settlement. The course pursued on the West Coast has been for the respective Legislative Councils (formed of Crown officials and other Government nominees) to pass ordinances from time to time, applying certain portions of the home laws to the settlements in which they might be exercising jurisdiction. In this way the British laws for the recovery of debts have been introduced in all the West Coast Settlements; and, as ought to have been considered a necessary consequence, the English laws for the relief of debtors have been subsequently introduced also, in all the colonies and settlements, *excepting that of the River Gambia*. This exception is the evil of which we complain, and which calls

for prompt and immediate remedy. The English laws and form of procedure for the recovery of debt, and the old English laws of imprisonment for debt, are stringently applied at Bathurst; but there is no relief there for the insolvent debtor, as in England; the incarcerated debtor must remain in prison year after year, until death releases him, or his creditors relent and give him freedom. This partial application of English law is now producing results greatly to be deprecated. Under it, a gross and grinding and atrocious tyranny is exercised—a tyranny aggravated by the nature of the general mercantile transactions of the colony. The great trade of the River is that in ground-nuts. This trade is principally carried on by educated natives of Bathurst with the native producers in the upper part of the River. These educated natives, without whose intermediation between the British import houses and the native producers, the trade could not be carried on, are not possessed of the capital necessary to enable them to purchase imported goods of the importing merchants for purposes of barter, and subsequently to sell the ground-nuts to them. They have, therefore, to take the goods for barter from the merchants, *at the merchants' prices*, as agents, with the responsibility of principals. They are charged with the goods they take up the River for barter, at prices which may possibly enable them, in a very good ground-nut season, and barring accidents and plunder by marauding tribes (for there is no efficient British protection up the River), to cover their expenses and realise a small sum for the support of their families; but, practically, the result is, that the unfortunate trader is always in debt to the merchant—is hopelessly his slave—and, in the event of his desiring emancipation from this thralldom, or claiming for himself and his fellows equal protection and advantages with the merchant under British rule, he is proceeded against in the court of law for the balance alleged to be standing against him, has, almost as a matter of course, judgment pronounced against him, and from that moment becomes a hopeless and helpless victim of injustice under the name of law, to be locked up or allowed to be at large only at the will and caprice of his creditor. Now this is so repugnant to British law, to justice and equity—is so great a bar, so insuperable an obstacle to that native progress which the late committee of the House of Commons looked forward to for enabling the government to be carried on by the agency of educated natives in the West Coast Settlements—that, as we have before said, we feel that it is only necessary to bring it thus under the notice of Her Majesty's Government to cause the adoption of some immediate measures by the Colonial-office for putting a stop to the grievous oppression under which the educated native traders in the River Gambia are now suffering. It would have been easy for us, and would have been our duty, had we not this conviction as regards the Colonial-office, to show how infamously the law has been of late set in action by one of the resident merchants for personal motives, hatreds, and interest, to the oppression of educated natives who have dared to aspire to an equality of rights, as British subjects, with the more opulent import and export merchants; but as it is always with the most extreme reluctance that we expose an offender, we abstain from any further remarks at present, and venture to express boldly the hope that it will be rendered altogether unnecessary, by his Grace the Secretary of State for the Colonies, or by Sir Arthur Kennedy, in his capacity of Governor-in-Chief of the West Coast Settlements, ordering the immediate promulgation of an ordinance at the Gambia for putting in force there the English Bankrupt and Insolvency Laws, to be administered there as at Sierra Leone, Cape Coast, &c., with this proviso, that as trial by jury in civil causes is now abolished there, and by late alteration in the Jury Laws as regards criminal cases all the power of the jury-box is thrown into the hands of the few opulent mercantile houses, to the prejudice and danger of the whole body of educated natives, traders and others, no sentence of imprisonment under such Bankrupt and Insolvency Laws shall be at all carried into execution until the same has received the approval of the Governor-in-Chief at Sierra Leone.

ABEOKUTA AND LAGOS.

THE letter we have now published (p. 36) on "What Caused the Heathen Uprising in Abeokuta on Sunday, October 13, 1867," brings the whole question of the unsettled and most unsatisfactory state of relations between Lagos and Abeokuta again prominently before us. The sale and gift of lands at Ebute Meta by the Lagos Government, constituting as this does an absolute claim and assumption of British authority over that portion of the main land, is a measure of such extreme importance as bearing upon the present and future relations between the British colony of Lagos and the native government of Abeokuta, that nothing short of the most imperious necessity, and the most indisputable and indefeasible claim, can possibly justify such proceedings. There is no portion of the West Coast at which the development of productive resources and the increase of commerce, may be so rapid as in the Abeokuta Territories (with Yoruba generally) and Lagos, provided there be a constantly good and friendly understanding and amicable relations between Lagos and Abeokuta. But for this it is essential that nothing should be done on the part of the Island Government to wound the just susceptibilities, or aggravate the unfortunate distrust of the Abeokutans, as regards British encroachment. The progress of Christian civilisation and material development in the Yoruba countries and primarily among the Aku people, and the increase of the trade of Lagos, are desired results necessarily bound up together and inseparably united. It is not for the permanent mercantile interest of Lagos that she should be mixed up with the wars and disputes of the interior, except as a great civilised pacificator—as the representative of British Christian civilisation acting for the amelioration of adjacent heathen lands. But if Lagos holds absolute possessions on the main land, she can scarcely fail to be involved in such native wars and disputes; and it must be expected that questions will continually arise to disturb the friendly intercourse of Lagos with the interior. We regard this matter of the present and future relations of Lagos with the main-land people, and especially with Abeokuta, as one of such very great importance, that we feel it to be our duty to solicit for it the prompt and especial attention of the Governor-in-Chief. Among the gross neglects of duty of Governor Blackall we look upon his conduct as regards this important matter, as one of the most serious, and at the same time, most irritating to native susceptibilities and suspicions. We see with pleasure that the Governor of Lagos has been lately invited to Sierra Leone by the Governor-in-Chief; doubtless for those explanations as regards the Lagos Government which could scarcely be fully given without a personal interview; and as the facts, real or supposed, as viewed by the local Lagos Executive, and the views of that Executive, will now have been brought under the keen and impartial mental scrutiny of Sir Arthur Kennedy, we look forward with hope and confidence to some action of the Governor-in-Chief, that shall lead to a speedy placing of the relations of Lagos with Abeokuta, and *vice versa*, on a just and friendly footing, such as will tend to the permanent reciprocal advantage of the inhabitants of the British colony and of the adjacent native territories.

MISAPPLICATION OF THE GAMBIA REVENUES.

