



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

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
West African Mails	65	Mr. W. A. Ross on Cape Coast Affairs	69
Launch of the Steamship Bonny for the West Coast African Trade	65	Merchants Supercargoes at Old Calabar	70
Sierra Leone	66	Notices	70
Mr. Walcott, Ex-Governor Blackall's Acting Queen's Advocate at	66	The Closing and the Opening Year	71
Sierra Leone, Committed for Perjury	66	A Steamer on the Volta River	71
The Open Legislative Council	66	Williams who Died in the Accra Prison Den	71
The Way to Get Subscribers to the "African Times"	66	A Judicial Staff at Sierra Leone for the whole West Coast	72
Finlason v. Richter, the Gaoler	67	The Political Change in England	73
Fernando Po and the Spanish Revolution	67	The New Ministry	73
Ship News	67	European Affairs and Signs of the Times	73
Mr. J. Waller Good Abandoned from Bail	68	Court of Common Pleas	73
The River Volta	68	His Excellency Sir A. Kennedy, C.B., and Ex-Governor Blackall	74
Mr. Parker's Heaven for Attorneys	68	Deaths	74
Sir A. Kennedy at Accra	68	Another Eruption of Mount Etna	74
A Hint for Sir Richard Mayne	68	Mr. Justice Huggins	74
Charge of Misstatement against "Fantee"	68	Mr. Henry Ward Beecher on United States Morality	75

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, 158, Leadenhall-street; in GLASGOW, to TAYLOR, LAUGHLAND, and Co., 91, Buchanan-street; or, in LIVERPOOL, JOHN DEMPSTER, 2, Brunswick-street.

P.S.—It is intended that the BONNY shall leave Liverpool between the 24th January and the 1st February.

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

The West African Royal mail steamer Lagos arrived at Liverpool on the 1st December. She brought 1,773 ounces of gold dust, 2,500 dollars, and 394 sovereigns in specie.

The West African Mail Steamer Calabar arrived on the 18th December, with advices from Benin, Cameroons, Old Calabar, Fernando Po, and Brass River. No news of importance. The Mail Steamer African had been towed into Bonny by the Calabar, with her main shaft broken.

LAUNCH OF THE STEAMSHIP BONNY FOR THE WEST COAST, AFRICAN TRADE.

On Wednesday afternoon, December 17, there was launched from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Randolph, Elder, and Co. a screw steamer of 1,800 tons burden, with engines of 250 horse power on the builders patent principle, built for the Bar-

TISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY. The vessel was gracefully christened the Bonny by Miss Brash, of Leith, daughter of one of the owners. The Bonny is the pioneer of a new line of steamers intended to trade between Glasgow, Liverpool, and the principal ports of the West Coast of Africa. After a most successful launch the company present adjourned to the model room of the builders, where the usual toasts were proposed, "Success to the Bonny," coupled with the name of Captain Lowrie, being responded to by him in an appropriate speech. The Bonny will have all the recent improvements, and will be fitted up in a comfortable manner for a limited number of passengers. Messrs. Randolph, Elder, and Co. have on the stocks for the same owners two sister ships, which will be named the Roquette and Congo. The Bonny is intended to be despatched in the course of next month, after which the service will be continued monthly.

SIERRA LEONE.

The case of *Sna v. the African Royal Mail S. S. Company*, with reference to the claim of the latter not to be sued in the Sierra Leone Supreme Court, has been brought on petition by Mr. W. Rainy before the Legislative Council, which seems to have been unanimously of opinion that some new enactment should be immediately prepared for putting an end on the West Coast to that unjust immunity claimed by the company, and evidenced in its refusing to appear to the writ issued out of the Supreme Court in the case of this *Sna*, who lost his leg on board one of their ships on the Coast while in their service.

MR. WALCOTT, EX-GOVERNOR BLACKALL'S ACTING QUEEN'S ADVOCATE AT SIERRA LEONE, COMMITTED FOR PERJURY.

SIERRA LEONE POLICE-COURT, Nov. 20, 1868.

(Before His Worship A. W. Turner, Acting Police Magistrate.)

This was a summons taken out by Mr. Rainy against Mr. Walcott, charging Mr. Walcott with having committed perjury in an affidavit filed by him in the actions which Mr. Rainy had brought against Mr. Walcott in the Supreme Court for libel, and in which Mr. Rainy had obtained a verdict of 100*l.* damages. According to the evidence of Mr. Rosenbush, a banker of this colony and Consul for the Netherlands, it appeared that in March last Mr. Walcott had caused a subpoena to be served upon Mr. Rosenbush for the purpose of giving evidence in support of Mr. Walcott's defence in the said libel case. Mr. Rosenbush expressed his surprise when he had the subpoena, and distinctly told Walcott that he knew nothing of the case. On a Friday in the same month Mr. Walcott was in Mr. Rosenbush's banking establishment, when Mr. Rosenbush repeated to him again that he could give no evidence for him, and that it was his intention to go before the Court and state that much, in order to obtain the permission of the Court to leave the colony for the purpose of going to his factory. Walcott then told Rosenbush it was unnecessary for him to go before the Judge, and that he could go away, and that his going away would afford him (Walcott) an opportunity of moving a postponement for the trial of the cause. Mr. Rosenbush then left this for the rivers, and in a few days after Mr. Walcott made an affidavit stating that Mr. Rosenbush was a material and necessary witness for him in the action, and that he verily believed that he could not safely proceed to the trial thereof without the testimony of Mr. Rosenbush, whom he had subpoenaed, and notwithstanding the subpoena he (Walcott) had been informed that Mr. Rosenbush had left the colony. Mr. Walcott further stated in his affidavit that he had not time between the Friday and Saturday to take out a summons to obtain an order for the purpose of having Mr. Rosenbush's evidence taken before the Master of the Court prior to Mr. Rosenbush's leaving the colony for his factory. Mr. Marston produced the affidavit and gave evidence in support of the charge. Mr. Dougan also gave evidence. Mr. Walcott then made a speech in his defence, occupying about two hours, treating the whole affair as perfect nonsense, and asking the Magistrate to dismiss the charge. The Bench decided that there was abundant evidence that Mr. Walcott had deposed to a false statement in his affidavit, and that he must commit him to take his trial at the next Supreme Court. Mr. Walcott asked to be dismissed on his own bail, but his Worship stated that it was too serious a case to allow Mr. Walcott to go out on his own bail, but that he would take two sureties for 200*l.* each, or one surety for 400*l.* Mr. Walcott, being unable to provide sureties, was conveyed to the common gaol.

THE OPEN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Sierra Leone, Nov. 13, 1868.

