

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.

N.B.—Open Policies on Insurance for Produce from the Coast by the Mail Steamers; but intended Shipments should be advised if possible.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

THE

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

THE rapidly increasing wants of the African Trade have for some time past demanded additional regular steam communication with the ports on the West Coast.

This Company, formed to meet that demand, intend to dispatch, early in January next, the first of their line of steamers, at present being constructed on the Clyde, for Trading between GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, and the WEST COAST of AFRICA.

The first Steamers of this line will be named the ROQUELLE, the BONNY, and the ZAIRE (or CONGO).

All the Company's ships will be under the command of experienced captains; they are being specially built for the African Trade, and besides being comfortably fitted up for passengers, they will have extensive cargo space, which will enable them to carry rough goods at moderate rates.

The Steamers are to sail monthly, and the ports which it is intended shall be called at are SIERRA LEONE, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, LAGOS, BENIN, BONNY, OLD CALABAR, and FERNANDO PO, but should sufficient inducement offer, arrangements will be made for their calling at other ports, either on the outward or homeward voyages.

For further information apply, in LONDON, to ALEX. WALKER, 2, King's Arms Yard, Moorgate-street; in GLASGOW, to TAYLOR, LAUGHLAND, and Co., 91, Buchanan-street; or, in LIVERPOOL, JOHN DEMPSTER, 2, Brunswick-street.

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The monthly and bi-monthly mails arrived duly at Liverpool of the 1st and 14th of November.

AFRICAN PRISONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—The death of a European in the loathsome cells of Accra has given a great shock to public feeling and powerfully concentrated attention to the state of our African prisons. The coronér's inquest, which took place in July last, reveals a state of things more worthy of the most barbarous ages, than of the civilisation and sanitary advancement of the year 1868. The Commandant, the Chief Magistrate—every Government officer down to the jailer—should blush at the revelations. The revelations which have taken place cast completely into the shade the awful disclosures made in the days of Mrs. Fry. Five or six beings crowded into one cell, no regular ablutions practised by the prisoners sunk into the slough of despair, solitary confinement

carried to an unexampled excess, and, to crown all, no infirmaries provided within the prison for the sick and mentally and bodily afflicted. This is a state of things which must not be permitted any longer to exist, and I trust the practical and philanthropic mind of his Excellency Sir Arthur Kennedy, our popular Governor-in-chief, has been turned to it, and that if he deems it necessary he will institute a commission of inquiry to remedy these outrages against the laws of humanity.

It is quite useless for me to impress the people of Accra with the enormity of domestic slavery, when they can point out the state of our prisons, where we immure fellow-beings in a far worse than Egyptian slavery of old. There is something tragic in reading the evidence produced upon the inquest, when a native prisoner states that his fellow-sufferer, in the cell the deceased European, was dying. What attention this displayed upon the part of the physician and jailer of the prison! Chief Magistrate Parker is so fond (in the indulgence of an ignorant and despotic spirit) of crowding prisons, surely he should see that some sort of sanitary provision should be carried on within their dismal

precincts! I have grave doubts if the Government officers of every grade in British Accra have not made themselves amenable to the criminal law of England.—I am, Mr. Editor, yours, &c.,
WM. RAINY, Barrister-at-law.

Supreme Court, Sierra Leone, 27th October.

SIERRA LEONE.

A SUPREME COURT OF JURISDICTION FOR THE WEST AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.—The offices of high officials or supreme officers should never be tried in their own districts; prejudices, power, human infirmity, and the inherent inclinations of mankind to worship authority, forbid such a course. It would have been absurd to have tried Warren Hastings in India, or the notorious Eyre in Jamaica. In minor instances the spirit of the English law recognises the wisdom embodied in this principle, and the change of venue to avoid the jaundiced form of prejudice is occasionally resorted to. Palmer was not tried in Stafford because it was well known that his desperate career had created an unrelenting prejudice against him, nor was Keppel tried on board of his vessel nor in the presence of the fleet that advised him. Thus in every instance, from the most exalted to the lowest, in in every case where justice may be interrupted in her stern and majestic course by human infirmity, the change of venue becomes justified. If this be necessary in England and her most enlightened colonies, how much more absolutely necessary in primitive settlements like ours, where the European wilds an absolute and too often an unscrupulous power. Does anyone believe, outside of a madhouse, that if the Court at Sierra Leone was recognised under its present enlightened Chief Justice as a Supreme Court of Jurisdiction to which the people of Cape Coast could resort for justice as a matter of course, that unhappy Finlason would have suffered as he has from the foul antics of the little Nero of Cape Coast and his silly judge? It is true that when these delinquents visit Sierra Leone legal proceedings may be taken against them, but the poor plaintiffs must give security for costs, else the action cannot be proceeded with here; moreover these visits may take place after the period prescribed by law to bring the actions, and the unfortunate sufferers would be left without any legal remedy. We could cite countless instances that have occurred on the Coast where officials dressed out in a little brief authority certainly have done deeds, to use Shakespeare's expressive words, to "make angels weep." The atrocities of Cape Coast powerfully awake our attention to this grave subject, and we shall not fail at an early opportunity to resume it. Meanwhile we respectfully recommend it to the notice of our distinguished supreme ruler, and we have no doubt that if a law be passed giving jurisdiction to our Supreme Court over these cases it would quickly put a stop to the cruelties of Judge Parker at unhappy Cape Coast.—*Sierra Leone Interpreter.*

The *Sierra Leone Interpreter* contains a long report of a case in the police-court, in which Mr. Algernon Montagu (against whose appointment as acting assistant-judge of the Supreme Court we some time since successfully protested) charged one Ashley Cooper with stealing from him 17. 2s. The complainant was Registrar-General of the colony and a barrister; the accused a discharged Army sergeant, who acted as his messenger, by appointment of the Governor. The acting police magistrate, A. W. Turner, Esq., having patiently heard the evidence, said that "he had come to the conclusion that there was nothing whatever against Sergeant Cooper. He had served upwards of twenty years in the Army, and had a character which, perhaps, not one person in a thousand could produce. He had never been before his commanding officer for misconduct, and he receives a pension. He gets 1s. 4d. a-day, which, by the rules of the service, could never be paid to him if that charge had been proved against him. It was not likely that he would have jeopardised that, his character, and everything else to steal 17. 2s. His worship here proceeded to review the evidence, and having done so said he adhered to his opinion. He saw nothing whatever against Sergeant Cooper. He had been reported to Governor Blackall by Mr. Montagu for various things, who had tried to have him dismissed, but he had been sent back, and then that charge was brought against him. There was nothing to support it, and Sergeant Cooper was therefore discharged; and he left the dock without the slightest stain upon his character."

If this report be correct, and the accused thus left the court, we should like to know how the accuser left it? Surely Mr. Montagu's course must be nearly run as a Government official at Sierra Leone?

MADAGASCAR.—The news from Madagascar continues to present considerable interest. A religious crisis seems likely to occur, as the Protestant missionaries are making great progress, a strong native party at present representing that profession of faith even among the heads of the Government. The people are in expectation of a measure which, according to them, is imminent—viz., a conversion *en masse* to the above-mentioned creed.

HOW TO INCREASE (!) REVENUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, West Africa, Oct 18, 1868.

Sir,—In all Christian countries commerce is encouraged and fostered by those in authority, but at Cape Coast on the Gold Coast of Western Africa, such is not the case. Mr. Thos. Jones, the colonial surgeon, who is now Acting Collector of Customs, has for the last two months exerted himself to the highest degree to drive our principal merchants away to Elmina. Amongst those who have suffered severely is the agent for the principal and oldest mercantile house on the West Coast of Africa.

Whilst at Government-house a day or two ago, I overheard this agent declare to the Acting Administrator, Mr. Simpson, that he would only land his goods at Cape Coast when he could not possibly avoid it, and one of his principal reasons was the frequent and unnecessary annoyances he has been subjected to.

It appears that Mr. Jones is not on friendly terms with this gentleman, and has summoned him for the most frivolous charges about half a-dozen times. With one exception all have been dismissed, but, Sir, this gentleman's ships have been detained at a great expense at Cape Coast whilst these imaginary charges were pending, and it is hardly to be expected that he will rest satisfied only with having the summonses against him dismissed. Surely he will follow the Sierra Leone precedent, and compel Mr. Jones to pay heavy damages for his trouble in playing off fantastic tricks. It is a lamentable state of things to see commerce crippled, and no encouragement held out to enterprising merchants who have so greatly assisted the Government of the British Protectorate on the Gold Coast.

No foreign vessel will ever anchor at Cape Coast, and when the question is put to them as to their reason, I assure you the answer invariably is, "If we go to Cape Coast we run too great a risk; your Custom-house authorities are too uncivil, and their extraordinary idea of English mercantile law compels us to give them a wide berth."

I know immediately this statement appears in your valued journal there will be a multitude of corroborative letters to you, and I do trust that those who have so often repeated the above statement will come forward and endorse what is now written.

Sir Arthur Kennedy is shortly expected here, and it is to be hoped that some commissariat gentleman (who certainly is a more fitting person to be entrusted with Her Majesty's colonial chest) will be appointed to do the duties of Acting Deputy Collector of Customs. Our revenue is greatly increased, and no person ought to have charge of so large an amount of money as is now deposited in the colonial-chest without giving proper securities.—Yours faithfully,
SPEERO MALIOMA.

TO THE NATIVES OF CAPE COAST.

Mankissim, Sept. 15, 1868.