IT does not much matter in which of the British West African Colonies and Settlements we inquire as to the expenditure of the revenues raised there. The same practice is found to prevail in all of them, with some exception as regards Lagos, where works of public utility have been allowed a share. There is the same squandering of the public money upon official favourites everywhere, and everywhere an almost total neglect of those matters upon which the progress of towns, and districts, and countries depend. But for the present we will take Bathurst. Look at Bathurst. The imposts on trade and commerce have been, within the last three years, most prejudicially increased because of former lavish extravagance. The revenue must be above 20,000l. a-year. The colonial steamer for protecting and assisting trade up

the Gambia, which formerly absorbed some 5,000l. a-year, has disappeared from the estimates and from river navigation, and what is being done with the money? In March last we were called upon to notice that, although the revenue has for many years past fluctuated between 15,000l. and 20,000l. a-year, not even a fire-engine has been provided for the town of Bathurst, so that when a fire breaks out in any of the native habitations, there are none of the means used in civilised countries for arresting its progress; there is a general danger, and much loss and privation is the result. In our June number an intelligent correspondent says that on all sides there is deterioration and no renewal—the sea-wall has been allowed to go out of repair, the roads are neglected and have become almost useless; while the writer of another letter in the same number inquires why such and such houses are hired by the local authorities unnecessarily at a great expense of public money, and only for the advantage and profit of some favoured individuals. It is from beginning to end a system of waste. There is so much a-year to be spent, and the question has been, not how much good may be effected for the Colony with it, but who is to have a share in it? Is it not shameful? Is it any wonder that the people complain? Little or nothing done for education; nothing for the assistance or protection of trade on the river; no bridge built over Oyster Creek, so that there may be always an open road into the healthy districts of British Combo; not even a fire-engine to save the houses of the poor people from destruction; sea-wall out of repair, and roads neglected. We only give these as a sample of the really vital necessities that are not attended to, while what is amply sufficient for these purposes is uselessly squandered in other directions where it only benefits unjustly a few favoured individuals. Do not let us be misunderstood. We do not accuse the present chief local authority, the present Administrator, of squandering the revenue by any acts of favouritism. The worst we should say of him is that he allows the continuance of abuses scandalously perpetrated by others, such as the rental of the houses mentioned by "Public Interest" in our June number. Rather, the complaint made against Admiral Patey is, that having succeeded in getting a large sum into the colonial chest, he is not willing to expend any of it even on those most indispensable works—roads, bridges, and sea-wall.† For a moment there is a fit of official parsimony, and the misapplication consists in shutting that money up in the chest in useless inactivity, which ought to be made the instrument of present and future good to the colony. We venture to call the serious attention of the Administrator, Admiral Patey, to these things. Why should he not make his administration memorable on the Gambia by the correction of old abuses, and the application of some portion of the surplus funds he so happily possesses, on objects that will bring him thanks and blessings from a grateful people. Let him begin by importing that most necessary adjunct of civilisation, a fire-engine; and then form a volunteer fire brigade; teaching the natives how they may most usefully employ themselves in extinguishing a conflagration. We really long for the opportunity of praising Admiral Patey or some other of our West Coast administrators. We have volumes of laudation ready for them if they will only give us proper occasion for using it, for the fact is they have afforded us so little chance of applying any portion of it during the past eight years, that the accumulation on hand is quite embarrassing. We should like to see a healthy emulation among them as to who should establish a claim to the largest portion of it. Will an emulation in good, among West Coast officials really show itself, and gratify our anxious desires? Alas, we are long waiting for it.

* Dr. Horton alludes to this much-needed bridge in page 242 of his work, just published, on Western Africa. Having expatiated on the great salubrity of British Combo as contrasted with pestilential Bathurst, he says: "Between the island of St. Mary's and British Combo is a small muddy stream called Oyster Creek. This stream is ferried by a huge boat moved by paddle-wheels, which is continually out of repair. The ferry costs the Government nearly 50l. a-year. A good substantial bridge could be built for 300l. to 400l., which would at once relieve the Government of the yearly outlay and the population from a great inconvenience." † See the complaint (p. 25) about the state of the drains.

THE INFAMOUS TRANSVAAL REPUBLIC.

THE Transvaal Republic in Southern Africa is, in truth, one of the most flagrant insults to humanity, justice, and Christianity known of in the present day. The monsters of whom it is for the major part composed deserve universal execration. This majority consists of the Dutch Boers, the old farmers of the Cape territory, who at the time of the Slave Emancipation Act refused to live under British rule without the institution of slavery. By an act of what must be called criminal weakness in a Christian Government, we allowed them to throw off their allegiance and migrate to the native territories beyond our frontier, to spread desolation among the tribes of the interior. Men who were capable of abandoning their homesteads and properties, where they and their fathers had lived for several generations, because they could be no longer permitted to hold slaves there, and make slave raids among the surrounding natives, were not likely to behave with much moderation when freed from all control. After sundry vicissitudes and migrations, they finally settled on what is now called the territory of the Transvaal Republic. This country is about 300 miles by 400 miles, and one of the finest in South Africa. When men go among savages to found what they term a civilised state, and sword and musket in hand to conquer a territory, we do not expect to find them patterns of Christian humanity and justice. But these men have behaved and continue to behave more like demons than men. They have gradually extended depopulation around them, with one sole object—that of robbing cattle and making slaves. And incredible as it may seem, they have glossed over their atrocious proceedings with a semblance of humanity. Their Government calls out a *commando*, or armed expedition, to go in a certain direction—a pretext is, of course, never wanting; they kill, burn, rob, and destroy, but they invariably bring back with them large numbers of native children, boys and girls, from two to three years old up to ten and twelve. These they call deserted children, having first murdered their parents, and these children are partly divided among the *commando* by lot, and partly distributed among the guiding spirits, the fathers of the Republic, the President, and his immediate adherents. Under the name of apprentices, they bring up these for slaves and concubines. We are sorry to have to say that among these organised ruffians there are a number of English vagabonds, who have cast their lot with them for the more free gratification of their evil passions and propensities. Compared with the monsters of this Transvaal Republic, the inhabitants of the Orange Free State—between whom and the Basutos we have interfered for the preservation of the latter from a war of extermination—are models of moderation and virtue. It is justly observed in South Africa that, though the Orange Free State people brought home much plunder in cattle, they never found any *deserted children*. But these children are with the Transvaal Republicans a main object of their expeditions. Too wise to fill their houses with adult captives, who, strong in numbers, might become dangerous, and who would be continually escaping, they bring up in these children a race of domestic slaves. And these atrocious crimes are perpetrated by escaped British subjects, not very far beyond the limits of British jurisdiction. We have long felt that this ought to be put a stop to; but we did not see a ray of hope until the late interference for the preservation of the Basutos. Now there is a gleam of light on that dark horizon. By a strange movement in the native mind, interior tribes beyond this Republic are entreating to be taken under British protection. They look upon this as the only escape from their own intestine discords, and that atrocious war of extermination constantly waged by the Transvaal burghers for the rescue of *deserted children*. There has been also a gradual infiltration of better men, British and others, who have settled in the towns in that fine territory. These held a public meeting lately to protest against a new *commando* that had been ordered, and against the whole system. But this, we are sorry to say, did not prevent the *commando* going forth, so that there will be another episode of murder and deserted chil-