In all the many steps adopted by our excellent and popular Governor for the improvement of the country happily committed to his charge, none has been so important as the opening of the Legislative Council. In place of being, as hitherto, a dark den inspiring both doubt and fear, the Council Chamber is now a mirror of the national will, and a bright reflex of the national desires. When I see the doings of our little parliament reported in the columns of our local journal, I feel the strides which Sierra Leone has made in civilisation, and take a pardonable and justifiable pride for the part I have played in bringing about a consummation so devoutly to be wished. Who does not feel himself refreshed when the highest authority in the Council denounces the meagre pittance given for the salutary purposes of education, or when our merchant prince, in the full recognition of exalted merit, advocates an increase of salary where that increase is most justly due. These reports will help to discipline the people in the great art of politics, and all the inner strings

of the huge machinery called legislation will be developed to them in the fulness of time. The "Star Chamber," as we used to call it in darker hours, has been converted into a popular chamber, and we hail it as another evidence, if such was required, of the liberal mind and far-seeing judgment of his Excellency Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

That the purest and ablest Governor that this colony ever boasted of should be required upon a more liberal scale was a motion worthy of the enlarged views and accomplished mind of the Hon. Charles Heddle. Mr. Heddle is one of our institutions; he has grown with the growth of our colony, and is a fair specimen of a merchant prince in the largest and most liberal acceptance of that noble designation. He has never been a suitor at Downing-street, or looked for any of those exalted Government offices which his genius and his character would equally adorn; but he has rested contented with being the first and most potent merchant upon our Coast, as well as one of the ablest and cleverest-headed men in Council. The colony responds to Mr. Heddle's high estimation of the great qualities of the supreme ruler of the West Africa Settlements, and bows to an enlightened experience which has extended to a period of nearly half-a-century. That still undimmed eye and marvellously rapid conception has seen, hitherto, offices of the highest nature degraded by their possessors in our colony; and now he has been quick to find out the true diamond, although still surrounded by gems of paste. Mr. Heddle's speech before the Council was marked by that well-tempered zeal and wise discretion which has characterised his honourable and lengthened career. The ruler was worthy of the distinguished councillor and the councillor was worthy of the ruler, and with such healthful speeches in Council, and with open doors, the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone will yet be a great popular institution and rise above the calumnies of faction or party. Mr. Heddle, as a great merchant, must feel how his vast intercourse with the surrounding and distant chieftains is rendered expeditious, and at the same time secure, from the healthful influence of a paternal Government. The rumours of war which have so long stricken and paralysed commerce in our country are at an end, and we have arrived at length, after a dreary cheerless night of travel, at the halcyon days which the poet of ages has so nobly depicted:—

Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths,
Our bruised arms hung up for monuments,
Our stern alarms changed to merry meetings,
Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.
Grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front.

All honour to him who brought about this most desired change.

THE WAY TO GET SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "AFRICAN TIMES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Liberia, November 8, 1868.

Sir,—Allow me, through your valuable paper, to suggest to my Sierra Leone friends and countrymen the way to get subscribers to the *African Times*. Sierra Leone has a population of over 60,000 inhabitants; Freetown, the capital, contains over 20,000. Cannot some intelligent young men devote a few days on behalf of our great advocate, the *African Times*? They can do it in this way, Mr. Editor. Let these young men hold public meetings in Freetown, inviting all and everyone, by having public notices posted about the streets a few days before the meetings, and in these meetings lay before the people the immense good the *African Times* has done and is doing for us; and there have a list and ask everyone to come forward, both men and women, and have their names enrolled as subscribers to the *African Times*, and on the next day go round and collect the subscriptions and hand them over to our indefatigable and warm-hearted advocate and champion, William Rainy, Esq., with the names of the subscribers. If this seems to be too much trouble, let the young men go round with a list, in the afternoons and evenings after business hours, to every house in the name of Mr. Rainy (having first asked that gentleman the privilege of using his name) and persuade every man and woman to subscribe to the *African Times* by explaining to them the good that paper has done for us. The name of Mr. Rainy, amongst the people of Sierra Leone and along the Coast, will get any amount of subscribers; and there is scarcely a man or woman in Sierra Leone amongst the 60,000 inhabitants who cannot subscribe 5*s.* a year—except he or she is a real pauper—and I believe you will hardly find 6,000 paupers in the above population. Allow me to say, Mr. Editor, if this is done Freetown alone will add to the present subscribers some 5,000 subscribers; Waterloo, the largest village, whose population is over 10,000, can produce 500 subscribers; Kent, York, and Bananas can produce 500 subscribers; Kissy about 200 subscribers; Hastings and Wellington about 250 subscribers; Wilberforce, Lumley, and Godinch can produce about 200 subscribers; Bathurst, Charlotte, Regent, Gloucester, and Leicester can give about 300 subscribers; Benguema, Camp-

bell's Town, Rokell, and Tombo can produce about 100 subscribers; which will bring over 7,000 subscribers in addition to the present number of subscribers. Besides, I have not named the Mellicourie, Rio Ponga, Rio Nunez, Matacong, Sherbro, Bullom, Bulama, the Scarries River, and various surrounding rivers and towns, where reading young men are who will be too glad to become subscribers to the *African Times* if there were persons to go round and represent the great good that has and is yet being done for Africa by your invaluable journal. Such a cause as this, Mr. Editor, I believe will tend to show that Africans, when properly informed, are capable of demonstrating that they highly appreciate your indefatigable labours. I would say to them and for them, shall we leave Mr. Rainy and the editor of the *African Times* to fight our way through and to work single-handed? Oh no. Whilst they hold in their hands the sword of justice, if we can do nothing else, let us hold up their hands and shout Justice! Justice!! Africa! Africa!! "Where there is a will there is a way." I say again, whilst Mr. Rainy and the editor of the *African Times* are bringing before the tribunal of justice the wrongs and cruelties that have been, and are still being, practised on us, let us do our part. The confidential, the warm-hearted, and the indefatigable William Rainy, who has many a time put his hands into his pocket to enable the poor and oppressed in Sierra Leone to obtain redress, will, I believe, rejoice to see young men coming forward, asking him for his signature on their lists, giving them authority to go and get subscribers for the *African Times*; and such names and subscriptions being handed over to Mr. Rainy, he will be glad to forward the same to the *African Times*. Who will come forward and devote a few moments of their time to the cause of Africa? Yea, to the cause of our own country? Awake! Africa, awake!! Awake! ye sons and daughters of Africa; your day is dawning; you have yet some sincere friends who seem to be acting on the principle, *Fiat justitia ruat calum.* Awake! Africa, awake!! Sleep no longer, open thine eyes, shake off thy sloth, and ask what meaneth all these rumblings? What meaneth these loud thunderings about injustice in the *African Times* and *Sierra Leone Advocate*? What meaneth these? That the enemies and oppressors of Africa tremble at the names of Rainy and the *African Times*? Why are all manner of scandals heaped upon the *African Times* by the enemies of Africa—and yet they are obliged to read it, though they read it with trembling hands and aching hearts? Why is it that Parliament is awaking to Africa's cause, and questions are asking and interest is taking in once-forgotten, once-unnoticed Africa? It is because her dawn of day has begun. It is because Africa is struggling to keep her head above water, and is resolved not to be kept down any longer. It is because, I believe, that Africa's jubilee is come. Awake! Africa, awake!! ye sons and daughters of Africa, and run to encourage and support your warm-hearted friends in the cause of common justice.

A SIERRA LEONEAN.

FINLASON v. RICHTER, THE GAOLER.

Copies of letters to Capt. Russell and Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B.

THE QUEEN IN THE PROSECUTION OF W. C. FINLASON AGAINST HENRY RICHTER, GAOLER AT ACCRA, FOR ASSAULT AND CRUELTY.

James Town, Accra, Nov. 16, 1868.

Sir,—As I have arrived this morning, I have the honour to solicit the favour of your informing me on what day your worship will pass sentence on the above prisoner for the crime with which he stands convicted?—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

To the Honourable Capt. Charles E. Russell, J.P.,
Civil-Commandant Fort Crève Cœur, Accra.