The interests of the country requiring that a general meeting should be held for the purpose of discussing and arranging matters connected with the welfare of our motherland, it has been proposed that such a meeting should be convened at Mankissim on the 1st October proximo. All parties therefore who profess to have the wellbeing of their country at heart are desired to meet there at that date, for the purposes above specified: Without the unanimous aid of the whole community, it will be perfectly impossible for any single individual or individuals to attempt, with any prospect of ultimate success, such an arduous undertaking as is proposed. The adages of "unity is strength" and "united we stand, and divided we fall," are such as we will do well to bear in mind, the interest of our country calling for unity of action, unity of purpose, and unity of feeling.

To the educated classes do I particularly address this circular, for in you alone lies the hope of the eventual civilisation and Christianising of our beloved land; I therefore trust that you will one and all come forward to assist in this glorious undertaking.

By order,
(Signed) SAMUEL FERGUSON.

PRETENSIONS AND THREATS OF ASHANTEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 8, 1868.

Sir,—You will perhaps be surprised to hear of the most insulting message which the King of Ashantee has sent to the Fantee kings, through Mr. Simpson, the Acting Administrator. I send it you enclosed. The messengers were six in number, besides a few carriers. They arrived here on the 5th inst., and as soon as this message was delivered, Mr. Simpson promised them that he would send for the kings and chiefs or for their deputations to receive the message. The words of this message certainly had their origin at Government-house, for since my existence I never heard any such message from the King of Ashantee. The Fantees have had several incursions against

Elmina, and none of the kings of Ashantee ever interfered, or attempted to send messengers to demand reasons or interfere in any way. The Ashantee messengers of whom I wrote you before, reached Coomassie safe without being touched or molested in any way by the Assins or the Denkerahs either.

The Elminas are suffering greatly; the Fantees kidnap some of them every day, and since the latter returned home from encamping against the town, there have been more than one thousand persons, men and women, caught. Among the last parties kidnapped, and this close to Elmina, were six women; one of them was a bride newly-married, her honeymoon just commencing. She was covered with gold trinkets, some say 20 oz., but from other authority I hear only 5 oz., or 18l. worth. This took place only last week, and the Elminas are so much cut and incensed about it that they do not know what to do. Governor Boers wrote to Mr. Simpson about it, threatening, as I understand, that the Elminas are determined to take their revenge upon one of the nearest villages to Elmina belonging to Cape Coast, if this bride especially was not returned within four days. A week had already elapsed, and we hear nothing more of their threat. The Fantees would not return her nor any of the people they had caught. I do not know what answer Mr. Simpson sent to the Dutch Governor. I beg to enclose copy of a letter (forwarded to me from Mankessin) from the Acting Administrator to Mr. Brew, the Magistrate at Anamaboe, to make use of in any way you like.

Mr. Simpson gave a dinner-party about a fortnight ago to the chiefs and captains of the companies of Cape Coast. From what I heard everything went on quietly and very well, so far as the dinner was concerned and their repast. Subsequently the Acting Administrator, who had taken his dinner in another apartment with three of his military friends, came to them with two bottles of Moselle. These he had opened, and ordered a glass now and then to be given to each chief and to the captains, and before each drank the contents of his glass, Mr. Simpson asked whether they would take the advice he was about to give them. The poor men answered innocently, "Yes; we are ready to receive and obey it." "Then," said Mr. Simpson, "I hope bygones will be bygones. Say nothing more about the quarrels and contentions you had between yourselves; bury them all and agree amongst yourselves." After this country music was brought into the yard, and the party did not break up till eleven at night.—Yours truly,
FANTEE.

P.S.—It is rumoured that some Ashantees have already crossed the Prah.

THE KING OF ASHANTEE'S MESSAGE.

(Above alluded to.)

October 6, 1868.

We are sent by the great King of Ashantee to you with a message for the Kings Quakie Fram of Denkerah, Chibboo of Assin, and Eddoo of Fantee. The King said that he had heard a few months ago that these kings had gone and invaded the town of Elmina; the King, wishing to be merciful, he has forgiven them this time. He has heard that they are preparing to make another attack upon that town again. That the moment they move against Elmina he would march down his troops, with a drawn sword in his own hands, and drive the Denkerahs and Fantees into the sea. These messengers proceeded further to state that the King upon two occasions sent his traders to Mr. Blankson, of Anamaboe, to purchase some silks and other goods. The Assins wantonly seized the whole of the gold and detained the men, and up to this day he has not seen a vestige of any of them, and was very much surprised indeed to hear that one of his court criers, amongst the lost messengers, had hung himself, and why not all the messengers hung themselves the same way?

That the kings of Denkerah in former days did receive stipends from the Dutch Government, that Quakie Fram, the present King of Denkerah, knows very well that these kings have been beaten down and routed by him, and after they had been subdued by the great King of Ashantee and his successors, the stipends that they did receive from the Dutch Government recoiled to him. That the King of Denkerah knows that the same power which subdued and ruled his ancestors is still in existence, and how dared he to attempt to stop the path by which he sends to receive his stipend (annual), and to stop his people from trading as to preventing him from getting access to the place where he eats his salt, drinks his, &c.

2. That if the Fantees and Assins do not return to him the seizure they made of 200 ounces of gold and sixty men that they had detained and plundered within thirty days from the day they arrived here, he, the King, determined to rise from his stool and take his revenge upon them, and drive them into the sea. In conclusion, the King, to show that he was in earnest in what he has said, swore upon all that was sacred to him (then he named different oaths they have in Coomassie). The first ambassador,

after delivering this message, said that "the King made me swear that I will not omit one word out of the message he gave me."

(The Administrator's Letter above alluded to.)

Government-house, Cape Coast,
September 29, 1868.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of this date enclosing a letter from Mr. Ferguson of yesterday's date, stating that the King of Anamaboe is at Denkerah, and requesting that I would postpone my visit to Anamaboe, as the kings and chiefs of the Fantees, after their intended meeting on the 1st October, would all be there in person to see me, and to say what they think would lead to a better understanding with them. As it appears to me that the object of my intended visit to you will not suffer by a short delay, I will postpone it until Monday next, October 5, when I shall hope to arrive by 9 A.M., and to return, if possible, in the evening.

I shall expect to see the King of Anamaboe on that day, but with regard to the other kings and chiefs, although I shall be happy to meet them should such be their wish, still I have no intention to request their attendance.

Their late conduct, by and through which the proper and natural relations hitherto subsisting between them and the British Government have been so rudely shattered and wilfully destroyed, will preclude me from welcoming them with that cordiality which I should otherwise desire; unless, and until, therefore, they are prepared to offer satisfactory explanation, and to make an ample apology for the gross slights and affronts they have so lately offered to this Government, any relations of actual friendship cannot on my part be entertained.

You will be so good as to forward a copy of this letter to Mr. Ferguson.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. H. SIMPSON,
Acting Administrator.

S. C. Brew, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate,
Anamaboe.

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

October 17.

Sir,—You heard hastily by last mail of the King of Ashantee's message—the demand of 200 ounces of gold, cessation of hostilities against Elmina, or the threat of war in a month. The Fantees laugh at the demand, and so I suppose we shall now really have war. The young King is compelled to distinguish himself, and therefore we shall have another Ashantee invasion. There is no one here in authority fit to meet such a crisis. Will not the Government send out a good and efficient man? Sir Arthur Kennedy is, however, I hear, expected down almost immediately, and we hope and believe that will be the commencement of a new era.

With regard to the threatened and seemingly-intended Ashantee invasion, my own belief is that the King has been encouraged in his design of distinguishing himself in this quarter (and thus giving *éclat* to his recently commenced reign) by the tenor of a letter said to have been written by Ussher, wherein it is stated that he gives the King to understand that he would not help the Fantees, and that he must look to them for redress for any wrongs he may have to complain of. Will order come out of this chaos?—Yours truly,
CAPE COAST.

STATE OF PUBLIC FEELING ON THE GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 19, 1868.

Sir,—If any proof were wanting to establish the fact that British prestige is a thing of the past, I would commend you to the address of Mr. Samuel Fergusson to the natives of the Gold Coast lately issued. Mr. Fergusson says, "The British Government having disowned us, and informed us that we are not to expect any assistance in case of an Ashantee invasion from it, our wisest and safest policy lies in our adopting without delay some measures for our self-government and our self-defence." Mr. Fergusson is perfectly justified in making that remark, because, as you will perceive, Mr. Ussher had the audacity to take upon himself the responsibility of telling the Fantee nation that he would not have any further relation with them. This was on the 18th July last. Mr. Fergusson goes on to say, and truthfully too: "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 recognise a new state of things." Such is the language which is being now spread through the length and breadth of the land.

There seems to be little room for doubt that a crisis is at hand. The people are more than exasperated against the British Government. They want us, and I am afraid they will compel us soon, to leave them to the entire management of their own affairs. The feeling is quite general; and since the Ussher and Simpson rule things have gone from bad to worse. The Government is ridiculed; women go into court to abuse and taunt our chief magistrate; his summonses are torn to pieces and thrown in the constable's faces, and if these say a word they are flogged. The state of things at present is anything but pleasant. Mr. Simpson has been giving dinners and rum to the chiefs at Cape Coast, but he is a misguided man, indeed, if he imagines he can conciliate Fantee chiefs with dinners and rum.