dren. Meanwhile the President and his saintly council of Boers, have taken a step that only the culminating madness of hitherto successful wickedness could have prompted. We have said their territory, as heretofore claimed, is 300 miles by 400 miles—a tolerably ample territory one would have imagined for a community of about 15,000. But Murch's gold discoveries on the north, the movement in the native mind toward British protection, the desire of an outlet on the Coast, and the rumoured purchase of the Delagoa Bay Territories by the Prussians from the Portuguese, have spurred these magnates to a daring leap. By a proclamation, the President has extended the limits of the Transvaal Republic over several degrees of latitude and longitude; so as to include the real or supposed gold-fields, a portion of the sea-coast, and a large extension westward, and, among many other tribes, those who have been so wisely bold as to ask for British protection. A correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, writing from Potchefstroom, the capital town of this race of madmen, justly says: "This decree is sublime. Whatever is, is right; whatever is proclaimed, *ipse facto*, becomes Transvaal Territory. Mr. Pretorius steals from the Portuguese and Zulus in the East; from Malgen, Moselekatshe, and others in the north; and from a number of native chiefs in the west and south-west." We have given some idea of these people who thus annex territories to be a fresh field for *commandos*, but a few additional facts will not be out of place. At the meeting at Potchefstroom, to which we have alluded, the Rev. Mr. Ludorf stated "that on one particular occasion, a number of native children, who were too young to be removed, had been collected in a heap, covered over with long grass, and burnt alive; OTHER ATROCITIES HAD LIKEWISE BEEN COMMITTED, BUT THESE WERE TOO HORRIBLE TO RELATE": the whole thing is too horrible to dwell upon. There has been such an infiltration of civilising influences by missionary exertion and communication with the Natal colony, &c., that the greater part of native Southern Africa exhibits manifest tokens of a desire to be allowed to live in peace and progress under the British flag; very many both in the Orange Free State and in the Transvaal Republic desire the same thing; and all that is now wanting is for the British Government to declare what has always been understood on the Coast, that its territory there extends uninterruptedly to the junction with that of the Portuguese in Delagoa Bay, and includes all territory south of the line of the twenty-sixth degree of south latitude; while it is ready to extend its protection to any interior tribes north of this limit, who may be ready to conform to British regulations. In this way, Africa, from the Zambesi to the Cape, will become civilised, and form eventually a magnificent South African native empire. This would really cost nothing to England; and we think, too, that if Portugal is inclined to sell her East African Territories in and from Delagoa Bay to the Zambesi, Great Britain is entitled to the preference. The Cape Colony and Natal would be glad enough to pay the interest of the money that might be advanced by the Imperial Government for that purpose, until they could redeem the debt. Would that these wise and noble Christian and economical views might prevail!

ADDRESS OF A NATIVE OF THE GOLD COAST TO HIS FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN.

TO THE NATIVES OF THE GOLD COAST.

Friends and Countrymen,—In the history of nations there has been always a turning-point in their annals, whence they have commenced a new career, which has, in the generality of cases, led them on to eminence. In addressing you I am not prompted by any spirit of arrogance; neither am I induced to take this step by any selfish desire, nor by any aspirations of ambition. If I am arrogant, it is the arrogance of desiring to aid in raising our beloved land from her low state. If I am selfish, it is the selfishness (if it is such) of desiring to be the first to conduce to her elevation. If I am ambitious, it is the ambition of desiring to see her eventually take her place among the nations of the earth. Misgoverned as we have been for some years past, the time hath at last arrived when, united heart and hand, we may bring about a better state of things. "Aide-toi, le ciel t'aidera," is an old saying that we would do well to bear in mind. Possess-

ing men endowed with no mean abilities—some of whom possess almost unbounded influence over her peoples, others of whom are blessed with the advantages of a superior education—there is not one who will come forward in her hour of need. This it is that has caused me to address the public in general; but whilst so doing I speak to those who are gifted with those abilities, who are possessed of that influence, and who are blessed with superior education in particular. If they shrink from the responsibility cast on them (for which they will have to account hereafter), if they will not step forward in her trying hour and exhibit some patriotic ardour, but are bent solely on seeking their self-interest, how can we hope that our native land will ever be elevated? How can it be expected that our peoples will ever attain to the same height of civilisation as those of other nations? Heaven assists those who help themselves; but whilst we are indifferent to the fortunes of our own country, how can we expect blessings from above? The initiative must be taken; the example must be set; and, invoking Almighty aid, I have dared to attempt the undertaking.

On the 18th July of the current year, after certain correspondence had passed between them, his Excellency the Administrator, H. T. Ussher, addressed a letter to the presidents and other chiefs of Fantee at Mankessim, in which, after censuring the conduct of the said presidents and chiefs, and after going into various circumstances connected with the Elmina war, his Excellency proceeds to state: "Your conduct has been such that I can have no longer any relations with you," and "as you voluntarily throw off your allegiance, you must not be surprised that I accept your act, and treat you, until you come to your senses, as apart from Great Britain;" further, that "in case of a war with Ashantee, as you will have provoked it, you will bear the brunt thereof without help from Government." Such being the facts, the Ashantees having already invaded the territories of our friends and allies (the Wassaws and Denkiras)—the British Government having disowned us, and informed us that we are not to expect any assistance from it in case of an Ashantee invasion—our wisest and safest policy lies in our adopting, without delay, some measures for our self-government and our self-defence. I do not call on you to assist in upsetting the Government under which we have been living, but to aid in promoting the advancement of our motherland, since that Government has renounced us. If the British Government will withdraw its protection; if instead of qualifying us for the functions of self-government, it will throw us back into the degraded state in which it found us; if it will cast us back into the original state of fetishism and barbarism from which she has attempted to raise us; if it will permit a few temporary obstacles to obstruct its efforts to Christianise us, the sooner we, who know the advantages to be derived from Christianity and civilisation, take the task of regenerating and civilising our native land into our hands the better. Loyal to the British Crown we have ever been (it would be ungrateful to be otherwise); but if, instead of calling to account those who have misruled us, and by their misguided acts brought the once well-honoured name of England into disrepute amongst us, it will allow its officials to create a chaos of affairs here, nothing remains for us but to unite and reorganise a new state of things. Some of you there are, who profess being disciplined to British rule, but who at the same time disclaim being British subjects, yet who will not openly countenance the acts of those that are seeking the welfare of our country, whose advice and influence if given boldly and fearlessly, in the council of their country, by that of the British Government, would tend to the obtaining of better relations between that Government and our peoples; and who evade their duty. I ask you whether that is performing your duty to your country or the Government by which you are ruled? Friends and countrymen, our country has need of all our abilities, our influence, our education, to guide her through her dangers; and I call on you, one and all, to assist in the glorious task. No shrinking now from our duty—a duty imposed upon us by the ties of nature and by Providence. Let us throw aside all invidious and jealous feelings, and let us all join in hastening the evangelising and civilising of our native land. Let us assemble and discuss as to the best course to be pursued under these circumstances. You are all invited to Mankessim for that purpose; let no one hold back. Brethren, our country's sole hope is in us; through us does she expect to be eventually regenerated, and I will close with these expressive words, "Awake! arise! or be for ever fallen!"

ONE OF YOURSELVES.

A GOLD COAST PUPIL IN ENGLAND.—We have been glad to hear of the good progress in his studies made by James Solomon, son of the Rev. J. A. Solomon, Wesleyan native minister at Domanasi, Gold Coast. On November 20, 1867, after having been two years in England, he received his certificate of Associate in Arts, and is now an undergraduate of London University.