James Town, Accra, Nov. 16, 1868.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 28th day of July last I criminally indicted one Henry Richter, the head gaoler of this place, for assault and gross cruelty to me whilst a prisoner undergoing imprisonment in the case *Cleaver v. Finlason*.

The case came on before Captain Russell, J.P., who, after hearing evidence on both sides, expressed himself in open court to the effect that I had fully made out my case against the prisoner, Richter, but that he would delay sentence until the following Thursday.

I appeared in court on that day, when his worship informed me that he was only acting for Dr. Skues, who was then Acting Commandant, and that he was requested by Dr. Skues to send a copy of the proceedings to Cape Coast, for Mr. Parker, the Chief Magistrate's opinion.

From that date to the present time the above Henry Richter has been performing his duties as a gaoler, and he has received no punishment for the assault and cruelty I clearly proved against him.

The object of this letter is most respectfully to solicit your Excellency to refer this my complaint to Captain Russell, the present Commandant, with a view that your Excellency may be pleased to order the records of the trial, *The Queen v. Henry Richter*, to be placed before you, so that your Excellency may arrive at the truth of the allegations I now put forth, and decide whether Mr. Henry Richter is a fit person to be in the responsible position he now holds.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

To His Excellency Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
Governor-in-Chief, James Town, Accra.

James Town, Accra, Nov. 17, 1868.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose a letter which I will feel obliged if you would hand to his Excellency Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B., Governor-in-Chief.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

To the Honourable Capt. Charles E. Russell, J.P.,
Civil Commandant, Fort Crève Cœur, Accra.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

James Town, Accra, Nov. 20, 1868.

Sir,—Henry Richter, the gaoler at this place, whom I indicted criminally on the 28th July last, for assault and cruelty whilst a prisoner undergoing tortures by order of Mr. Herbert Taylor Ussher, in Mr. W. A. Parker's den at this place, at the instance of Mr. William Cleaver, was sentenced yesterday, the 21st inst., by Captain Russell, the Commandant, to pay a fine of 40*s.* and costs, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

It will, doubtless, not have escaped your memory that Vine, the policeman, gave evidence at the trial fully substantiating the charges I brought against Richter. This appears to have given offence to Chief Magistrate Parker, who ordered poor Vine to be imprisoned on a charge of perjury. After being kept in prison six weeks, poor Vine was released by order of the Acting Commandant here, Captain Russell, no prosecution having been instituted against him.

Is this justice? Surely Her Majesty's Government at home must be aware of the continued outrages that justice is receiving at the hands of Mr. W. A. Parker, and the contempt into which it is brought by him. Look at my own case and that of the Bannermans, Hesse, Dodoo, Mrs. Ansah's pet dog, &c., &c.

By the regular mail I will forward you a certified copy of the proceedings had in my case against Richter, with the sentence of Capt. Russell, the Commandant; and then it is to be hoped, for the sake of justice and truth, that his Grace the Secretary of State will see the urgent necessity of taking some effective means of putting an end to a method of administering so-called justice that has greatly assisted in destroying British prestige in these parts.—Yours truly,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

SHIP NEWS.

Cape Coast, 9th October to 8th November.

ARRIVALS.—James Duckett, Oct. 9; Mary Campbell, Oct. 9; Roebuck, Oct. 11; Albertina, Oct. 12; Axim, Oct. 14; Sea Sprite, Oct. 15; R.M.S. Lagos, Oct. 16; Dromo, Oct. 17; Venus, Oct. 19; Warren White, Oct. 19; Mary Evans, Oct. 21; Sea Sprite, Oct. 23; H.M.S. Lee, Oct. 27, with his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief; French Frigate Bellone, Oct. 28, with French Admiral; Mischief, Oct. 28; R.M.S. Calabar, Oct. 29; R.M.S. Lagos, Nov. 8.

DEPARTURES.—James Duckett, Oct. 9, for Leewards; Mary Campbell, Oct. 13, for Leewards; Roebuck, Oct. 17, for Leewards; Albertina, Oct. 29, for Leewards; Axim, Oct. 19, for Leewards; Sea Sprite, Oct. 17, for Leewards; R.M.S. Lagos, Oct. 17, for Leewards; Dromo, Oct. 22, for Leewards; Venus, Oct. 30, for Leewards; Warren White, Oct. 23, for Leewards; Mary Evans, Oct. 22, for Leewards; Sea Sprite, Oct. 25, for Windward; French Frigate Bellone, Oct. 30, for Leewards; Mischief, Oct. 30, for Salt Pond to fill up; R.M.S. Calabar, Oct. 29, for Leewards; R.M.S. Lagos, Nov. 8, with mails for Europe.

N.B.—Governor-General Kennedy still at Cape Coast, endeavouring to settle disputes between Elminas and the Pantees. Trade very dull indeed; place healthy; gin the only article in great demand.

FERNANDO PO AND THE SPANISH REVOLUTION.—Private advices, by the Calabar, from the West Coast of Africa state that when the news of the Spanish revolution arrived at Fernando Po, a deputation waited upon the Governor and asked him to declare for the new Government. He at first wished to wait for official despatches, but at length yielded. There was a general feeling of joy at the change.

MR. J. WALLER GOOD ABSCONDED FROM HIS BAIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 18, 1868.

Sir,—Some time ago I wrote to you of the absconding of Mr. John Waller Good, of the late firm of Good and Amisiah, to Elmina, and of his being brought back under escort of two policemen.

On his return from Elmina he was cast into the criminal cell at this place; and after being there some weeks he was bailed out.

On the 8th of this month Mr. John Waller Good made his, I suppose, final escape, in the mail steamer, and is now safe in Liberia. His poor sureties are now in a great way, as their bail bonds are estreated.

This man, as you know, was Mr. W. A. Parker's intimate friend, and even up to the time of his escape he was boasting of his intimacy with the Chief Magistrate. I am not aware if they correspond now.—Yours truly, Wm. CHAS. FINLASON.

THE RIVER VOLTA.

It was rumoured at Accra when the Bimonthly Mail left that the Governor-in-Chief was about to go up the Volta in a small steamer, accompanied by the Acting Administrator of Cape Coast and Captain J. H. Glover, Administrator of Lagos.

MR. PARKER'S HEAVEN FOR ATTORNEYS.

Extracted from Rule of Court relating to appointment of Attorneys, Gold Coast.

Sec. 13.—All existing licences to plead before the said Court (Court of Civil and Criminal Justice) shall cease and determine on the 30th day of September next, 1868, and thereafter every person who shall be found to be practising as an attorney without the licence provided for by this order, shall, upon being duly convicted of the same before the Chief Magistrate or the Civil Commandant at Accra, for the first offence be fined in the sum of 5*l.*, or in default be committed to prison, with or without hard labour, for the term of one calendar month, unless such fine shall be sooner paid, and for the second and every subsequent offence any sum not less than ten pounds, or, in default, be committed to prison for two calendar months, with or without hard labour, unless such fine shall be sooner paid.

From Rule of Court dated Court-house, Cape-Coast, 1st Sept., 1868, signed by W. A. Parker, Chief Magistrate and Assessor; and approved by W. H. Simpson, Acting Administrator.

SIR A. KENNEDY AT ACCRA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, Nov. 21, 1868.