Mr. Ross may well say, "What is loyalty on Monday is treason on Tuesday" at Cape Coast. Mr. Ussher used to imprison the natives and destroy their drums and musical instruments if they made a noise. But Mr. Simpson sends for the whole town, and allows them to play and dance in Government House-yard, a few days after Mr. Ussher leaves for England. Now, really, what are we to say to this strange diversity of rule? Can it engender anything but ridicule and contempt?

Trade is extremely dull. The Ashantees having notified to the Government their determination to invade the Protectorate in a month, in consequence of 300 ounces of gold having been seized by the Fantees some time ago, large meetings have been held at Mankissim, the seat of the Fantee Government, to repel Ashantees and to attack Elmina again. The Acting Administrator is very unpopular amongst the natives and Europeans. His administration is very feeble.

Coast extremely healthy.—Yours, &c.,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

INCREASED TROUBLES IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Christiansburg, Accra, October 21, 1868.

Sir,—I regret very much to inform you that our war troubles on the Volta have assumed another serious aspect. A party of the enemy have crossed the Volta and have burnt one of our towns on the side of the banks, by name, Assuchary. Enough for "the peace at any price party." They will one and all one day feel the effects of it. Report reaches us to-day on the Coast that the Aquapims are coming themselves against the Croboes, and that a conflict will soon take place. I can only express the hope that this is not true; if so the country has come to its lowest ebb. I hear this new trouble originated by a party of the Croboes in Odumasie, where there is a missionary establishment, all owing to some Ashantees and Aquamoos trading for the purpose of supplying themselves with powder, guns, lead bars, and salt, at the time they are at war with our allies, and from which place they are getting all their supplies. This affair put some old people in mind of the war of 1821, when Sir Charles McCarthy sacrificed himself for the salvation of this country. Whilst we are at war with Aquamoo and their allies, some people in Odumasie (through the advice of whom I don't know) are carrying out vigorous trade with the enemy, and should the Aquapims and others sit still we are indiscriminately cut off from existence.

Mr. Chief Magistrate Parker told us plainly and distinctly during his last visit here that we have no more claim for British protection. We all lament a war like this between Aquapim and Croboe. The country and all will have to go to the dogs at once.—Yours,

GOLD COAST.

ACCRA.

(From the special correspondent of the African Times at Accra.)

Accra, October 21, 1868.

The regular monthly mail passed down on the 18th. We hear from Sierra Leone and Cape Coast that the Governor-in-Chief contemplates visiting the Gold Coast, and that we may look for his Excellency at Accra on or about the 24th inst. We hope that some good may come out of his visit, for truly we are in a miserable condition here, and I believe Cape Coast is at least as badly off; of course I mean the two districts, and not merely the towns of Cape Coast and Accra. The reply to the Accra petition to the Governor-in-Chief was opened on the evening of the 19th, in the presence of all the chiefs, &c., who signed it. I enclose you a copy of it. The chiefs and the uneducated people were very indignant at the idea expressed therein that they had been made tools in the hands of the educated and enlightened natives; several chiefs insisted upon burning the letter, but the better informed of their countrymen would not hear of it; most of them refuse to believe that the petition has even yet reached the Governor-in-chief. If Sir Arthur visits Accra he will have the opportunity of meeting the chiefs face to face and of satisfying himself whether the statements in the petition were known to, sanctioned, and approved of by them or not. Strenuous

efforts are being made by the Cape Coast authorities both there and at Accra to divide the educated from the uneducated natives. The entirely uneducated and the better educated natives are by far too wide awake to allow themselves to be taken in by these manoeuvres. A few, a very few only, of those natives who have been purposely educated to that very limited extent as will ensure their becoming the more readily tools of their designing teachers, have lent themselves to the enemies of their country; their extreme insignificance, as well as ignorance, while rendering them of no assistance to the parties they affect to serve, at the same time causes their unpatriotic conduct to be viewed by the rest of their countrymen with a mixture of pity and contempt.

I think that the next mail will convey news of another Ashantee invasion. The aspect of affairs both in the western district and on the Volta justify this impression. The people in these parts appear to be now alive to the danger of further delaying to root out the Aquamboes, the allies of the Ashantees; and they have resolved to anticipate the pending invasion of their territory by these two tribes.

Trade in the meantime is in a very bad state; even palm-oil from Aquapim and Croboe is stopped in consequence of the former people having threatened to attack the latter for furnishing the Ashantees and Aquamboes with munitions of war and salt. Where all this will end goodness only knows. Whilst the chest is overflowing with gold and silver, the roads and public places and buildings are overgrown with bush and going to ruin. That fine old fort, Christiansburg, which was, in the year 1862, the residence of the Governor, is now the haunt of leopards, boa-constrictors, and hares! It is not safe to enter it without a gun. I was glad to see that one of your other correspondents furnished you with a report of the inquest on the poor chief officer of the Emily. The report was correct, but by no means so full as it should have been.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF TO THE ACCRA PETITION.

(Inserted in our September No.)

Government-house, Cape Coast, Oct. 10, 1868.

Chief,—I am directed by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief to inform you and others who have signed a petition (without date) setting forth a variety of alleged grievances, that his Excellency has made inquiries and given it a careful consideration.

His Excellency states that a document of that kind, which seeks to impugn the conduct of public officers, must be plain, specific, and accurate; that the petition before him fulfils none of these conditions; that its statements are vague, general, inaccurate, and in some particulars, his Excellency is concerned to say, untruthful. His Excellency can hardly believe that the full scope and purport of the petition was understood by those whose names are attached to it. I am therefore directed to inform you that for these reasons his Excellency is unable to offer specific remarks on portions of the petition, which must stand over for further inquiry.

Although his Excellency cannot approve of any interference with the native institutions of chiefs and others, he cannot permit the English name to be soiled with a taint of slavery. Those claiming to be British subjects will be made amenable to the law for all or any acts of slave-dealing or slave-holding which may be brought home to them. Though the British Government may tolerate these domestic customs among uneducated and unenlightened natives, they cannot encourage or support them.

His Excellency considers your complaint of the levy of "heavy duties" on rum and tobacco as wholly groundless.

The other matters adverted to in the petition will be considered at the proper time.—I have the honour to be, Chief, your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. H. SIMPSON, Acting Administrator.

To the Chief of Christiansburg and other Chiefs, Merchants, and other Inhabitants of Jamestown, Crève Cœur Town, Christiansburg Town, and Tashie, in the Eastern District of the Gold Coast.

COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 21, 1868.

Sir,—I presume that your special correspondent at this place will have sent you by this mail a copy of the reply given by the Governor-in-Chief, through Mr. Simpson, to the petition of the chiefs and people of the Eastern District, a copy of which appeared in the African Times of September 23.

As one of those interested in the subject matters of complaint in the said petition, I beg you will permit me to offer a few remarks upon the reply said to have been given by Sir Arthur Kennedy; I say said to have been given, as I maintain that we have as much right to assume that that reply did not emanate

from the Governor-in-Chief as the alleged writer of the reply had to assert that the "full scope and purport of the petition was not understood by those whose names are attached to it." In the second paragraph of Mr. Simpson's letter the Governor-in-chief is made to say that our statements, besides being vague and general, are absolutely inaccurate and untruthful! Very un-mistakeable English that is, I must confess.

One would naturally inquire from what source did his Excellency obtain the information which justified him in stamping as false and unfounded the statements of an entire community. It is well known that he could only have obtained such information from the report furnished his Excellency by accused parties and their aiders and abettors, in reply to his letter calling upon them for an explanation.

We all entertain the profoundest respect for Sir Arthur Kennedy, not only as a fitting representative of the Queen, but also as an English gentleman, but we respectfully submit that in this instance his Excellency has too hastily allowed himself to be made the victim of the "burking" propensities of the Cape Coast authorities. We had hoped for a fair and impartial public inquiry, instituted either by Sir Arthur himself or independent men of his own stamp and totally unconnected with the Cape Coast officials. The reply given by Mr. Parker, our Chief Magistrate, to the application made by the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal for a copy of the proceedings in the case of Lowe v. Kendall, to the effect that the minutes of the case were lost, should have been a caution to the superior authorities in all future cases wherein information was required from the Cape Coast officials against themselves.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

ONE OF THE MUCH-DESPISED EDUCATED NATIVES OF ACCRA.

OPENING OF THE ACCRA SESSIONS.

On the 17th ult. the Royal mail steamer Biafra had the distinguished honour of conveying to this quiet town Mr. W. A. Parker, our worthy Chief Magistrate and Assessor, for the purpose of holding his circuit, as he calls it, and who, in a most becoming and solemn manner, opened the court with the collect, "O Lord, prevent us, &c., &c.," besides sundry other prayers.

Among the first of the cases tried was the case of Affatoo and others v. James Bannerman, by way of petition. The decision in this case, given by the magistrates several months ago, in James Bannerman's favour, was reversed on Mr. Parker's last visit here, and a decree in favour of Affatoo and others was given, but was not allowed by the authorities to be put into effect. Mr. Parker on the present visit required the decrees to be delivered up, and had it explained to Affatoo, &c., that he must cancel his own decrees and allow the original one to stand, remarking that Accra was Accra, and that he had been misled and wrongly informed on his last visit, and he must be cautious about giving decisions here, and it was his intention for the future to deliberately consider and weigh well all the circumstances before he would give a decision in any case. After his Honour making these statements, you can imagine our surprise when the report went through town that a Mr. Ashmore, a young English merchant, under age, and who is by everyone much respected, not only among white people, but without exception by all the natives, was arrested by six constables on a warrant from Mr. Parker and paraded through the streets to prison, and confined in the same cell, in company with five others, in which a prisoner, a white man, had lately died, under circumstances that called forth an inquest, and in which Mr. Ashmore was one of the jurors. The white men were so indignant at this treatment that they immediately wrote up to Cape Coast to the Governor a letter of complaint, copy of which I take the liberty of sending, and the reply thereto. The same day Mr. Ashmore was arrested he was tried before the acting Commandant and fined twenty shillings.