PETITION FROM ACCRA TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

To His Excellency Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's West African Settlements.

The Petition of the undersigned King, Chiefs, Merchants, and other Inhabitants, of James Town, Crève Cœur Town, Christiansborg Town, and Tashie, in the Eastern District of the Gold Coast,

Humbly sheweth,

That your petitioners, in consequence of the extraordinary and unprecedented conduct of the Honourable Wm. Alexander Parker, Chief Magistrate and Assessor of the Gold Coast, convened a public meeting at Accra, on the 25th day of July, 1868, for the purpose of taking into consideration the desirability of presenting a respectful petition to your Excellency, with a view that an investigation should be instituted to inquire into the charges that your petitioners feel called upon to make against the said Chief Magistrate of this Protectorate.

That at such meeting it was unanimously agreed that a respectful petition should be presented to your Excellency, setting forth the grievances under which your petitioners have been labouring since Mr. Parker's arrival in Accra in April this year, and also since the exchange of territories on the Gold Coast.

That at such meeting nearly all the chiefs and educated natives of the Eastern Districts were present.

That your petitioners respectfully approach your Excellency with feelings of the most profound respect, founded upon a knowledge that your Excellency has ever been distinguished for your love of justice and truth, which fact emboldens your petitioners to state fully their feelings at this critical juncture in the history of the Gold Coast.

That your petitioners are alive to the responsibility which they incur, but at the same time, knowing that petitioning is an old and constitutional method of obtaining redress for grievances, they make bold to lay at your Excellency's feet the following complaints:—

The Honourable William Alexander Parker, the Chief Magistrate and Assessor of the Gold Coast, arrived at Accra in April last, and almost immediately on his landing he commenced to arrest and imprison peaceful citizens indiscriminately, without any complaints or affidavits being filed against them.

That a gentleman who had been in the Commission of the Peace (and who had resigned his position, with three other magistrates, in consequence of insults offered to them on the bench by Mr. Parker a few days before) was pulled out of his bed at Christiansborg, by virtue of a warrant signed by Mr. W. A. Parker, Chief Magistrate, and compelled to proceed through a heavy rain at eleven o'clock at night to the common gaol at James Fort, where he was locked up with his wet clothes in a most horrible dungeon.

That the next day a magistrate sat to investigate the charges against this gentleman, Lebrecht Hesse, Esq., and after examining several witnesses he was discharged from custody, there being not a tittle of evidence against him.

That your petitioners are prepared to prove that numerous other acts of oppression and injustice have been exercised by Mr. Parker, the Chief Magistrate of the Gold Coast, without the slightest foundation.

That on the 23rd day of May last, fifty-six of the most respectable inhabitants of Accra were made prisoners by order of Mr. Parker, and conveyed to Cape Coast in Her Majesty's Ship Dart, on charges of holding slaves, &c.

That these persons were kept for upwards of six weeks at Cape Coast, at a great expense, and suffered severely in their reputation and mercantile pursuits, and were allowed to return without any trial or investigation, his Honour the Chief Magistrate having, doubtless, found out that as your petitioners' countrymen, not being British subjects, and their rights to domestic slavery never having been questioned before, his Honour had no power to interfere with the institution of your petitioners' country.

That your petitioners respectfully and earnestly submit that they are entitled to redress for their unlawful arrest and transportation to Cape Coast, and their detention there.

That Mr. Parker, the Chief Magistrate of the Gold Coast, addressed the Chiefs of Christiansborg a letter, dated 16th June last, copy of which petitioners hereunto annex; but in spite of this declaration of the Chief Magistrate, emancipation is going on with as much vigour as before, thus putting the country in the greatest confusion.

That without any allegation of cruelty on behalf of owners of slaves, Mr. Parker has emancipated them, and without even notifying such manumission to the owners. The consequence is that a most respectable lady of Accra was arrested on the night of the 23rd of July last, by a warrant signed by F. M. Skues, M.B., Acting Commandant of Accra, because two of her slaves came to her house on their arrival from Cape Coast. After being

locked up for some time in a filthy dungeon, she was bailed out of prison, and next morning discharged, as the Commandant admitted he had made a mistake, or was labouring under a wrong impression.

That your petitioners respectfully submit that such acts as these are not likely to increase the respect and confidence of the people to the Queen's Government in the Protectorate, and they do most earnestly and respectfully pray that your Excellency will recognise the desirability of causing an investigation to be held at Accra, to enable them to prove the allegations here made against the Chief of the Judicial Department and the Acting Civil Commandant of this place.

That your petitioners beg most respectfully to remind your Excellency that their country is not a colony of the British Crown, and, as they do not derive the advantages of a colony, it seems hard that the institutions of their country should be so unceremoniously trampled on.

That your petitioners most earnestly pray that your Excellency will see the necessity of recommending a reduction in the duties that have been lately imposed consequent upon the exchange of territory, as it is impossible for your petitioners to carry on a profitable business with such heavy duties, particularly on spirits and tobacco.

That your petitioners do earnestly pray that your Excellency will instruct the Commandant at Accra not to interfere with your petitioners' wives and slaves, when they choose to run into the Fort, for the most trivial causes.

That your petitioners earnestly pray that the merchants of Christiansborg may be allowed to land their goods there, instead of being compelled to land them at Accra, thus necessitating a great expense in having them carried by land to Christiansborg, a distance of three miles.

That your petitioners earnestly pray to bring under your Excellency's notice a grievance, which they pray will meet with redress. A number of coopers and other labourers are in the habit of going to the River and Bights of Benin to work; and on their return their employers, not having cash to pay them for their wages, do so in cloths and other produce, which, on arrival at Accra, is seized by the Custom-house authorities, and duty is demanded thereon. These goods being the result of the labourers' earnings, and not brought here for the purpose of trade, your petitioners submit that no duty ought to be charged, and they pray that your Excellency will order them in future to be exempted from duty.

That your petitioners again beg most respectfully, but earnestly, to urge on your Excellency for your gracious consideration the extraordinary conduct of the Chief Magistrate, with a view that an investigation should be instituted into his conduct. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed by King Narkoo, of Christiansborg, thirty-six chiefs, and twenty-one of the principal educated natives in the Eastern Districts.)

A ROYAL MONUMENT IN DAHOMEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Whydah, Dahomey, June 30, 1868.