Sir,—His Excellency the Governor-in-chief arrived here on the 10th inst., in H.M.S. Lee. On the evening of the same day the Governor of Lagos (Captain Glover) arrived in his steamer, to meet Sir Arthur Kennedy.

The Governor-in-chief had several interviews with the chiefs and merchants respecting the troubles on the Volta and the return of the two kings from Addah. I do not think it will be advisable to make public just yet all that took place. I may however state at once that the agents of the Basle Missionaries at Christiansborg "presented themselves" before his Excellency amongst the other Europeans, and, as usual, opposed what the merchants of longer experience (and who had greater and more real interests in the country) thought best to suggest for the solution of the existing troubles. The complaints and petitions laid before Sir Arthur against Mr. Chief Magistrate Parker must, I should say, have exhausted his Excellency's patience, for their name was legion. There is a universal cry for redress against the unprecedented enormities committed in the name of Justice. Amongst the numerous petitions presented to the Governor-in-chief was one complaining of the frequent change of Civil Commandant at Accra, and praying for the permanent appointment to that post of Captain Charles E. Russell, the present Acting C.C. Commandant. I shall send you a copy of the petition and reply next mail. This petition was signed by all the chiefs and headmen of James Town, Christiansborg, and Crève Cœur, also by all the Europeans (Basle Missionaries excepted) and educated natives. It was originated by the native chiefs, who have great respect for Captain Russell after the awful specimens we have had here of late, and the farces that have been enacted in the courts over which they presided.

I rejoice exceedingly to have it in my power to inform you on good authority that Captain Glover has succeeded in crossing the bar of the Volta in his steamer. This I look upon as one of the most important events in the history of the Gold Coast since the British flag first waved in these parts. The importance and value to commerce, civilisation, and the general interests of this country it is impossible to exaggerate. The day that this was effected the Awoonahs and Aquamboes were virtually

brought under obligations to keep the peace and rendered harmless for further mischief on the Volta. It is a great boon, especially to the Crepee traders, who have been nearly ruined by the license to do evil which the Government has so long permitted to those tribes. The Governor-in-Chief left Accra on the 18th inst., after a sojourn of eight days. In the case of Mr. Ashmore, the English merchant who was arrested and thrust into one of the rat-holes in James Fort, by Judge Parker, for playfully thrusting his finger into a policeman's ribs, it may, doubtless, be satisfactory to Mr. Ashmore's friends to learn that the Administrator, after due consideration, has arrived at the conclusion that the manner in which Mr. Ashmore was treated was unnecessarily harsh and severe, and that his Excellency had, in consequence, "severely censured" the Chief Magistrate.—Yours truly, EDMUND BANNERMAN.

A HINT FOR SIR RICHARD MAYNE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, November 7, 1868.

Sir,—If you good people in London really wish to get rid of the "dog nuisance" I should strongly recommend you to make an application to the Duke of Buckingham to have Judge Parker's services transferred from the Gold Coast to London.

You may possibly be inclined to believe that the circumstances I am about to relate are greatly exaggerated, if not altogether imaginary, and such matter may be more suited to the pages of *Punch* than any ordinary paper devoted to the publication of sober facts; but, nevertheless, as these are facts which actually occurred, and can be attested by a dozen credible witnesses, strange and incredible though they appear, I have no hesitation in imparting them for the benefit of your readers.

Within forty yards of the residence of Mr. Parker, the Chief Magistrate of Cape Coast, is situated the house of Prince Ansah of Ashantee. Mrs. Ansah at present occupies this house alone, her husband having gone on a mission to his royal relatives in Coomassie. Mrs. Ansah kept a pet dog. A few weeks ago, this animal, having strayed closer than usual to Mr. Parker's gate, came across half-a-dozen turkeys the property of his Honour. The turkeys, seeing the dog, took to flight, and by that incited it to pursue, which he did, barking loudly at the same time. The barking brought out Mr. Parker, who at once sent for the sergeant of the police, and directed that functionary to arrest the dog and convey it to the lock-up. The sergeant, accompanied by two of his men, proceeded in search of the delinquent quadruped, which had taken to its heels at the very sight of his Honour, and, after a period, it was discovered at the house of a Mrs. Swansy, next-door neighbour to Mrs. Ansah. Here the poor dog was taken into custody, and lodged in the station-house, where it remained for forty-eight hours. On the third day the dog was brought up as any ordinary prisoner, before Mr. Parker (Judge and prosecutor), and Mrs. Ansah also appeared according to notice. The charge against the dog was for "disturbing the neighbourhood, and putting his Honour's turkeys in bodily fear." Mrs. Ansah having given evidence as to the dog's general good conduct, it was discharged on giving bail to keep the peace towards his Honour's turkeys for twelve months—the dog itself in two pounds sterling,* and two sureties of one pound each. Mrs. Ansah knowing that she could not ensure the animal from breaking the peace, and fearful of forfeiting her bail, was compelled to part with her favourite pet, and sent it to the bush to be out of the jurisdiction of Mr. Parker and his turkeys.—I enclose my card, Sir, and am yours truly, "OH FOR A LUNATIC ASYLUM!"

CHARGE OF MISSTATEMENT AGAINST "FANTEE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Oct. 17.

Sir,—Being perfectly aware of the pureness of your motives in the publication of your *African Times*, and that you never did knowingly give currency to anything untrue, I come out to check an assertion made by Mr. "Fantee," in his assertion about admittance being made by some parties (on the twenty-seventh page of your last number) that they had acted untruthfully.

In going to Elmina to open a peaceful intercourse with the Government there, I was the third person who accompanied the Hon. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Freeman. These two gentlemen having not as yet seen the chiefs, except myself, I challenge Mr. "Fantee," who has been telling the shameful falsehood, to come out with his name, that I may make him prove what he says in your last number. If he is man enough I shall challenge him out to mention which of the parties admitted to have acted contrary to the instructions of the chiefs, and I will surely bring out facts to disgrace him. As I am also pure Fantee born I

* A correspondent adds that the Magistrate ordered the dog's nose to be dipped in the ink, and then applied to the paper as its signature to the bond.

wish him to come out with his proper name, that I may prove him to be false man under the name he has taken.

Without checking persons like this, evil might be spoken of the blessed work under which you are arduously labouring. I beg therefore that you would kindly allow a small space in your next for this.—Begging to be, yours very respectfully, Jos. DAWSON.

MR. W. A. ROSS ON CAPE COAST AFFAIRS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Once more, as of yore, are angry messages being carried from Coomassie to Cape Coast; and once more are rumours and signs of war filling the mouths and eyes of everybody on the seaboard. It is the old story over again—the offshoot of a bad example; and it is the old historic adaptation of Bombastes Furioso rehearsed to the roll of the monotonous tomtom, and to the melancholy drone of the cow's horn. I am quite sensible that the Fantees, unaided, are at any time a match for the martial swagger of Ashantees; but I do not think that a ceaseless resort to threats of blood-letting, by whichever side it may be tried, adds to the growth of trade or points to that moral day when the diffusion of Christian arts shall come to Africa with the warmth and brilliancy of an ordinary sunrise in summer.