I also take the liberty of enclosing copy intimation served on a Mr. Guiseppe. Kindly tell me under what Act of Parliament his Honour causes to be issued such a document, and what authority he has for outlawing a prisoner who is out on his own recognisances, and who holds house property in this town which would more than satisfy twenty times the claim of the prosecutor? I believe the alleged debt amounts to nine pounds. The Colonial-office may suppose how very happy and comfortable we feel under such protection, and how very sorry we will be when saying our last farewell to Mr. W. A. Parker.

The Duke of Buckingham has written to Sir Arthur Kennedy to call upon the four Accra magistrates to give their reasons for resigning. I send you a copy of Mr. Simpson's letter to Mr. Hesse relative thereto. Similar letters were at the same time sent to Mr. Irvine, Mr. Clayton, and Mr. Walker. They each sent in separate replies, but all to the same purport. They also enclosed a copy of the letter Mr. Ussher wrote to them accepting their resignations. I send a copy. This letter speaks for itself. I look upon it as the key to all that was done at about that

period at Accra by those two meritorious individuals, Ussher and Parker. Does not that letter give unmistakable evidence that Parker must have been instructed by Ussher to goad the Accra J.P.s to resign, so that they might be replaced by those pliant tools, Skues and Elliott, whose readiness to do all that was required was soon exhibited? Notice, also, the impudent style in which it is written, and Ussher's saying that he had heard Parker's version of the facts.

VERITAS.

MORE JUDICIAL OPPRESSION AT ACCRA.

To His Excellency W. H. Simpson, Acting Administrator, Cape Coast.

Accra, September 28, 1868.

Sir,—We, the undersigned European merchants and residents of Accra, beg most respectfully to bring to your Excellency's notice a case in which one of our number is concerned.

The facts are briefly as follows: Mr. Ashmore, a European merchant, was served on Saturday last with a notice to attend as a juror on the following Monday. Mr. Ashmore, after having signed the paper, handed it to the constable, remarking, "Here you are, old fellow!" and at the same time giving him a playful thrust in the ribs. Nelson, the policeman in question, went out and lodged an information before his Honour the Chief Magistrate on Saturday last, but his Honour refused to grant a warrant of apprehension, seeing that the next day was Sunday; but this morning Mr. Ashmore was arrested on a warrant signed by the Chief Magistrate and lodged in James Fort. Two of our number went to see the Judge and offered bail, which was refused. Mr. Ashmore was brought up for examination at eleven o'clock before Captain Russell, the Civil Commandant. We most respectfully submit that the mode of procedure was not only an unnecessarily harsh one, but in our opinion arbitrary and illegal, and ought to have been by way of summons instead of warrant, whereby Mr. Ashmore was taken by six constables through the public streets, from Mr. Clayton's house to James Fort, and from thence to Fort Ussher in charge of the gaoler.

It is not probable that any European would attempt to escape from the jurisdiction of the court, and we fearlessly but hopefully appeal to your Excellency's sense of justice and fitness of things whether we, who have assisted the Government in numberless cases, should be treated in this manner.

We beg your Excellency will be pleased to order such steps to be taken as the circumstances of the case demand, seeing it would be most injurious to us in trade and reputation were we merchants to be treated as the people whom his Honour the Chief Magistrate thought proper to take to Cape Coast on his last visit here, and who, we believe, were remanded and sent down, after seven weeks, in a vessel at the expense of the Government.—We have the honour to be, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient humble servants,

(Signed)

Nicol Irvine, John J. Clayton Wm. McGeorge, T. H. Ashmore, R. Isemonger, D. Pass, P. Curco, J. J. Aymes, P. Peace, E. Walker.

(Reply to the above.)

Government-house, Cape Coast, Oct. 3, 1868.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the petition dated Sept. 28, 1868, and signed by yourself and other residents of Accra, relative to a charge of assault committed by Mr. Ashmore, his arrest and the subsequent proceedings thereon, and requesting me to order such steps to be taken as the circumstances of the case demand.

2. The conduct of the Chief Magistrate being called in question, I am compelled, in justice to him, to await his remarks upon your petition, a copy of which I have forwarded to his Honour by this post for that purpose.

3. Assuming that you have supplied me with an unbiased and faithful account of the affair, I can have no hesitation in coinciding in the view you take that the mode of procedure against Mr. Ashmore was unnecessarily harsh and arbitrary, but its strict legality I have no reason to doubt.

4. You do not inform me of the result of the examination of Mr. Ashmore before the Civil Commandant; and, moreover, in consequence of his Honour's anticipated return by the mail, at the moment when you will probably receive this, it does not appear to me that I can adopt any decided course at present, nor until the facts are more fully before me.

5. I have, however, requested the Chief Magistrate that if the case be not, on the receipt of my letter, already disposed of, it should not be brought up here for trial, but that it be left to be decided either by the Civil Commandant or by his Honour at the next session at Accra, and that bail be accepted for the prisoner in the meantime.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

W. H. SIMPSON, Acting Administrator.
Nicol Irvine, Esq., Accra.

ONE OF MR. PARKER'S GENTLE REMINDERS.
COURT OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE OF THE FORTS
AND SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLD COAST, ACCRA, AND
THE JUDICIAL ASSESSOR'S COURT OF THE PROTECTORATE.

SAKNAH v. C. P. GUISEPPI.

To resume cause appoints intimation of this motion to be made to the prisoner Guiseppi, and to his sureties, with certification that if such sureties shall not produce the prisoner within ten days of this date the prisoner will be outlawed, his moveable estate confiscated to the Crown, and the recognisances, of himself and his sureties estreated to Her Majesty and her successors.—By order,

(Signed) W. CHRISTIAN TYAN, Clerk of the Courts.
Court-house, Accra, Sept. 21, 1868.

A PRECIOUS DOCUMENT.

Copy of Mr. Ussher's Letter accepting the resignation of the Accra Magistrate.

Government-house, Cape Coast, May 9, 1868.

Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., in which, for some fancied rebuke of his Honour the Chief Magistrate, you tender the resignation of your commissions as Justices of the Peace.

In reply I beg to state that I have no hesitation in accepting them, and you will, therefore, be good enough to place the parchment commissions in the hands of Dr. Skues, the Acting Commandant.

I am in full possession of the facts attending your resignation, and all I have to observe is, that had the judge mentioned any justice by name (which he did not), he would have been justified in so doing, did he consider that officer deserved censure; and that public officers who are unable to accept a rebuke from the proper authorities are manifestly unfit to occupy the positions with which they have been entrusted.—I have, &c.,

(Signed)

H. T. USSHER,

Messrs. Irvine, Walker, Hesse, and Clayton.
Certified true copy.—Signed, C. E. Russel, J.P., Civil Commandant.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5d., STAMPED.

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The African Times.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1868.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FOR "AFRICAN TIMES."

John P. Miller, 5s.; F. P. Fearon, 5s.; Rev. J. Qualter, 15s.; D., of Lagos, 5l.

THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

THE election has been carried on since the 15th inst. with great vigour. The momentous issues at stake seem to have roused men of all parties. A few important seats have been won by the Conservatives; one in the City of London, one in Westminster, and several in Lancashire; but on the whole it appears that there is likely to be a Liberal gain. The elections will not be complete until the end of the month. Presuming that Parliament will meet on the 17th December, parties being now thoroughly defined by the new elections, and that a vote will be then taken to determine whether the present Ministers are to remain in power, or whether Mr. Gladstone is to be at the head of affairs, we hope to be able to give this important intelligence in our next; and as our columns are very full, we postpone until then all further remarks.

INCREASE OF OFFICIAL SALARIES.