Sir,—I went up to Abomey in January last, to witness the erection of a monument which the king was going to make for his father. It was thus: He built three round houses in one of the palace-yards, named Commasie. They were each ten feet in diameter; one was for his deceased father, one for the supposed deceased friend of his father, and one for the late king's mother, who died before him. The following tools and materials were given by the king for making the monument: 2 gold pickaxes, 2 silver ditto; 2 gold hoes, and 2 silver ditto; 2 gold trowels, and 2 silver ditto; 2 copper hoes, 2 brass ditto, and 2 iron ditto; 2 iron pickaxes, 2 copper ditto, and 2 brass ditto; 1 gold-gilt watering-pot, and 1 silver-gilt ditto; 24 puncheons of rum; some gold and silver coins; some coral and other kinds of beads; some pieces of silk damask (these were torn into small pieces); and the blood of forty human beings caught by the king in his wars. All these implements were equally divided between the two prime ministers, Mingah and Maywo, for mixing the swish, and during the mixing he threw into the mixture two boxes of gold-dust, the coral and other beads, the silk pieces also, and the blood of the human beings. This work occupied about a week. The coverings were silk, bamboo mats, and grass; and three ornaments—one like a vessel, one like an eagle, and one like a large umbrella tree—were put on the top of the three circular houses which we call monuments. At the front eight posts and cross-sticks were erected, and skulls and coral and other beads were hung on them. Smaller posts, similarly ornamented, were at the sides. On the day of the dedication almost everyone in the kingdom made presents to the king—gold coins, cowries, cloths, bullocks, sheep, goats, ducks, fowls, pigeons, palm-oil, &c. This also occupied about a week, and at the close of the presents the king produced six ornaments, some made in Europe

and the others in Dahomey, in the form of hand lanterns, which were then shown to the assembly, the king saying that he had made them for his good father, who left him a large property to enjoy his kingship with. Three weeks after this he went on a war expedition, to some place of which we, the residents, are ignorant. He returned home unsuccessful, and of course, not being content at having come back empty-handed, made another expedition to five small places, which he broke, and caught all the people and brought them to Abomey. Now, lately, on the 20th inst., he made the gun custom, which ended yesterday. On this occasion all the captains swore in the large market that they would go to Abeokuta in four months' time and fight against the people there, and break the place, and catch every soul, and show them that the king has braver warriors yet than those whom the Abeokutans defeated in the last war. There is to be another custom shortly.—Yours faithfully, D.

WHAT CAUSED THE HEATHEN UPRISING IN ABEOKUTA ON SUNDAY, OCT. 13, 1867.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Much has been said and written about what happened in Abeokuta on the above date—viz., mission-houses partially destroyed, missionaries deprived of their property, and merchants and traders of their goods and effects, by the heathen portion of the Egbas residing in Abeokuta.

The "Aku Man" and the "Anxious Observer," in your paper of January last, have endeavoured to cast the blame on the Egbas solely, and to vindicate and justify the unauthorised proceedings of Administrator Glover in reference to the Egbas, forgetting that "the bee never stings until it is provoked," and that "there never was a smoke where there had been no ignition."

The facts are truly these: Mr. Geo. W. Johnson, the lawfully-recognised Secretary for the Egba Government, having been authorised and empowered, sent an article, dated June 1, 1867, to the *Iwo Irohin*, edited by the Rev. J. Q. B. Wood, of the Church Missionary Society, in which it was said "that it is the intention of the Government to place Customs-houses and officers below Abeokuta, at which to collect duty on produce exported from the territories of Abeokuta to the sister country of Lagos."

The Administrator (Glover) of Lagos subsequently wrote a despatch to the Bashorun President-General of the Egba United Board of Management; to the effect that he had observed by the Government notice in the *Iwo Irohin*, Abeokuta newspaper, that it is the intention of the Egba Government to place Customs-houses and officers below Abeokuta, &c., and, thinking this to be a fitting occasion, asked the Egba Government to come to a definitive treaty with the Lagos Government as regards their respective frontiers.

Mr. Secretary Johnson was again authorised by the Bashorun to acknowledge the receipt of the Administrator's letter, and to tell him that the Board of Management is but a new beginning of a civilised government, and therefore cannot undertake the responsibility of entering into a treaty with an already civilised one; and to inform the Administrator that the Egba Government could not discuss the subject of setting up Customs-houses in Abeokuta and its territories, which are always understood and recognised to be quite free from Her Britannic Majesty's settlement of the Island of Lagos; and, finally, to advise the Administrator to agree with him and chiefs in considering the subject of their past and present communications in reference to treaty as closed.

The Bashorun having been afterwards informed by the people of Abeokuta and chiefs of Otta that the Administrator had placed constables on the Egba territories, without his knowledge and consent, again authorised Mr. Secretary Johnson to write the Administrator, in plain words, to remove the several constables from the Egba territories, in order to prevent inconvenience, and to keep peace between the two Governments.

The Administrator, instead of removing the said constables from the Egba territories, wrote to say that he had "on examination found that the constables were in the habit of compelling the people who may have rested on the roads to sweep up the agidi leaves, and this being contrary to their orders, the sergeant in charge has been degraded and called in, and replaced by another sergeant, who has most stringent orders to facilitate in every way the transit of travellers to and from the Egba territories, and that he is to inform the Bashorun that the people from Ebute Meta to Otta are engaging themselves most freely and willingly in making roads and erecting a market at Ebute Meta, &c."

The Administrator in this letter did not at all deny that the people from Ebute Meta and upwards are subjects to the Egba Government.

The Bashorun having received this letter, again authorised Mr. Secretary Johnson to acknowledge its receipt, and to inform the Administrator that the chiefs and people in Abeokuta are

not satisfied with the replacing of another sergeant, and that he, the Bashorun, was obliged to press and keep back hundreds of their war-boys, who were but too ready to go after the constables in order to drive them off; and that, on receipt of the letter, the Administrator will cause such constables to be altogether removed from the several stations of the Egba territory, and, by order of the Directors of the Board of Management, the Bashorun's high staff was sent to accompany the letter.

The Administrator, in his letter, dated October 2, 1867, then wrote to say "that the constables between Lagos and Agege will not be removed, and that such despatch, being signed by a person who, by birth, is a British subject, or who aids or assists in levying war, or in forcibly invading any portion of Her Britannic Majesty's dominions," and a good deal of rubbish, "if caught and brought within Her Britannic Majesty's dominions, to be treated as a felon—that is, if tried and so convicted—have forfeited his life to the law of his country."

Mr. Editor, have you heard how many were killed and wounded in the war which was levied against Lagos? Did not the medical doctor in charge of Her Majesty's troops send you, for publication, the number of men killed and wounded? So much for the Administrator's knowledge of law. I wonder who is his legal adviser. I would only counsel the Administrator to read the several papers containing accounts of Governor Eyre and the late Mr. Gordon, as he might thereby be made more careful in future. The Latin writer very wisely asserts that "he whom God wishes to destroy he first makes mad." I hope such won't be the fate of our Administrator.

In reading the correspondence between the two Governments, I find that the Administrator sent about five or six letters to the Bashorun, Akoda, Asah, Jaguna, &c., but that these were all returned unopened in consequence of their not being sent through the right and usual course (the Secretary); the Bashorun was therefore obliged to order that the churches and chapels in his town should be closed till Administrator Glover chooses to remove the constables off the Egba territories, as he could not see why the missionaries should be preaching in one part and Glover cunningly taking the other part, beginning from Ebute Meta. This happened on the morning of the above date; the churches and chapels were therefore closed, and the hundreds of war-boys (who were but too ready to go after the constables), suspecting both missionaries and merchants to be cognisant of the Administrator's proceedings, about twelve and four o'clock of same day, fell upon missionaries, merchants, traders, and all those whom they thought connected with them, and destroyed almost everything belonging to them.