I thus allude grossly, as it were, to trade because by the instincts of trade alone can the settlements on the Gold Coast be redeemed from the political and social darkness in which they are plunged. If the King of Ashantees would but turn—or could by frequent argument but be made to turn—his thoughts to trade instead of to the concocting of foolish war-letters, what blessings would he not confer on Ashantee; and were the Ashantees a people more thoroughly commercial than they are, what exercise of wit could hinder them from absorbing and monopolising the whole trade from the Coast to the interior? They might become the brokers between the traders on the Coast and the tribes lying to the back of Ashantee, for the commodities which they bought would be re-bought with avidity. But, because untaught, they have no notion of purchasing European articles in large quantities. They buy enough to satisfy their own immediate wants, and perhaps they retain an insignificant residue to barter for wares which they cannot get from the merchants on the Coast, but which abound in the markets inland.

Discountenancing pitiful quarrels among its officers, covering with its honourable mantle the magistrate who can emulate only half the judicial dignity and rectitude of Mr. Corner instead of sheltering under its tattered sleeve the joint emasculations of Pharisee and Scribe, discarding all inflated conceptions of its omnipotence and ever remembering that it can claim no exemption from punishment for its malefactions, the Government at Cape Coast should "educate" the Government of Ashantee, for the Government of Ashantee is not prone to the dissemination of a zest for trade; and, if it could, I am afraid that it would repress trade altogether. Its ancient policy was to nourish a genius for war, because the chiefs believed that no state could be aggrandised otherwise than by the glory and the trophies of conquest. Its modern convictions, as manifested in its latest diplomatic muniments, are no better. Besides, the opinion is popularly received and admitted at Coomassie that trade is an agent that enervates, and that no trader can protect his country against the incursions of the ambitious neighbours who wait only for opportunities of aggression.

The rulers of Ashantee are tormented by another spectre. They are afraid that the encouragement of trade may increase the artfulness of the trader, and that in time the trader might become the member of a body too formidable and too crafty for resistance from the Government.

The kings of Ashantee viewed, also, with excessive anxiety the importation of guns and powder into their kingdom. They knew that if those two powerful engines of destruction were to reach the hands of the nations which are subordinate to Ashantee, and which are left in blank ignorance of the exact use of guns and powder, the superiority of Ashantee would subside and its independence would be placed in jeopardy. The recent news from the Gold Coast still faintly recurs to the maintenance of fears so groundless and to a circumspection so stale.

Nothing can be more lamentable than that the British Government did not years ago take advantage of the disregard and indifference professed by the Dutch for their settlements on the Gold Coast, and did not add those settlements by purchase to its own. The Ashantees, I am grieved to confess, show a readier and heartier disposition to trade with the Dutch than with us; and the readiness and heartiness of the disposition are to be traced to recollections of an early intercourse unbroken by broils and bloodshed.

The Dutch capital of Elmina commands a finer site for trade

than Cape Coast; and it is certain that at the Dutch station of Secondree is concentrated the trade of the two Wassaws. Possessed of Elmina and lodged in a fort at Addah to secure the navigation of the Volta, we might have acted on one uniform system of government. Confined to our own regulations, trade would have been enlarged to dimensions which no other settlers could have thwarted by the petty devices of a jealous and ruinous rivalry or by the specious wiles of selfishness. The embers of the slave-trade would have been quietly and inexorably trampled out long ago, and the benevolent career of England in the improvement of Western Africa would not have been arrested by interests which, though private, have surmounted the checks humanely devised by public virtue. Suspicious, carefully instilled, have impeded our progress among the Africans, who, being children of the bush, hear more of us than they see; and so it is that the ear of civilisation is still startled and shocked by the fame and perpetration of customs which the English Government has been long struggling to correct by degrees and finally to destroy.

By the wretched personal recriminations of its official staff, by its maladministration of the law, by its incapacity to glance beyond the range of the passing hour, the Government at Cape Coast has gathered a hornet's nest round its head; but, while that is doubtless so, I believe that the Home Government has not an iota of reason to be proud of the character of its conduct in the alleviation of the helplessness and the penury of the settlements. If the Government at Cape Coast should not, then, be able to relieve itself from the charge of fostering periodical collisions—or periodical menaces of collision—with Ashantee by its unpardonable remissness in the observance of common urbanity, common prudence, or common statecraft, the Home Government cannot be held less venial in the part which it has indirectly played in causing that sort of local spasm and turmoil which idle hands and tongues can always provoke. I contend that the development of trade is the surest cure for war; and I contend that the Home Government has not done enough for the development of the trade of the settlements. It has been answered by the Home Government that undertakings which are commercial should be committed to the assiduity and skill of persons who are devoted to the pursuit of commerce; but I would fain suggest that there are seasons and places when and where the duty is incumbent on the parent state to aid and encourage the rational enterprise of individuals. The Government at Cape Coast has not introduced substantial measures of reform, because it has not had the funds which were sufficient for a purpose so needful. Shaking off the evils of apathy and relinquishing the mere fugitive profits of pedlars, the merchants might have helped the Government at Cape Coast in a career of utility. But whether the shortcomings of the Government at Cape Coast were inevitable, or whether the listlessness and avarice of the merchants could be regarded as censurable, no stable, tangible benefits can spring out of our residence on the Gold Coast, and no permanent safeguards can be reared against "panyarring" and other barbarous acts of retaliation which constantly incite to feuds with Ashantee, unless the African shall be tutored in the rudiments of an acquaintance with our civil life, unless the existence of such efficient ministers of good will—such noble twins of charity and wealth—as trade and agriculture shall be avowed, and unless schools for technical learning shall be rightly and widely promoted. W. A. ROSS.

December, 1868.

MERCHANT SUPERCARGOES AT OLD CALABAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Duke Town, Old Calabar, Nov. 15, 1868.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that the letter which you inserted in your blessed journal of 23rd July last has very much displeased the supercargoes here, and they wish to know the party who wrote that letter to you and get him in their power that they may tear him to pieces. Now I cannot see why they should be so angry with the writer. Is it that a civilised man hateth reproof? I wrote to reprove their folly, and that they should set better examples to the poor Africans and instruct them, for Europeans are considered to be the most civilised people in the universe; and it seems a dreadful contradiction that some of them, instead of justifying that reputation, should abuse the superiority it ought to give them, and become worse than those they ought to teach. I had no ill intentions towards them, nor any wish to hurt them, or else I should have had much more to say; but I thought that some few remarks might check them in their dealings with the Africans. I am their friend, who knows all their secrets, and if they don't alter their ways, I shall have much to say about them; for I, the writer, am here with them, like their bedroom stewards, who can tell everything about them.—I am, Mr. Editor, the same

FELLOW PRYING INTO THINGS.

NOTICES.

We think we are justified in telling our subscribers that, although our accounts for the African Times for the current year (to say nothing of arrears) were sent to the Coast in July last, we have not yet received enough to pay for the stamps used in forwarding the subscribers' papers since that period.

Complaints have reached us of the undue detention of the letters arriving at Fernando Po for the coloured traders, by the person who is entrusted by H.B. Majesty's Consul with the Consulate post-office duties. As we have not heard from our respected agent at Fernando Po on the subject, we hope that what is thus stated about the Saxon is not true. A prompt delivery of letters and an entire impartiality in doing this is the duty of all persons entrusted with their distribution.

The statements made some time since in this paper by a correspondent at Old Calabar as to the European doings in that river seem to have given great offence. It was all false, of course, as all denunciations of evil doings on the West Coast are, notwithstanding the horrible revelations that are made from time to time in British courts of justice. We are not, however, to be deterred from performing our duty, either by furious supercargoes or by venal scribes. As a daily contemporary justly observes, all evildoers everywhere say, "Everything would go right but for those horrid newspapers."