"THE labourer is worthy of his hire." This is a great truth, and great evils arise wherever it is ignored or disregarded. The West Coast of Africa has furnished abundant evidence of this. There is nothing more costly to a country and a government than cheap officials, especially in the higher grades of the public service. Year after year we have been urging upon the Colonial-office that the salaries of the superior Imperial officers on the West Coast were inade-

quate; not because the persons then employed there were, as a rule, worth more than they received, but because the emoluments of the offices being so small when compared with the expenses the holding them entailed on the officials, they were sought for and, for the most part, filled by a class of men who, both intellectually and morally, were dear at any price; and as such exercised a most pernicious influence, lowering the prestige of the British name, and helping further to debase the population they ought to have contributed both by precept and example to elevate and purify. When it was urged that the revenue of the colonies and settlements on the West Coast would not allow of such an increase as we advocated, we said, abolish some of the offices, and consolidate the salaries for a few superior individuals. But nothing was done. The cheap and nasty system was maintained, and Blackalls, and Hugginses, and Montagus, and Usshers and Parkers were allowed to go on dishonouring Great Britain, insulting and injuring the African people, tyrannising over unhappy individuals who fancied they had rights as British subjects and living under British rule, and degrading the administration of justice until many of the courts stank in the nostrils of all within their influence. Still we persevered in our advocacy of the only good and wise system—proper pay and proper men. Two of the latter, to our astonishment, had accepted the highest appointments on the Coast without the former; and we hailed first with joy the advent of Chief Justice French in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, and later with ardent delight and hope that of Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., in the Government House of that same metropolitan colony of West Africa. It is needless for us to say to the readers of the *African Times* what a blessing these good men have already proved to the people among whom they so worthily fill the highest public offices; and how the brilliance they shed on the offices they hold have served by contrast to make Usshers, Hugginses, Montagus, and Parkers increasingly odious and insupportable. Well, shall we say that we have been trembling lest these men, so inadequately remunerated, should seek to leave the Coast for other more lucrative appointments elsewhere? We do not hesitate to confess it; and our readers will therefore be able to judge in some degree of the delight with which we have received the assurance that the Colonial-office have willingly agreed to an augmentation of salary to the Governor-in-Chief, which the people of Sierra Leone are only too desirous to grant out of their rapidly-increasing revenues, and also that they have under their consideration the advisability, the necessity, and indeed the justice of an increase to the chief of the Supreme Court. We believe that public money has never been anywhere better appropriated than will be that of Sierra Leone in payment of larger salaries than hitherto to Sir Arthur Kennedy and Chief Justice French; and we thank the Colonial-office, in the name of the people of the West Coast, for having recognised at one and the same time the principle for which we have always contended, and the just claims of those whom the people delight to honour. We do indeed sincerely hope that this is only the beginning of a better system, under which such malific meteors as the Usshers, Hugginses, Montagus, Parkers, and all of like stamp, qualification, and character will disappear for ever from the official atmosphere of the British West Coast settlements.

GOVERNMENT OF ABEOKUTA.

THERE are many and weighty reasons why we should take a very deep interest in the affairs of Abeokuta, and in the nature and the efficiency of the governing power there. Abeokuta is not only one of the few large towns known in Africa, but, through its natural resources and the character of its people, is really the most important of any native town along the whole West Coast. The people are brave, industrious, and intelligent, fond of agriculture and trade, a people that whenever they may be brought really under the influences of Christian civilisation, must necessarily rise to a very high and eminent position in Africa. Keen and ardent in traffic, and fond of accumulating money, they would soon become possessed of that wealth without

which nations cannot undertake the works indispensable to material development, were it not that wasteful heathen customs still throw their impoverishing shade over them, undoing frequently in a month or two all that it has taken some persistent individual a whole lifetime to accomplish. In our last we gave important news from Abeokuta—important, at least, as regards the great Egba nation and the neighbouring British settlement of Lagos. We announced the death of the Bashorun of the town, the man who had for some years, in default of a king, exercised the chief power there. For seventeen years he had been in this position, to which he had risen by daring and energy, but the influence of old age had of late years made itself injuriously felt in his character, causing him to become vacillating and unstable, and enfeebling his mind and arm for government. This ought not to astonish anyone when we record his age. He was ninety-three years old when death removed him from among his people. If he had been only sixty-three instead of ninety-three, we should never have heard of such scenes as those enacted in October, 1867, when the Christian places of worship were pillaged, and missionaries who had laboured there during many years retired to Lagos. The death of the Bashorun is not, therefore, to be regarded as a calamity, for the Egbas, who will now again come under the rule of a king—Ayekon, of Ake, of whom report speaks as possessing qualities which inspire a reasonable hope that peace, prosperity, and industrial development will shed their blessings over the country subject to his authority, in the exercise of which he will be zealously assisted by the kings and chiefs forming the lately-constituted Egba Board of Management, which we may regard as a species of executive council of state, and which will, we hope, prove instrumental in establishing and consolidating institutions calculated to obtain for the Egbas internal tranquillity and external respect. Abeokuta, even in its comparative infancy, has proved an insurmountable barrier to the inroads and depredations of the Dahomans on that side of the country, as Ashantee has on the other; and we shall not be at all surprised if, in the course of a few years, such a people should no longer be content merely to resist and defeat the Dahomans when they invade their territory and come before the walls of their town, but, in a plan of enlightened self-defence, so bring the intermediate towns and peoples into voluntary obedience or friendly union, as to enable them to assume the offensive, break in pieces the already-enfeebled Dahoman power, which has wasted its strength in the bloodthirsty expeditions of its kings, and give something like assured peace to that naturally rich and fertile, but long oppressed and devastated portion of Africa. For all this it is necessary that there should be a true and lasting friendship between this people and the British settlement of Lagos. The British Government has entirely repudiated all desire of domination in that part of Africa. In Lagos, it can and will confer essential advantages upon Abeokuta and other Egba towns, and the Yoruba countries generally—the advantages of a secure and improved outlet for the products of the soil—the advantages of showing at its very door those improvements which civilisation introduces, and which tend so much toward the welfare, the happiness, and strength of a community—the advantages of having a wealthy neighbour able and willing to assist a rising, energetic people in its early and necessarily painful and suspicious efforts at consolidation, amelioration, and advancement. And as among the changes absolutely indispensable among the Egbas themselves to their progress and wealth, we hope that under a new and more enlightened government than they have hitherto enjoyed, their king and his assisting council may succeed in inducing them to abandon that impoverishing custom by which all that was the late property of the dead is dissipated in foolish ceremonies and debasing excesses, leaving his family and descendants stripped and penniless. Such, our correspondent, who informs us of the late Bashorun's death, seems to have believed would unhappily be the fate of the deceased ruler's property and family. The increasing influence of Christianity would put an end to such pernicious

folies and excesses, and it is only by their being put an end to that Abeokuta can become really great and powerful, in presence of the reflex of European civilisation brought at Lagos to its very doors. In the welfare, therefore, of the Egbas as a nation, as well as in that of its individuals, as men and women who desire happiness here and eternal felicity hereafter, we hope and pray that the blessed and blessing Christian work which has been so happily begun may revive, be strengthened, and ere long entirely prevail among them.

GOVERNORS' SHARE IN CUSTOMS SEIZURES.

THE celebrated Sierra Leone appeal cases, so ably conducted by Mr. Rainy before the Court of Privy Council, must be too fresh in the memory of our friends to render it necessary for us to refer to them, save only as having exemplified in a high degree the pernicious results that may, and almost as a matter of course must, flow from allowing the chief authority of a British colony or settlement to have a pecuniary interest in fines and seizures levied and made within his jurisdiction for alleged infractions of the Customs Laws. We had already given our opinion pretty freely upon this subject, and we therefore purposely abstained from any observations on the case of the seizure of the French vessel *Conception*, at Lagos, the fine of 100*l.* levied on it, and the confiscation and sale of a portion of her cargo—to wit, 3,752 cases of gin. These cases were seized early in July, 1867. A cause of forfeiture was entituled in the Vice-Admiralty Court of Lagos, on 17th July. The case was heard on the 1st August, and judgment was given the same day, decreeing the confiscation of the 3,752 cases of gin, and imposing a penalty of 100*l.* on the captain. The matter was immediately communicated to us, but we declined to interfere until it was fairly brought under the consideration of the Colonial-office here, and they should give their decision. They have given it; and now we feel at liberty to enter briefly upon the merits of a case which would have confirmed all our previous impressions relative to the participation of governors in fines and seizures, had such a confirmation been at all necessary. The *Conception* sailed from Hamburg for the West Coast with 11,300 cases of gin on board, all of which were on the manifest. She delivered 4,500 cases at Whydah, and left for Lagos, the manifest now duly showing 6,800 cases on board, 3,800 of which she was to discharge at Lagos, and after taking oil on board proceed to Kootonoo, and land there the remaining 3,800 cases. When she thus reached Lagos, both the agent and sub-agent of the house owning the gin were down with fever. The master took the ship's papers on shore, including log and manifest, the latter, as we have said, showing correctly 6,800 cases of gin on board. The Custom-house Officer refused to receive the original French manifests, and demanded them in English. This the captain could neither speak nor understand; and, in the absence of his principals, the agent and sub-agent, he gave them to a German clerk, who had come out in the vessel, to translate. This clerk put in the translation only the number of cases that were to be landed at Lagos—viz., 3,000. The master, who knew nothing of the contents of this translation, but assumed it to be correct, signed it and delivered it and the ship's log at the Custom-house; the ship's log stating correctly the facts of the voyage, and the discharge of 4,500 cases only at Whydah. 1,500 cases were discharged in Lagos roads, and then the *Conception*, being towed into the river, the other 1,500 destined for Lagos were duly landed in presence of the Customs Officer, and arrangements were made for taking in the palm-oil. For this purpose the remaining 3,800 cases of gin, which had been all the time open to the inspection of the Custom-house Officer, were piled on an upper deck of the brig. They there offered such an impediment to the workmen that a number of the cases were broken, &c., so that the number became reduced to 3,752. In consequence of these accidents, the Custom-house was asked for permission to deposit these 3,752 cases, intended for Kootonoo, on shore for a few days, until the oil should all have been got on board. Hereupon the bright thought flashed upon the Customs officials—the error in the German clerk's