These are the true facts, Mr. Editor, and could bear the strictest test. Although I do not for one moment justify such proceedings on the part of the heathen Egbas, but entirely censure them, yet, Mr. Editor, I carefully looked into the correspondence of the two Governments, and I could not see why Administrator Glover should not be blamed tenfold more.

Mr. Editor, mark—the people from Agege to Ebute Meta were subject to Otta, Otta afterwards became subject to Abeokuta by right of conquest. Does it not necessarily follow that all those places which were subject to Otta became so to Abeokuta? And until you can answer this question in the negative, I say that the Lagos Government should ought to the said constables.

Mr. "Anxious Observer," in paragraph 2, dated London, Jan. 7, 1868, would make it appear that after the Egbas refused to sign a treaty in reference to their so-called respective frontiers, it was then that the Lagos Government placed a number of constables on the road from Lagos to Abeokuta. Now, Mr. "Anxious Observer," this is either most deceptively-written or a base untruth told, as Administrator Glover must own that the constables were placed on the roads, and their dirty work going on, before the Egbas were asked to come to a definitive treaty with the Lagos Government. He said, further, commencing at last line but one of same paragraph, that "it appears that there is a threat already heard of that the Dahomians are about to come to Abeokuta." I must here inform Mr. "Anxious Observer" that the Egbas are no more in fear of the Dahomians than a tiger is of a dead dog.

Mr. Hinderer, too, wrote from Ibadan: "During the course of the last five or six months repeated messages had come from the Egbas and Jebus requesting Ibadan to drive out the white people (missionaries) from there, and that they (the Egbas, Abeokutans, &c., and Jebus) would do the same." Is it not rather surprising that this Mr. Hinderer never wrote to inquire about this from his brother missionaries at Abeokuta. I am certain that the Egbas never sent such messages. There is no missionary (white or black), nor even a common schoolmaster, allowed to be in Jebu, and how could they send to say "that they would do the same?"

I turn now to my venerable friend, Mr. "Aku Man," who, in his communication dated Lagos, December 4, 1867, amongst other words, said: "Then came a band of Sierra Leone men, with a

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Turner at its head, influencing the chiefs and forming the Egba United Board of Management. The refuse of Lagos society, a worthless set, composed that band; many of them have been recent convicts from gaols, drunkards, bankrupts, and pests, even to our Lagos society," &c. Mr. "Aku Man," may I ask who composed that "Lagos society?" Surely you do not mean the association of confused Africans you had there some time ago? For myself I would not condescend to belong to a body of men who are too cowardly to assert legally their rights, and to protest legally against the misdeeds of their rulers.

But, Mr. Editor, I have trespassed almost enough on your kindness, and must therefore say with this, I am contented to remain, faithfully yours, A TRUE CORRESPONDENT.

Mount Nebo, July 31, 1868.

P.S. This should have reached you in May last, but the original seems to have foundered at some Post-office on the way.

THE CASE OF JOHN DODOO, EIGHTY DAYS IN PRISON WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN DODOO.

(Copy.)

On this—day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight, personally appeared before me the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Gold Coast Protectorate, John Dadoo, merchant, of James Town, Accra, on the said Gold Coast, who, being duly sworn, marked oath and saith as follows:—

I am a merchant at Accra. Sometime in March last, I was summoned by one Adooquay, of James Town, Accra, for having unlawfully seized a certain quantity of property belonging to the said Adooquay. The case came on for hearing before J. J. Clayton, then Justice of the Peace for Accra, who, after hearing the case, dismissed it. Some time after the said Adooquay took out another summons, charging me with the same offence. It came on for hearing before the said J. J. Clayton, as J.P., on the 4th May last, who, after the case had been gone into, decreed that I should pay to the said Adooquay the sum of forty pounds eleven, the value of the property so alleged to have been seized by me.

I thereupon gave notice of appeal to the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice, and the Clerk of the Court, one William Christian Fynn, asked me to wait upon him at Fort Ussher; but in the meantime I was summoned (as a juror, and immediately after our verdict recorded, I was arrested by virtue of a warrant, signed "W. A. Parker, Chief Magistrate," and I was walked off to James Fort Prison on the eleventh day of May last, on a charge of having levied war in the interior.

I there and then tendered good and sufficient bail; but the said Chief Magistrate positively refused to accept bail, except two hundred pounds sterling in cash was lodged in the chest. I could not obtain so large an amount, and the consequence was that I was kept a close prisoner in James Fort for eighty days, of which time I was kept in close confinement, being allowed only four hours' exercise in the twenty-four hours.

I was compelled to live on the charity of my friends, because the authorities never supplied me with any food. During my eighty days' imprisonment I was not allowed to speak to anyone, and on the 26th May, whilst a close prisoner, I received a notice from one James Isaac Nelson, police-sergeant, informing me that he intended to sell my property. Notice hereunto annexed.

I asked the said James Isaac Nelson to allow me to communicate with my family, to pay the decree of Court under protest, but he informed me that I would not be allowed to communicate with anyone. The consequence was that all my property and wearing apparel was sacrificed at a public auction, held by the said Sergeant-Major of Police (James Isaac Nelson), and the purchasers at the said sale were nearly all policemen and the Clerk of the Court, Mr. William Christian Fynn.

Finding that my property was so greatly sacrificed, my family paid the balance of the decree, amounting to 39l. 14s. 4d., as per annexed receipt and account rendered by the said William Christian Fynn and James Isaac Nelson.

I solemnly swear that I considered I had a good action of appeal against the decision of J. J. Clayton, J.P., but that my arrest and imprisonment completely disabled me.

After eighty days' imprisonment in a most filthy and sickly dungeon, F. M. Skues, M.B., acting Civil Commandant, investigated for the first time the charge against me on the 30th July last, and in two or three days I was discharged from prison, as the said Frederick Mackenzie Skues, M.B., declared there was no evidence to substantiate the charge against me.

I was seriously sick during my close confinement, and my health and reputation suffered severely in consequence of my being charged with so serious a crime. No affidavits or information was ever filed against me, and I am advised and verily believe that my commitment to prison by the Chief Magistrate, the Hon. William Alexander Parker, and the excessive and unprecedented

bail that he demanded for my appearance, was unlawful and against the spirit of British justice, and I make this affidavit conscientiously by believing the same to be true.

JOHN DODOO.

Sworn before me at Cape Coast the day and year first above written.

F. C. GRANT, J.P.

(Copy of entry in the books of the Court.)

Commandant's Court, Accra, July 30, 1868.

Queen v. Dodoo.—For arming himself and men, and apprehending a person in a certain bush, and wrongfully seizing property belonging to one Adooquay, of Accra, by the use of an armed force and intimidation.

Case dismissed, and prisoner discharged, with a caution to be more careful in future.

F. M. SKUES, J.P., Acting Civil Commandant.

Extracted from books of Court by me.

WILLIAM CHRISTIAN FENN.

GABOON RIVER.

Gaboon, July 22, 1868.