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 6s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance.

The African Times.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1868.

THE CLOSING AND THE OPENING YEAR.

A FEW more revolutions of this earth upon its axis, and another of its years will have taken its place among the records of eternity—eighteen hundred and sixty-eight will have passed into the domain of human history. Nearly twelve months since and it entered upon the lines and furrows of its predecessor in the sands of time, where its place is about to be taken by eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, which gives promise of yet deeper furrows and more divergent lines than have been drawn by most of those which have gone before it. It will commence its course with storm-clouds massed and massing everywhere on the European horizon; and this in Europe must have its influence throughout the world, because, without meaning any disrespect to the United States of America, what occurs here has a pre-eminent influence in the working out of the whole world's destinies. We are not alarmists, because we feel and know that the great eternal purposes of the adorable Ruler of the universe as regards his beloved human creatures are fixed and sure, and that their accomplishment will be helped forward even by the wildest human rebellion endeavouring to work out its evil intents. For under whatever semblance nations and men may disguise their objects and their aims—however they may delude themselves with the false belief that projects of ambition and schemes of progress, not formed for the honour of God and in accordance with his expressed law and will, have in them the germ, and carry with them the development, of constantly-increasing happiness to the great human family—their work is evil, and evil only can spring from it, except in so far as the great benevolent overruling and irresistibly controlling power of THE CHRIST-GOD shall shape the issue for good to his redeemed ones, and for the vindication of his claims to that universal sovereignty which he asserted when he said, after the days of his submission to suffering and humiliation at the hands of those whom he had come into this world to redeem, "All power is given to me in heaven and in earth." As these words will have only just issued from the press when we shall be celebrating his miraculous advent at Bethlehem in Judea, we feel it to be our especial duty to assert for Him those claims which it has become but too much the fashion for what is called science and reason and high intellectual development to ignore or repudiate. Here, so far as our humble powers extend, we do assert for Him those claims to that sovereignty and dominion; here we venture to express the deep grief with which we view the accelerating advance of opinions

among the so-called wise, which pour their poisonous and destructive flood of unbelief among the ignorant masses, who are only too ready to receive what flatters their innate depravity, and that vanity which sets the poor worm of the earth in array against the just and holy laws and rights and claims of the Maker and Redeemer of mankind.

We have said that the new year will open with heavy storm-clouds massed and massing on the European horizon. The great powers of Continental Europe have now nearly perfected their enormous armaments, according to the latest discoveries in the science of human destruction; and million upon million of trained men are ready to be let loose for mutual slaughter. There is a strong surging under-current of disaffection in France, menacing and provocative of evil. Germany stands armed to the teeth to vindicate its alleged right of military aggregation. Russia completes her numerous battalions ready for all exigencies of the Eastern question, which has been for some time advancing to the foreground in the field of international politics. Austria is in what may be called the agonies of reconstruction and still dreaming of military revindication. Italy withdraws not her covetous eyes from that Rome without which all she has obtained seems incomplete and poor. The minor states are painfully speculating as to which of their gigantic neighbours is to absorb them; and Spain is in the full career of a revolution almost unique as regards the ease and the small amount of bloodshed with which an ancient royal line has been expelled, but where we look in vain for those elements of order without which there is no guarantee of stability and peace. And England—this Great Britain which under its Protestant institutions has, while seeking its own interests, been the benefactor of the world—would that we could point to her as an exception to the long national list of guilt and folly! But, alas, we find her year after year, in a time of professed peace, spending on her army, navy, and armaments some thirty millions sterling per annum, while unrelieved paupers are dying of starvation in her public streets. We find in her the rights of property stretched to most unchristian limits on the one hand, while on the other a rapidly-increasing population finds daily augmenting difficulty in gaining even a scanty supply of their absolute natural wants by the sweat of their brow; and the only remedies proposed for this condition of things, righteously full of danger, is a tenacious clinging by one great party in the State to a selfish system out of which all the threatening danger arises, and the advocacy by the other great party, as a preliminary to all their hoped-for and projected good, that the nation as a nation should renounce all religious faith—that the nation, whose proud pre-eminence it has been to assert boldly that that only can be true which is based on and can be proved throughout by the received Word of God, shall in future have no national conscience toward God—shall have no national opinion as to what is true and what is false, as to what is a safeguard to public and private liberty, and what is their antagonist and destroyer, wherever it can be made to prevail. It cannot, therefore, be a matter of wonder to any of our readers that we look to the coming year with apprehension, though, for the reasons before stated, without anxiety or dread. It suffices for us that the final issue is irresistibly in His Divine hands to whom "all power has been given in heaven and in earth," and who in his own good time will bring light and order out of this chaotic darkness; who "will make all things work together for good to them that are in Him"—for them whose belief and hope and trust are in Him alone; and who will rule in righteousness over all the nations upon earth. Let us, then, all welcome again with joy and gladness, with gratitude and praise, and with increasing love toward one another, this period which has been assigned for the yearly commemoration of his first Advent; and let us all determine to use our best efforts during the coming year in performing zealously the work he may have given us respectively to do. For our part we will endeavour, as hitherto, to stimulate the progress in Africa of what is good, and to counteract and remove what is evil, in humble reliance on His help; and, entreating all our

friends to do likewise with all their heart, we wish you all a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

A STEAMER ON THE VOLTA RIVER.

HONOUR to the Administrator of Lagos, Captain John Hawley Glover, R.N.! It does our heart good when we can find cause to praise officials on the West Coast. We have been laughed at for ridiculing the alleged impracticability of the bar of the River Volta, and now Captain Glover has found twelve feet water on the bar at low water, deep water at each side of this, and entered the River with his steamer. The Governor-in-Chief, Sir Arthur Kennedy, was to join him the following day, the steamer recrossing the bar to embark him from H.M.S. Lee, and then to re-enter the River with both. Thus to take a steamer across that bar was the ardent desire of poor Lieut. Dolben, who six years ago went up the River in his ship's longboat and found it navigable for nearly 100 miles without obstacle. Again we say honour to Captain Glover, and in the name of the whole Gold Coast Protectorate we tender him our hearty thanks, waiting with eager anxiety for the details which we hope will reach us by the next monthly mail.

WILLIAMS WHO DIED IN THE ACCRA PRISON DEN.

MRS. WILLIAMS, the poor widow of this Accra victim, brought her case before the Colonial-office by petition, on behalf of herself and four fatherless children. Appealing to the published report of the evidence given before the coroner and the verdict of the jury, she prayed that Her Majesty's Government would assist her in obtaining justice against Doctor Skues, and that she might receive some pecuniary compensation for the great loss she and her children had sustained. We regret to say that the system of upholding officials has been carried by the Duke of Buckingham to the extent of justifying Skues and others concerned in this case, and rejecting all claim for compensation. We will give particulars and quotations in our next. Under such circumstances we cannot deplore the retirement of the Duke from the Colonial-office, which has since taken place.

A JUDICIAL STAFF AT SIERRA LEONE FOR THE WHOLE WEST COAST.