document would afford a pretext—the declaration was erroneous! a glorious prize of 3,752 cases of gin could be clutched. It was clutched accordingly; and the seizure was confirmed, a fine levied, and the gin condemned and sold as above stated; one-third of the proceeds of sale of this—in their eyes glorious, but in our eyes iniquitous—seizure being appropriated to the Governor of Lagos, and one-third to the Collector of Customs. The agent of the owners, now partially recovered, applied to the Governor of Lagos, laying before him the peculiar circumstances of the case, and the difficulties which had impeded a fair trial before the Vice-Admiralty Court, among which were that *there not being any counsel or solicitor at Lagos, the master, who could not speak English, applied to the Chief Magistrate, the Chief Clerk of the Vice-Admiralty Court, and the Collector of Customs, for advice in defending his employers' property, but they declined to give him any aid or advice.* And now, in his turn, *the Governor refused to interfere*; so the gin was sold by auction on the 16th August, and the fine exacted, the proceeds to be divided as above stated. In October the English agent of the French owner communicated with the Colonial-office authorities, who advised the laying a full statement before the Duke of Buckingham as Colonial Secretary. This was done on the 6th of November, through the French Ambassador and Lord Stanley. Meanwhile, in view of the scant justice hitherto obtained, counsel was consulted as to an appeal to the Privy Council. By his directions the officials of the Vice-Admiralty Court at Lagos were duly applied to for a copy of the record in this cause, *but the application was refused!* (We feel almost ashamed to write anything so disgraceful to a so-called British Court of Justice.) On the 20th February, 1868, the owner wrote to the French Ambassador in London to know whether, and if so when, he was likely to obtain justice, to which the Ambassador replied on the 22nd idem that "*Lord Stanley has ordered an inquest to be made on the motives which have caused Mr. Glover (the Governor of Lagos) to act so in this circumstance.*" Early in February also the English agent wrote to the Duke of Buckingham on the subject. *No acknowledgment or reply was given by the Duke.* The agent wrote again on the 5th March. *No acknowledgment or reply from the Duke.* Once more (April) the agent had the impertinence to intrude upon the ducal Secretary of State by letter, urging that eight months had passed since the injustice was committed; that he was informed an appeal, if made, must be lodged within twelve months; that "the law has been already exercised beyond its limits in Lagos, and from past experience it is impossible to rely upon any clemency or any latitude from the officers administering Her Majesty's Custom-house and government of that place"; and asking the immediate and serious attention of his Grace to this judgment, "which is not only of serious loss to the sufferers, but, in the unanimous opinion of every British merchant trading at Lagos, has brought discredit upon the administration of Her Majesty's Customs on the West Coast of Africa." To the lasting disgrace of the Duke of Buckingham as a public official *this letter also failed to obtain either acknowledgment or reply*, so that there was no remedy but to take the expensive course of an appeal to the Privy Council. When this was made, and the preliminary expenses of about 200*l.* had been incurred, the sublime Secretary of State vouchsafed the following communication:—

"Downing-street, August 5, 1868.

"Sir,—With reference to the representations received from you relative to the penalties inflicted at Lagos on the French ship *Conception* on account of an incorrect declaration made by her captain, I am desired by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to acquaint you that there was a material irregularity on the part of the captain of the vessel, which naturally led to the seizure of the goods and the fine imposed; but that on weighing all the circumstances his Grace is willing to believe that in this case there was no fraudulent intent. He will accordingly send out instructions that the proceeds realised by the sale of the seized goods and the fine of 100*l.* shall be refunded from the local treasury to the consignees of the *Conception*

at Lagos. The expenses of 32*l.* incurred by the Government cannot be remitted.—I am, &c.,

(Signed)

"FREDERIC ROGERS."

The money has, we believe, since been paid in Lagos, the owner of the goods losing about 500*l.* by their forced sale, and another 200*l.* expenses, in all above 700*l.* And this is British justice! But this article has so exceeded our usual limits that we can only add, with regard to the great principle involved, can any reasonable man believe, on a review of these facts, that the Governor of Lagos, if he had not been—unconsciously, no doubt—biassed by his personal interest in the seizure and condemnation, would, with such a clear head as he is on all hands admitted to possess, have thus so manifestly denied justice to the owner of the goods thus seized and condemned? We affirm that no reasonable man can believe it, and it is therefore clear, if it never was so before (although we contend that it has always been so), that it is a flagrant and shameful abuse, and one calling for immediate remedy, that any colonial governor should be placed in so false and injurious a position as to be made a participator in the amount realised from seizures thus effected; and since his Grace cannot condescend to answer letters in due course, like other members of a Government, we cannot forbear to add that there ought not to be so sublime a personage as the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos in such an office as that of Secretary of State for the Colonies.

SIR ARTHUR KENNEDY AT CAPE COAST.

We rejoice to hear that Sir Arthur Kennedy has gone down to Cape Coast, Accra. We do most sincerely hope that his presence there will put an end to those horrible abuses and tyrannies that have of late disgraced every branch of the public service there. The late revelations about the state of the prisoners and the treatment of prisoners, revealed at the inquest on the poor man Williams, who died there, show the absolute necessity of an entire change of system.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

ENGLAND.—Mr. Gladstone says that he and his friends are leagued together to make war upon *Protestant ascendancy*.

AUSTRIA has fixed her standing army at 800,000 men. With reference to this the French *Moniteur* (official paper) says: "The number of 800,000 men is perfectly in accordance with the number of inhabitants of Austria and with the general state of affairs in Europe."

FRANCE has now a standing army of 1,200,000 men.

PRUSSIA can bring into the field also 1,200,000 men.

RUSSIA the same.

FRANCE.—There is great excitement about a public subscription to erect a monument to M. Baudin, a French Deputy to the Chamber of Representatives, who, in 1851, was killed on the barricades, while opposing the *Coup d'Etat*, which made Louis Napoleon permanent ruler of France. The papers which commenced publishing subscription lists have been prosecuted and their editors fined and imprisoned, a measure which seems likely only to add to the popular feeling. A correspondent on the 12th Nov. says: The "Baudin" business is evidently no mere *feu de paille*, and the excitement it has caused shows no symptom of subsiding. To the emphatic protests against the untenable pretension of the Government to prevent the subscription must now be added that of the venerable M. Berryer. He has forwarded his contribution to Mr. Jules Favre's organ, the *Electeur*, with the following letter, which speaks for itself: "Sir,—On the 2nd of December, 1851, I brought forward and carried, in the National Assembly, convened in the mairie of the 10th arrondissement, a resolution decreeing that the President of the Republic had forfeited his trust, putting him out of the pale of the law, and calling on the citizens to resist the violation of the laws which the President had perpetrated. That decree was made as widely public throughout Paris as was possible. My colleague, M. Baudin, energetically obeyed the orders of the Assembly; he fell a victim to his duty, and I feel compelled to take part in the subscription opened for the purpose of erecting an expiatory monument over his tomb. Receive with my contribution the assurance of my profound regard.—BERRYER. Paris, Nov. 11, 1868."—Nov. 14.—The excitement is still increasing, and the matter is becoming a very serious one. The subscription lists continue open, and the amount collected is very considerable. Nov. 20.—The French Government has seized the *Journal de Paris* and several other papers for publishing the Baudin subscription list, a proceeding which keeps up the public excitement in the matter.

SPAIN, October 28.—Spain wants to raise a loan of twenty-four millions sterling. Several democratic members of the Municipal Council of Madrid have moved a vote of censure upon the Provisional Government for having expressed in their official capacity an opinion that a "monarchy" is the best form of government for Spain. The people burned to-day a scaffold on the public square, where executions have hitherto taken place, as a demonstration against capital punishments. November 10.—The Government has authorised the erection of a Protestant place of worship in Madrid. Nov. 18.—A decree of the Minister of the Colonies orders the adoption of numerous measures of importance. He decrees that steps shall be taken to facilitate the colonisation of Fernando Po, and to establish a naval station there; also that grants of land shall be made in the colonies; that every port in the Spanish possessions shall be declared free to the vessels of all nations, and that all anchorage duties shall be abolished for both foreign and Spanish vessels. Special regulations concerning the above decree will shortly be published.—A joint manifesto to the nation by the leaders of the Progressists, the Unionists, and the Democrats, with the Government, recommends a monarchical form of Government, as "more likely than any other to realise the principles of the revolution through the unanimous co-operation of the three political parties. The monarchy will not be of Divine right, and the sole source of its legitimacy will be the sovereignty of the people, expressed by universal suffrage." Nov. 20.—The island of Cuba is in a very disturbed state.

PORTUGAL.—LISBON, Nov. 14.—It is announced that the Cabinet of St. James's has given entire satisfaction to the Portuguese Government, by disavowing the conduct of the English at Sierra Leone.

RUSSIA, Nov. 12.—An Imperial ukase has been issued to-day ordering that, with a view to complete the strength of the army and the fleet, a levy should be made of four persons in every thousand inhabitants throughout the empire, the conscription to commence on the 15th of January, and terminate on the 15th of February next.

TRADING FROM THE AFRICAN MAIL STEAMERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Fernando Po, Sept. 30, 1868.