The French authorities at this place will strangely persist in suspecting the English merchants (of all people in the world!) of dealing in slaves. A small steamer belonging to a firm extensively engaged in the African trade from Bonny to the Congo, whose business necessitates the employment of such a vessel, is most jealously watched in all her movements by the French naval officers and colonial officials, who have by some means succeeded in inoculating the English commodore with their absurd and unfounded suspicions; so that lately an English cruiser and a French gunboat were despatched to Cape Lopez to endeavour to catch the little steamer in *flagrante delicto*, and, as a matter of course, failed in their bootless errand, as there is not the remotest ground for believing either the firm in question, or any other, or the *employés* of any of them, to be in any way connected with the slave trade; but the French, whose own trade here is chiefly confined to a petty retail dealing in what is refused by the English houses, cannot by any means comprehend the possibility of the business of any of the latter being so large as to render necessary the employment of a steamer.

COMMON SENSE.

JOYFUL REOPENING OF THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL AT ABEOKUTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Abeokuta, August 14.

Sir,—I write this short letter to inform you that it hath pleased God in His own time to put it into the hearts of the Bashorun and chiefs of the Egba Government to reopen the churches and chapels in Abeokuta, which had been closed since October 13, 1867, in spite of the misunderstandings, which can never be settled, between this and the Lagos Government, so long as the Lagos constables are stationed in the Egba territory. The Wesleyan Chapel was opened for public worship on Sunday, the 9th inst. As had been before mentioned, the European missionaries, who personally parted friends with the Egbas shortly after the riot, are still considered to be out of Abeokuta; although no strong objections have been raised against their coloured agents, who are again sent to preach the Word of God in this "Promised Land." Very many of the Christian converts who left at the same time with the missionaries have returned home, in spite of the warm encouragements of grants of land freely made to them at Ebuta Metta by the Administrator of Lagos; thereby giving us a large congregation of about 400 men, women, and children in this small chapel. I must assure you, Mr. Editor, that your letter of April 13, addressed to the Bashorun, chiefs, and people of Abeokuta, has done no end of good toward this result. I am to repeat to you the voice of the people, "May God bless and keep you for Africa, and strengthen you to be always filled with the same zeal for advocating the cause of God, and good to the poor people on the West African Coast." The Rev. M. Grimmer, Minister of the Wesleyan chapel (now at Lagos), has also written a fine letter of encouragement to the converts, beseeching them to unite together, instead of the petty differences and discord known to have been so long existing among them, since Mr. Jas. B. Thomas (their school-master) ruled over the Ogbe chapel. Mr. Grimmer's letter was read to the members a few days previous to the reopening of the chapel, and has done great good in uniting them together. The chapel bell, which had been almost ten months laid aside secretly, without hope, was heard again calling to worship, at the precise hour of ten o'clock Sunday morning; thereby filling with joy the heart of each and every member. Many an aged Christian, with tears rolling down their cheeks, came from far, in the usual slow way (step by step), to feed once more from the words of our Blessed Saviour. May the prayers of that day's service bring down blessings from Heaven. In the absence of a minister,

and for fear of being disappointed, the members applied to the Rev. Mr. Allen, a native deacon of the Church Missionary Society here, to preach for them on this occasion. Thus the whole ceremony was ably performed in the usual "Church fashion," giving general satisfaction to everybody. Mr. Allen took his text from Psalm iii. 1—6. The Wesleyan hymns were once more freely echoed in the air of Abeokuta, giving thanks and praises to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen.—Your obedient servant,

ABEOKUTA.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE QUEEN OF MADAGASOAR.

Queen Rasoharina died in the night of March 31, but it was not made known until noon the following day, when her successor, Ranavalona II., was proclaimed Queen without any opposition. The new Queen is sister, or rather first cousin, to the late Queen, it being customary among the Malagasy to call cousins brothers and sisters.

The late Queen was laid in state for twelve days, and almost everybody went to see her. In the largest room on the ground floor of the palace was a hearse, covered with scarlet and gilt, in which the corpse was supposed to be, but I am informed it was not really there. The room was full of women, who were weeping; some were kneeling, with their faces buried in their hands, and bowed to the ground; those nearest the corpse had fans of scarlet cloth, beautifully embroidered with gold, to keep away the flies. Directly the Queen's death was made known, all the people, with the exception of about twenty of the highest officers, had to cut off their hair and put off all their clothing except the "lamba," and this only to wear from the waist to the knees, until after the funeral, when the shoulders, too, were to be covered by the "lamba," but nothing else worn. No singing is allowed whilst mourning for a sovereign; no clay walls nor houses are to be built; no earthenware made, and a great many more things are forbidden.

The Queen's coffin was made of silver dollars, and is valued at about 4,500*l*. The tomb is built like that of Radama I., only the little house on the top is painted scarlet, with gilt posts and eagles. There is a bar of silver across the door, and the inscription over it is laid in in solid gold. All the Europeans, and some of the ladies, were present at the funeral. The body was carried in the scarlet and gilt hearse, on which were arranged very tastefully her coronation robes. The Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary of State, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were chief mourners. Before the body was laid in the tomb forty officers brought a great quantity of the late Queen's private property to be put into the tomb—easy chairs, dressing and other tables, chests of drawers, tea services, decanters, wine and liqueur glasses, lamps, a clock, dresses, lambas, and a host of other things; last, though not least, a large box full of dollars.

DR. HORTON'S BOOK.

West African Countries and Peoples, &c., &c., and a Vindication of the African Race. One Vol., 8vo., pp. 287, with Map of West Africa. By JAMES AFRICANUS B. HORTON, M.D., S.A.S., F.R.A.S., &c., &c. Johnson, 121, Fleet-street, London.

BOTH Africa and Europe are indebted to Dr. Horton for this work. The author is not a man who has taken a run down the West Coast and back again in a mail steamer, and then written a book chiefly valuable as an evidence of the extent to which the boasted European intellect, when it has a wrong bias, can be gulled as to facts, and be made worthless as regards conclusions. One of the two only of native Africans who have been educated for Government Medical Service, Dr. Horton, as a Staff Assistant Surgeon, has passed eight years at the different British settlements on the West Coast. We feel, then, when we take up his book that he ought to know what he is writing about; and, on perusing it, find that he not only ought to know, but does know. It is not to be inferred from this that we agree with all his reasonings, admit all his conclusions, and coincide with all his views. In our position as regards West Africa we think it necessary to state this at once, that we may not be misunderstood. But we say unhesitatingly that the book is a valuable one—is a book that is very much wanted—that it is calculated to remove many misconceptions as regards the people and countries of which it treats—that it ought to do much toward clearing away the thick haze of prejudice in which the West Coast countries have been shrouded—and that it must, we think, convince every unprejudiced reader that those people and countries have a future of great importance to the civilised world, and of deep soul-stirring interest to the Christian, who is praying, hoping, watching, and striving for the extension of the great Redeemer's kingdom.