PARSIMONY, or an undue economy in the administration of justice, is a great public calamity. If there be one thing more than another, after efforts for the spread of Christian education, that Great Britain owes to the people in her West African Settlements, it is that she should place within their reach an enlightened and adequate administration of justice. Justice according to British laws, dispensed by competent, pure, and honourable men such as have created and maintained the high reputation of the judicial bench in Great Britain, must necessarily offer so strong a contrast to the barbarous procedures, the venality, the oppression, and general iniquity of native tribunals, that it would be a powerful preacher of that Christian civilisation whose humane and equitable laws it would interpret, and with the assistance of the executive enforce. It may also be affirmed that there is no other part of the vast colonial possessions of this country in which such an administration of justice would be more fully appreciated than in those settlements. Thanks to the Church and Wesleyan Missionary Societies, there has grown up a large body of educated men, who, possessing all that spirit of litigation for which the African races are proverbial, are peculiarly sensitive as to their individual rights under British Laws, and very keen in detecting their infringement by incompetent, biased, and tyrannical magistrates and judges. The extent to which our editorial table has been laden with complaints of a partiality, to an extent which we consider criminal, at Bathurst and at Lagos, of a mad, capricious, and subservient tyranny at Cape Coast and Accra, and of incompetency, ignorance, and impurity at Sierra Leone, bears ample testimony on these points; and forces this subject of a competent judicial staff at Sierra Leone for the whole

Coast irresistibly on our consideration. Many things have combined of late to make necessary a total change in the system of administering justice in these places. The appointment of a Governor-in-Chief over all the settlements; the increasing facilities of steam communication; the abolition of Supreme Courts and of Queen's Advocates at Bathurst, Cape Coast, and Lagos; the lower qualifications of the cheap chief magistrates (dear at any price) who have replaced the old Supreme Court Judges; the iniquitous abolition of trial by jury in civil causes all along the Coast, at the instigation of those official conspirators against the rights and liberties of the African people, Blackall, Carr, and Huggins; and, finally, the creation at Sierra Leone of a Supreme Court of Appeal for all the settlements, have effected a chaotic, and, if it were not so oppressive and in many respects disgraceful, we should add a ridiculous revolution in all that appertains to the administration of British Law. The evils have now become so flagrant, that it is time order should be educed out of this chaos—that the majesty of justice should supersede the harlequinade—and that the lives, liberties, purses of British subjects, and others living under British rule, should be no longer allowed to remain in peril, from ignorance, prejudice, avarice, mad inebriety, and subservience and licentious tyranny in the little high places of British West Africa. It seems to us that there is only one way in which this order can be obtained. The necessary consequence, whether it was foreseen or not, of establishing a Court of Appeal in Civil Causes at Sierra Leone was that there must be three judges of the Supreme Court. Any Court of Appeal there formed of a less number of judges is simply ridiculous. To this it will be said Sierra Leone does not require three Supreme Court judges; and it would be unfair and unpopular to burthen her revenues with so costly a judicial establishment. Because to be efficient it must be costly; to be such as the honour and reputation and duty of Great Britain demand that it should be, the judges must be superior men—men of the stamp and acquirements of the present Chief Justice French, who has under most unfavourable circumstances redeemed the Supreme Court, so far as he is himself concerned, from the opprobrium that rested upon it. Of course no brightness of legal reputation in him will make that of Mr. Huggins clear. For three men of the stamp of Judge French 6,000*l.* a-year is indispensable—viz., 2,500*l.* a-year to the Chief Justice, and 2,000*l.* and 1,500*l.* to the second and third judge. It could not be expected that Sierra Leone should pay this 6,000*l.* a-year. The three judges, though requisite for the Court of Appeal, are not indispensable for local service. The two junior judges should therefore be charged with the judicial service of the other settlements, making regular circuits, effecting gaol deliveries and trying civil causes, as is done by the judges of assize in England. Under the old system of Supreme Courts, the judicial salaries, including the Queen's Advocates for Bathurst, the Gold Coast, and Lagos, would not be less than 4,000*l.* to 4,500*l.* a-year. It is not, therefore, too much to demand that the salaries of the two puisne judges should be paid by them, with an addition of 500*l.* a-year to the local salary of the Queen's Advocate at Sierra Leone for performing the duty of Crown prosecutor at those settlements whenever the judges may be on circuit there. The increasing facilities of communication on the Coast are already so great that there would be no difficulty in effecting by these means a gaol delivery every three or four months at Bathurst, the Gold Coast, and Lagos. This constant supervision of the judges on circuit over the acts of the local magistracy would render the present offices of Chief Magistrate at Bathurst, Cape Coast, and Lagos unnecessary, and they might be forthwith abolished, to the very great benefit of those places; for although there have not been any mad enormities at Bathurst and Lagos to bring the courts into such loathing and contempt among the people as we have seen elsewhere, there has been a marked partiality for the European over the native (shown flagrantly in the notorious case of Lubly) amounting to practical injustice, and inflicting a deep and grievous sense of wrong. The

expenses of the judges on circuit would of course be paid by the settlements served; and we are convinced that every matter of detail could be easily arranged. Among the duties of the judges would be, as we have already hinted, to revise the decisions of the local magistracy in the intervals between the assizes. The present system has been a miserable and disgraceful failure; it could not be continued without making the Court of Appeal at Sierra Leone cognisant of criminal as well as civil causes; the Chief Judge at Sierra Leone is very much underpaid; three judges *really learned in the law* are indispensable for the Court of Appeal; the expense will be easily provided for; and we do therefore venture to entertain the hope that the new Secretary of State for the Colonies will find employment elsewhere for Mr. Huggins and the three Chief Magistrates, appoint two other competent judges, put in force the scale of salaries we have recommended, and begin early in 1869 a system which will leave us destitute of complaints respecting the administration of justice on the West Coast, and free to direct all our attention to those other matters of executive government and material development on which the advance of Africa in Christian civilisation so greatly depends.

THE POLITICAL CHANGE IN ENGLAND.

THE elections of members for the House of Commons, which were in progress last month, having terminated, there appeared to be a majority of 110 or 112 against the Disraeli Administration. Under these circumstances, as it would have been making the Queen a party to a farce for Mr. Disraeli to have met Parliament with a speech from the throne enunciating a policy which he had no power to carry out, he very properly tendered his resignation, advising Her Majesty to send for his great political opponent, Mr. Gladstone, in whose favour and for whose declared policy the constituencies had decided. The Queen sent for Mr. Gladstone, and charged him to form a new Administration. This seems to have been a matter of very little difficulty, and on the 9th inst. Her Majesty held two Privy Councils at Windsor, at the first of which the late Ministers delivered up, and at the second the members of the new Ministry received, the seals of office; Mr. John Bright and Mr. Childers being at the same time sworn as Privy Councillors. We publish to-day a list of the new Administration, by which it will be seen that Earl Granville has become Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. Monsell Under-Secretary. We shall not attempt to anticipate what this change may do for the West African Settlements; but from the known courtesy of Earl Granville we think we may at least predict that communications addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies will now be acknowledged and replied to, instead of, as in the case we commented on last month (the Lagos Customs' seizure), being only, some months after receipt, incidentally alluded to in the lump. The changes, however, to which this shifting of Administration is but the prelude, seem likely to be so great that although we do not generally allude to questions of imperial policy which are not directly connected with West African affairs, we feel bound to do so now, in order that our West Coast friends may understand the new political aspects in Great Britain. The chief issue in the elections was the Irish Church. The constituencies, by a majority of 110 members elected to the House of Commons, have declared for the *dissatisfaction and disendowment of the Irish branch of the Established Church*, AGAINST WHICH measure the House of Lords decided last session, also by a large majority. The new Minister, therefore, takes office with a declared antagonism between the two Houses on the very question which has raised him to power, and which, as a Minister, he is bound to press forward to a determined settlement. We have therefore to consider, Is the House of Commons' majority obtained in the recent election so powerful as necessarily to coerce the House of Lords into an abandonment of its opposition to this great keystone of the new policy? What are the chief elements of that majority? The popular wave which has floated Mr. Gladstone to the Treasury bench comes from