The much talked-of intended new line of steamers to the Coast is already popular, and looked upon favourably by all those who are interested in steam freight, as it will do away with the monopoly so long enjoyed by the R.A. Mail Company, and will cause them to reduce their freights and passage money, and to introduce a good many other very necessary reforms into their working. It is to be hoped that it will also have the effect of making the captains and officers of the old line somewhat more civil, obliging, respectful, and considerate towards passengers, shippers, and consignees, and that they, as well as the stewards and crew in general, will attend a little more to the comforts of passengers and to the care of the cargo, instead of devoting so much of their time to private trading. This latter practice has now attained the dimensions of a monstrous abuse. In spite of repeated protests forwarded to head-quarters, it continues, as is well known to every one on the Coast, to be carried on to a larger extent than ever, although probably not with the consent or privity of the shareholders and directors of the company. Nearly all kinds of articles can be bought on board the West African mail steamers, including apparel of every description, hardware, cutlery, fancy goods, tobacco, onions, potatoes, ducks, bullocks, &c., and even trade cloth and hogsheds of tobacco. The small trade in such articles as onions, potatoes, knives, scissors, matches, &c., is in the hands of the sailors; while the engineers' room generally contains a nice assortment of clothing, and the stewards' rooms—consisting of the beds, ladies' cabin, or any other convenient berth when unoccupied—generally contain a large supply of hams, bacon, cheese, butter, fancy goods, soda-water, lemonade, ladies' and gentlemen's clothing, special orders, &c.; while forward below are the onions and potatoes, and on deck the bullocks and live stock. The largest and best assortment is aft. There is no attempt whatever at concealment. The captains and officers are supposed to know nothing of the trading carried on, but if they are asked privately about the price of anything, they kindly refer the inquirer to the chief steward. There is very little doubt that most of the captains and pursers, as well as the stewards, have an interest in the trade done aft. Sometimes an enterprising purser brings down a few hogsheds of tobacco on spec, and sells it at about 1*d.* per pound higher than he pays for it at Sierra Leone. If there is no freight paid (and in that case the chief officer comes in for a part) it is plain that this will pay the purser very well, while a resident importer, paying freight at 110*s.* per ton, besides duties, rent, &c., would soon starve on such a profit. The purser is also ready to oblige his customers by buying oil, which he

ships in other people's names. Another and a most iniquitous advantage which they have over merchants and retailers in this place is that all the goods they sell are brought ashore by their customers free of duty, as they are not on the ship's manifest. Matches, which we cannot get out by these steamers at *any price*, are openly sold by the crew in large quantities. The trade done on board the mail steamers greatly injures the mercantile residents, and considerably influences their shipments and consignments. While some of these steamers do little or no trade, others do as much in the two days they are here as any store ashore does in one month. All the captains may not be interested, but it seems nearly certain that all the pursers are. I say, therefore, that we shall heartily welcome the advent of the new line, and wish it every prosperity, and we feel certain that if it be properly conducted it will meet with a very large share of support, whilst we hope and believe it will check the abuses of the old line, which have arisen and increased through an undisputed monopoly and a plethora of success.

A SUFFERER.

DECREE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ABEOKUTA.

AFRICA SHALL RISE.

Whereas, through misunderstandings between this and the Lagos Government, a strong body of heathen rioters had suddenly taken place in this town on the 13th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, and in consequence of which the European missionaries and others residing in this country have, at a general meeting held at the late Bashorun's hall, on Monday, the 21st day of the said month of October, expressed themselves to the effect that they "parted friends with the Egbas this day."

1. And whereas, at a meeting held at the Asalu's (head chief of Abeokuta), on Friday, the 11th day of September, 1868, it was agreed that, according to the present feelings of the Egbas, all white person or persons for the time being are not allowed again to enter in this country without a written permission from this Government. Nor will they be allowed to reside in Abeokuta, or in any of its territories, either by way of missionary enterprise, commercial transactions, or otherwise, until such time the Board of Management be able to maintain organised Government for the protection of all lives and property as may be then under this Government so to do.

2. Be it therefore made known and proclaimed that from and after the 1st day of October, 1868, notwithstanding the provision of "free access in Abeokuta," Clause No. 1 in Ordinance passed and confirmed on the 23rd day of March, 1866, no white person or persons will, after the above date, be allowed to reside in Abeokuta, or in any of the territories thereof, until such time this Government be able to maintain due protection for all lives and property as aforesaid.

3. That in any such case, for which a permission is granted, the King's staff must be issued by the President General of the Egba United Board of Management to accompany such written permission.

Given at the Asalu's house in the kingdom of Abeokuta, this 11th day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

By command of the Directors Board of Management,
Geo. W. JOHNSON, Secretary.

DISGRACEFUL EXECUTION AT CAPE COAST ON THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, September 28.

Sir,—A man named Hope Grant, one of the soldiers of the late Gold Coast Artillery, suffered the extreme penalty of the law this day.

The unfortunate culprit was taken to the place of execution about a quarter-past seven a.m., and on his arrival there he was marched on the drop, and there the poor creature was kept for ten minutes before any attempt was made to fix the rope round his neck. When the hangman, a man named Lemaire, had made up his mind to carry out his diabolical duty, he found that the rope was too short, and after several minutes' attempt to get the culprit's head in, he was forced to take off the cap, and after a delay of fully five minutes, the rope was lengthened and the culprit's head was passed through it. During this fearful suspense the culprit evinced the most fearful anxiety, and a universal murmur went through the crowd at the fearful bungle that took place. This is not the first time that we have had to record disgraceful scenes similar to this, and we cannot help remarking that Mr. Thomas Jones, who holds so many lucrative appointments, cannot be expected to attend to *all* the duties that appertain to his numerous offices; but in a case of this description we must say that his conduct is most reprehensible, and

furnishes us with another proof of the disgraceful manner in which the work of the Queen is carried on at Cape Coast.
SPEERO MELIORA.

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

Accra, October, 1868.

Sir,—I have this moment been bagged by a native to go with him to the Commandant, to ascertain the reason why he has been confined for four-and-twenty hours in prison without any trial or examination, but by the authority of the Sergeant Nelson mentioned to the Governor in Mr. Ashmore's case, and who has just now been told to go home. The Commandant has promised to inquire into the affair. I shall let you know the result by the next mail. One of the most insane acts of Mr. Parker is making advocates of constables and the interpreter of the court. It is possible, I believe, that the constables employed the other day by Mr. Parker to prosecute and defend a case of murder do not understand a little English, and can read and write a little less, but as for the interpreter, he really does not know one word from another, and has to depend upon his clerks, who are none of the most learned of the Accra population, to read complaints and make out summonses. Mr. Addo, the interpreter, himself is a very respectable man in his way, but totally unfit for such an office as an advocate. I believe he told the Chief Magistrate so at the time of his appointment. Before closing, I may mention another of Mr. Parker's indecorous acts—viz., his going himself, without a coat, and arresting a man who was being made captain according to the country's custom, taking him prisoner into the court; then finding out that if the captain were not given up there would be a row, making him a present of two pounds to drink his health, going outside, still without his coat, in the open streets, and commanding, in a very loud tone of voice, the large assemblage to take off their caps, those who had any, and give three cheers for the Queen; and having it explained to the people that the captain from that day forth was his friend, and not only his, but the Queen of England's, and that he would support him to the last.

We are, of course, quite tired of this childish foolery, and I hope by your able exertions it will be put a stop to effectually, and that the English Government will supply us with officials we can respect.

Thanking you again for your exertions in procuring us redress, I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,
NOT A NATIVE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Jamestown, Accra, Oct. 7, 1868.

Sir,—I am very sorry to inform you that I have hitherto got no redress for my imprisonment. The Judge arrived here lately from Cape Coast, and I asked or petitioned him about this affair of mine. He now says "he did not know who put me into prison," although I assure you that it was he who signed the warrant of my arrest. However, he recommended me to summons the woman again, but I still ask where I can have redress now; I don't think I could get it from the same Judge. Pray do try so that I may have redress, and please to let all men see what treatment I received from the Chief Justice. The Judge himself, who had hitherto abused my character, has now called me a respectable old trader; he even called for my help for the Government. I enclose you a certificate from him to me for my defending a man charged with murder, after I had received such a severe punishment from him.

Try to do something for me; it is disgraceful if I do not get redress for my false imprisonment. I am told that I cannot appeal to Sierra Leone, and in what court am I to do it? Try, try, try for me; I rely on you for redress!—I am, yours truly,
JOHN DODOO.

(Imprisoned more than three months without being examined, and then set at liberty by the efforts of Mr. Finlason.)

Certificate of Chief Magistrate Parker.

Court-house, Accra, Sept. 29. 1868.

It is hereby certified that on Monday, the 28th day of September, 1868, the Court of Civil and Criminal Justice then sitting at Accra, in the Eastern District of the Gold Coast, Mr. John Dadoo, of Accra, was called upon by the Court to defend an uneducated native of Quah Afful, who had been indicted on a charge of murdering or killing and slaying a woman called Affia. At the trial the prosecutor restricted the charge to that of the reckless use of firearms, whereby the said woman had come to her death through the fault and negligence of the prisoner. That, after a lengthened trial, the jury returned a verdict of accidental homicide, and the prisoner was accordingly acquitted. That the said Mr. John Dadoo at once responded to the call of the Court; that, as pleader for the prisoner, he conducted the case with discretion and ability, and no doubt was

instrumental in securing the acquittal of the prisoner. The verdict returned by the jury had the entire concurrence of the presiding judge.

(Signed)

W. A. PARKER,
Chief Magistrate and Assessor of the
Gold Coast.

To Mr. John Dadoo, of Accra.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 5.

Sir,—We are looking anxiously forward to see what will be the result of the elections in England, and what effect the changes involved may have on African matters.

I presume that the commission of inquiry into matters on the Gold Coast will not be confined to individual matters alone; it ought to be of a more comprehensive character, calculated to bring out into full view the pernicious agencies which, since 1860, have so dreadfully injured and thrown back the whole interests of the Gold Coast.

The commission of Colonel Ord was worse than useless; and the inquiry before the House of Commons was an entire failure, disastrous in the extreme to the interests of this country.

What we want evolved is the agencies and causes which have led to so much ruin, and that with a view to their becoming beacon-lights, or rather unmistakable warnings, against future mismanagement.