The earlier portion of the volume is devoted to an *exposé* of the gross errors and misstatements and absurd reasonings that have been in vogue relative to the West African races and the countries they inhabit. We are glad to have these scientific and vulgar

falseholds and aberrations of intellect brought thus unitedly before us, and demolished by real scientific facts; and a clear and lucid reasoning upon them in defence and favour of his long-maligned and deeply-injured race, that establishes the truth, for which we have always contended, that the present indisputable mental superiority of the civilised European over the uncivilised African is merely one of degree, not one of kind—the result of circumstances, and not of natural diversity. This work by a native African ought to do much to rehabilitate in European estimation the race to which he belongs. It shows nice powers of observation—great diligence—a clear appreciation of facts, and a mental daring that does not shrink from the great problems of the future of the various divisions of his race, on which the light of Christian civilisation is only now beginning to shine, and who are for the most part placed under circumstances most unfavourable to its increase. After having vindicated the Africans from the stigma of natural inferiority endeavoured to be fixed upon them by anthropologists and others, the author passes in interesting and instructive review the republic of Liberia, the various British settlements from the River Gambia to Lagos inclusive, and the native races beyond in Dahomey, the Yoruba country, the Niger, and Oil River countries. Showing us their actual condition, and exposing many errors of administration which are opposed to material development and social advancement, he views the whole in connexion with the resolutions of the late House of Commons Committee, 1865, recommending the preparing of the several peoples for self-government. He shows the great changes that must be induced and fostered to make such self-government possible, safe, or beneficial. Though he has evidently a deep and, we believe, a just faith in his race, he does not shut his eyes to any of the disadvantages of their actual position and the difficulties in the way of their progress toward Christianity, civilisation, and wealth. The book ought to be read and studied by all educated Africans, and we should like to see it have a large circulation in England, as we consider it calculated to arouse sympathies for Africa where they have never yet been felt, and to give them a vigorous impulse where they do already exist. Our space will not allow more at present, but we shall from time to time quote from and comment upon its contents. We cannot say it is perfect in style, but the faults are very venial ones, and such as we have no doubt an increased practice in writing will cause to disappear from those future works on this interesting subject of the West African Countries and Peoples which we hope to see from this author's pen. And we repeat what we said last month, that no library that pretends to a collection of books on Africa, ought to be without this interesting and valuable volume.

MARRIAGE.

CRESWICK—IHLEB.—On the 21st of July, at Monrovia, West Africa, by the Rev. G. W. Gibson, of the American Episcopal Church, Helen Elizabeth, youngest daughter of John Creighton Ihler, Esq., of Lombard-street, to Henry Charles Creswick, Esq., of Buchanan, Grand Bassa, Liberia.

DIED.

At Cape Coast Castle, on the 2nd August, 1868, of dysentery, Charles O'Callaghan, Esq., Staff-Surgeon H.M. Forces. This is indeed a great loss. Every one had confidence in his professional skill; and the numerous retinue that attended his funeral bore ample testimony to the general conviction of the great loss that the Gold Coast had sustained.—*Requiescat in pace.*

LUMKIN.—At Sierra Leone, on the 6th June, 1868, at 11 a.m., Alexandrina Georgiana Carolina, infant daughter of M. Max and D. Lumpkin, aged one year, nine months, and twenty-three days. "Let us weep for ourselves."

ELECTION OF A CHIEF.—Cofee Aiwah, of Inkudjoe, district of Ayan, has been elected by the people to be Chief of Inkudjoe and its dependencies in the Ayan district of Fantee.

PRESENTS FOR AN AFRICAN PRINCE.—The presents which the King of Prussia is sending to the Sultan of Bornu (Central Africa) consist of a throne in embroidered velvet, a repeater, a dozen other watches of the ordinary kind in gold and silver, six needle guns, twelve revolvers, six burnous worked with gold thread, six plain ones, several dozens of fezz caps, coral necklaces, and perfumes. His African Majesty had manifested a desire to receive a carriage, but the difficulty of forwarding it was too great. It would have had to be taken in pieces, and transported on the backs of camels across the whole of the Sahara, and as there are no coach-builders at Bornu, men would have had to be sent from Europe to reconstruct the disjointed vehicle. Besides, this monarch already employs in a very curious fashion a *caleche* which Queen Victoria gave him. On solemn occasions his Majesty has the equipage drawn by the grandees of his Court, he himself marching on foot by the side.

Published, Sept. 24, 1868, by Subscription, in Two Vols., 21s.,

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N.B.—The Copies for Subscribers on the West Coast of Africa will be sent out by the mail steamers of 10th and 24th October.

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The packets of the 24th convey Her Majesty's mails, and proceed to MADEIRA, TENERIFFE, BATHURST, SIERRA LEONE, MONROVIA, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, JELLAH COFFEE, LAGOS, BENIN BONNY, FERNANDO PO, OLD CALABAR, and CAMEROONS.

The packets of the 10th are open to call, by special arrangement, at any port on the West Coast of Africa, but as a rule they will only call at Madeira, Teneriffe, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Accra, Lagos, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Cameroons.

The fast and powerful Steamship LAGOS, 1,300 tons, and 275-horse power, R. F. LOWRY, Commander, will leave LIVERPOOL on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, at 12 noon.

Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the Prince's Landing Stage at 10.30 a.m. punctually.

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

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

Goods for Cameroons will be conveyed by lighter from Greenpatch, at Company's expense, but Shipper's risk.

All letters and newspapers must go through the post-office.

All goods by rail should be ordered to South-end stations.

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

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



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 MERCHANT TAILORS AND OUTFITTERS.
 ON THE SYSTEM OF CHARGING THE LOWEST PRICE POSSIBLE FOR READY MONEY.

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THE WORLD-FAMED SYDENHAM SUITS AT 59s.

Are manufactured in suitable styles for all occasions, and in the various substances of cloth for all climates.
MORNING & BUSINESS SUITS . . . 42s. to 84s. | **DRESS & PROMENADE SUITS** . . . 59s. to 114s.
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THE NEW BOOK ON GENTLEMEN'S ATTIRE

Contains Forty-three Engravings to represent the Fashionable Styles, a List of Prices, and novel rules for Self-measure. Price 6d., deducted from a purchase.

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



L A M P L O U G H ' S

EFFERVESCENT

PYRETIC SALINE.



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

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

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

SEA VOYAGES.—It is a very valuable accompaniment, and should on no account be omitted; it instantly allays the sickness.

For **BILIOUS CONSTITUTIONS**, giving rise to vitiated Secretions, Indigestion, and Eruptions on the Skin—a teaspoonful should be taken daily, with the dinner, in a tumbler of water, and the same quantity on going to bed.

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

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

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

It is particularly recommended to all who have at any period of life taken Calomel, or Mercurial preparations, in order to their removal. For such it is necessary to take the Effervescent Pyretic Saline for several months in small repeated doses.

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

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

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

From **G. D. Sawyer, Esq., M.D.**, 22, Guildford-street, Russell-square: "I do hereby certify with pleasure that I have tested, on several occasions, the efficacy of Mr. LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE, in Gastric and Enteric Irritation, and also in Low Fevers, attended with Derangement of the Digestive Organs."

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

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

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

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

In another case of severe Vomiting, the patient was relieved after the third dose, and fell into a refreshing sleep.
Mr. Guthrie, Army Medical Director, became a warm advocate for its use in various diseases, and had the Pyretic Saline direct from the proprietor for personal and family use.

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

SPECIAL AGENTS FOR LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE:—

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