(From the special correspondent of the African Times at Accra.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 8, 1868.

The famous Chief Magistrate of the Gold Coast, Mr. Parker, has paid Accra another visit recently. In my letter per Athenian I alluded briefly to his arrival, but as he had not then made his appearance in public I had nothing to communicate respecting his movements. On the 21st September his Honour opened the session, and after a lengthened speech, praising up the present commandant and other officials here, to the astonishment of the people assembled in court, Mr. Parker directed the Clerk to request them to join him in offering up a few short prayers. His Honour, standing up, read the prayer commencing "Present us, O Lord," followed with the Lord's Prayer, and concluded with a brief exhortation of his own. What effect the Chief Magistrate desired to produce by this strange proceeding—that is strange for the man and place—I cannot tell; but I know that it actually produced nothing but merriment and laughter, more especially amongst those present who were aware of the learned judge's eccentricities and prevailing weakness, the latter being at the moment strongly in evidence.

His Honour appeared to be very much less disposed to ride roughshod over people than he was last time he was amongst us; but, nevertheless, now and then he evidently could not conceal or restrain his feelings; for instance, on Friday, the 25th Sept., at 3 p.m., after having adjourned the court for one hour (as is his custom) to partake of some "refreshment," his Honour suddenly made his appearance, without hat, wig, gown, coat, or even waistcoat, but merely in his shirt sleeves, dragging in with his own hands as prisoner a man whom he had himself seized in the streets for making a noise.

It appears that one of the native companies had just elected a new captain, in place of one who had been shot during the expedition against the Ahwoonahs, under Captain Herbert, in 1866, and that the new captain was being publicly installed by his company and shown to the people by being carried on the shoulders of two men, with firing of guns and beating of drums. Just as the procession had arrived opposite the gate of Fort Creve Cœur, Mr. Parker was coming from his residence, where he had been taking a "light lunch," and thinking that the crowd he saw advancing contemplated a breach of the peace, his Honour proceeded into their midst with a constable and seized the captain with his own hand, and with the assistance of the policeman dragged him into the court. You can well imagine the astonishment we experienced on seeing the Chief Magistrate in his shirt sleeves bringing in a man clothed in the skins of wild beasts, with his face chalked and a war hat covered with feathers on his head; but I defy you or anyone else to attempt to describe, or even to imagine, our feelings when we saw his Honour pulling out his purse and presenting his prisoner with a couple of sovereigns, with a desire that he would give them to his company to drink the Queen's health. To endeavour to describe all that actually occurred would be beyond my powers, and, moreover, it would be beyond belief. Few that were not actual eyewitnesses would believe half what I saw. The explanation of the extraordinary sequel is this. No sooner had the captain been taken inside the fort than the whole town became excited, and the people appeared resolved to effect the release of the captive centurion. This coming to the ears of the

Chief Magistrate, who had gone into the Commandant's quarters to put on his wig and gown, his Honour speedily returned in his shirt sleeves, and at once commenced to fraternise with his prisoner, introducing him to the court as his friend the captain. His Honour, after a very long sermon, in which he eulogised the native institutions and customs, handed his prisoner two sovereigns, and then requested all present to accompany him into the streets in front of the fort and assist him to do honour to the new captain. His Honour then led the way arm in arm with his late prisoner, and on reaching the square facing Fort Creve Cœur he had the captain lifted up on the shoulders of a person in the crowd, and with the assistance of some dozen constables gave three cheers. After this ludicrous scene the people dispersed, no one dreaming of returning to the court for that day at all events.

On Monday, the 28th, a young English merchant, Mr. Ashmore, was arrested on a warrant, signed by Mr. Parker, and cast into a most filthy dungeon or hole already containing half-a-dozen inmates. Mr. Ashmore's alleged crime was that of assaulting a constable. Mr. Parker refused to take bail for this gentleman, although all the Europeans came forward and offered themselves.

Mr. Ashmore was brought up before Captain Russell, the Civil Commandant, and fined twenty shillings. I was present during the examination, and I must confess that, from the evidence adduced for the prosecution, it was too bad to arrest gentlemen and cast them into dungeons on such flimsy grounds. It appears that a constable brought a circular notice to Mr. Ashmore's house for his signature, and that after signing it he handed it back to the constable, and, in a playful manner, gave him a "dig in the ribs." For this Mr. Parker had him arrested on a warrant and thrust into one of his rat-holes for six hours.

Mr. Ashmore has every reason to be thankful that neither Dr. Skues nor Mr. Elliott, or any other of Ussher's tools or toadies, happen to be commandant here now, or else he would have been in for it. It is well known that Mr. Parker was not pleased with the result of the examination before the Civil Commandant.

The Europeans (who, I must say, have allowed themselves to be bullied too far by the creatures who have crept into office during Mr. Ussher's reign) were naturally indignant at this treatment, and at once complained to the Administrator. I send you a copy of their letter, and also a copy of Mr. Simpson's reply.

CRIMINAL LAW.—The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1867, provides that a magistrate, on committing a prisoner, shall ask what witnesses he wishes called for him at his trial, these witnesses to be summoned and remunerated by the Crown.

EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.—A mission from his Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar, accredited to her Majesty, has arrived in London, and is located at the Langham Hotel. It consists of his Excellency Sayyid Mahommed bin Salim, and Sayyid Ahmed bin Suleiman, two Arab chiefs of the highest rank at his Highness's court, and Hajee Mahommed Bakushmir, the confidential secretary of the Sultan, accompanied by nine Arab attendants. The object of the mission is connected with the suppression of the slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa and the revolution at Muscat, where Sayyid Thorwenec, the elder brother of his Highness was some time ago cruelly murdered by his own son.

A NEW STEAM LAUNCH.—The official trip of Messrs. Yarrow and Hedley's last new steam launch took place on Monday last. The boat is 35 feet long by 6½ feet beam. She steamed down the river a distance of thirty-one miles in three hours forty minutes, or an average speed of a little over eight miles an hour. We understand that the boat is going out to the Mediterranean for carrying Government despatches.

WILD SILKWORKS IN NATAL.—The worms, when about to form the cocoon, travel in a line on the ground, all connected with one thread of silk and close together, so if you throw one out of the line, he falls into the rear and the others close up. When a suitable place is found on the ground they make their cocoon, attached to a dead branch of a tree. As many as sixty work in one cocoon, and the cocoon is sometimes as large as a man's head.

EXPLORATIONS IN LIBERIA.—A letter from Professor Edward W. Blyden, of Liberia College, dated April 10, 1868, to a gentleman in New York, says: "Since I last wrote you, Mr. Benjamin Anderson, ex-Secretary to the Treasury, has set out on his exploring journey. He was a few days ago between Bopora and Musada, northerly from Monrovia. He is travelling under the care of the Mandingo priest of whom I wrote you. This priest wrote me a few days ago, in Arabic, that he had sent some of his people to assist Anderson in carrying his baggage to a distant town, and when they returned he would himself join Anderson. It will be pleasing to you to learn that such a correspondence has commenced between Liberia and the interior.—*African Repository.*

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE."

2nd West India Regiment.—Gentleman Cadet G. C. Pollock, from the Royal Military College, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Stoker, promoted.

3rd West India Regiment.—Lieutenant J. J. H. Cottle, from the 28th Foot, to be Lieutenant, vice Gordon, who exchanges; M. N. O'Connor, Gent., to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Elphinstone, promoted in the 4th West India Regiment.

4th West India Regiment.—Captain R. E. D. Ness, to be major, by purchase, vice A. W. Mackay, who retires; Lieut. H. W. Paterson to be Captain, by purchase, vice Ness; Ensign R. D. Elphinstone, from the 3rd West India Regiment, to be Lieutenant, by purchase, vice Paterson.

DEATH.

SEYMOUR GAY.—At Bathurst, Mr. Seymour Gay. In life much beloved; in death deeply regretted.

CHARLES BUXTON, Esq.—The "Star," *apropos* of the East Surrey Election, says: "The base attempt which has been made to hunt down Mr. Buxton because he 'remembered the forgotten,' and sought to throw the Ægis of English law over our desolate and down-trodden fellow-subjects in the West Indies, ought to be answered by an overwhelming vote in his favour. The Tories have sought to punish Mr. Buxton for objecting to the flogging of women and men with wire cats, as if he had been the user of the diabolical tortures. Let the Liberals of East Surrey, by a grand rush to the poll, prove that it is not in England that men are punished for their humanity and public spirit."

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By F. FITZGERALD, Esq., Author of "The Kingdom of Heaven," &c., and Editor of the *African Times*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Sparks, Government Medical Inspector of Emigrants from the port of London, writes: "From my personal and professional use and knowledge of the value of Mr. LAMPOUGH'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. LAMPOUGH'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. LAMPOUGH'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. LAMPOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE. I have used it extensively in the treatment of Diarrhoea and Febrile affections generally, and have found it an admirable Refrigerant Medicine, well calculated for diseases incidental to warm climates, more particularly in Cholera and Fever, as it possesses chemical properties capable of furnishing the blood with Saline matter.—Pentonville, August 8, 1857."

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

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

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

H. LAMPOUGH. 113, HOLBORN, E.C.

SPECIAL AGENTS FOR LAMPOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE:—

Messrs. ORR & Co., Madras; Messrs. THACKER, SPINK & Co., Calcutta; Messrs. TREACHER & Co., Bombay.

CANTOR and CO., SIERRA LEONE.

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