the extremities of the kingdom—is chiefly Scotch, Irish, and Welsh; in England, *per se*, Mr. Gladstone being in a minority; and this not because the small boroughs were against him, but that a majority in the large constituencies was so. The House of Lords will therefore be called upon by a Scotch, Irish, and Welsh majority to consent, against the voice of England, to a measure which involves an abandonment of what has been for the last 300 years at least a vital principle in the British Constitution—the union of Church and State. Will the House of Lords do this? We say it will not. And what then? The only constitutional course open to Mr. Gladstone will be to obtain the Queen's consent to another dissolution of the House of Commons, in order to get, if possible, a sufficient coercive majority by new elections; and should there be another general election under such circumstances and influences, we may look for a more bitter party strife than has been known in Great Britain for many years. Will the Constitution bear this strain? May not the House of Lords be placed by excited millions in the same category with the Irish Church Establishment? May not further and violent organic changes be demanded? The reasonableness of these questions places the dangerous impolicy of what Mr. Newdegate, speaking lately at Rugby, characterised as the "*stationary resistance*" of Mr. Disraeli in a very strong light. For it would be a great mistake to look upon the Irish Church question as the only disturber. There is another question that will rise during the struggle, left party leaders and powerful interested bodies of men do what they will and may to prevent it, and that is *the proportion that realised property should bear in the public burthens*. The rights, claims, and immunities of property have, with most unchristian selfishness, been stretched to limits that if longer persisted in will prove destructive. Man has been considered too much as a mere property-creating machine; and property has been placed far above humanity in the social and national scale—has been made a very car of Juggernaut, crushing out the life-blood of innumerable victims in its triumphal progress, and spreading degradation around it in its course. The evidence of the commissioners who have been inquiring into female and child labour in the agricultural districts only places on record fresh evidence of how property, while enforcing its supposed and effective claims, has neglected its duties to the immortal beings whose bodily labour has given value to the lands—those lands which a landowners' Parliament exempted from their fair share of the public burthens. Up to 1798 there was a public tax of four shillings in the pound on the land. But in that year a landowners' Parliament decided that the public revenue from land should be fixed permanently at the amount it then gave to the State; if the tax then amounted to 500l. a-year on the lands in a given parish or district, 500l. it was always thenceforward to be, although the land might, by the increase of population and wealth, become a hundred-fold more valuable. By this iniquity then consummated, landed proprietors have confiscated to their own use, since that time, at least one thousand millions sterling of the profits of industry and commerce, causing that amount to be paid in indirect taxes on the necessities of life by the great bulk of the industrial population, instead of its being paid by themselves. Not content with struggling national industry adding tenfold to the value of their lands, they have freed themselves from the legitimate national taxation on that yearly increasing value. The tax on land, if levied at the same rate as before 1798, would now yield upwards of thirty millions a-year to the public revenue. In the face of a painful pressure such as now weighs down the productive industry of the country—of the wide-spread destitution among the willing able-bodied labouring population—of the increase of one-tenth in the number of paupers during the past two years—and of the spread of information among the people, the popular party who have now risen to power under Mr. Gladstone have found it necessary to pledge themselves pretty generally to a decrease of the public burthens, as well as to the disendowment of the Irish Church; and the way in which the rights of property *versus* the people will be discussed during

the struggle about Church property, will turn men's minds to the consideration of those economical questions with which the supply of their physical wants is intimately connected; and the question will assuredly be asked why tea and sugar, coffee, tobacco, and beer should be paying that thirty and odd millions a-year which land ought to pay? In a word, we have arrived at an epoch in the national life when great changes are impending, the crusade against the Established Church in Ireland being but the first wave of an advancing tide that will wash away many proud structures that selfishness has raised in the name of religion and order, to the dishonour of God's cause and the oppression of God's creatures. Writers and speakers are expatiating on the docility of the new electors, who have chosen just such a Parliament as preceding ones have been, the members nearly all men of position and property—*ergo*, things are always to go on as now; there will be no popular movement against the *sacred rights* of property; men will always be satisfied with an admiring glance at the luxurious wealth within the car whose wheels are crushing out their lives! The wealthy Whig families are rejoicing that Mr. Gladstone seems to have made a campaign chiefly to give them a new lease of place and power, no Radical being admitted to other than inferior positions in the Government; and that by merely aiding to confiscate the vested interests of God and Christ in the property of the National Church, their own possessions will be always secure—but it is all a dream; the delusion will be short, and the awakening may be sharp and terrible.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

THE CABINET.	
First Lord of the Treasury	Mr. Gladstone.
The Lord High Chancellor	Lord Justice Page Wood.
Lord President of the Council	Earl De Grey.
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Kimberley.
Secretary of State for the Home Department	Mr. H. A. Bruce.
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs	The Earl of Clarendon.
Secretary of State for the Colonies	Earl Granville.
Secretary of State for War	Mr. Cardwell.
Secretary of State for India	The Duke of Argyll.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Mr. Lowe.
First Lord of the Admiralty	Mr. Childers.
President of the Board of Trade ..	Mr. Bright.
Postmaster-General	Lord Hartington.
President of the Poor-law Board ..	Mr. Goschen.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	Mr. Chichester Fortescue.
NOT IN THE CABINET.	
Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland	Earl Spencer.
Attorney-General	Sir Robt. Collier.
Solicitor-General	Mr. Coleridge.
Lord Advocate	Mr. Moncrieff.
Vice-President of the Council for Education	Mr. W. E. Forster.
Under-Secretaries of State—Home Colonies	Mr. K. Huggess.
India	Mr. Monsell.
Third Lord of the Treasury	Mr. Grant Duff.
Secretaries of the Treasury	Mr. Stansfeld.
Board of Works	Mr. G. Glyn.
Lord Chamberlain	Mr. Ayrton.
Lord Steward	Mr. Layard.
	Lord Sydney.
	Lord Bessborough.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

SPAIN.
VALLADOLID, Nov. 29 Evening.—A manifestation, organised by the Monarchical party, was held here to-day. About 3,000 persons took part in the demonstration, but they were dispersed by a body of Republicans, who took possession of the Monarchical banner.

MADRID, Dec. 6.—An armed demonstration was made yesterday by Republicans at Port Santa Maria, Cadiz. They were called upon to lay down their arms, but refused to do so, and erected barricades. The troops of the Marine, however, who were called out, carried the barricades by assault, and dispersed the demonstrators.

MADRID, Dec. 9.—The *Gazette* publishes some interesting details from Cadiz, dated last night. At 9 p.m. the insurgents occupied the Hotel de Ville and the surrounding houses, where they formed barricades. The troops occupied the Custom-house and neighbourhood as far as the gate, and the consuls had taken

refuge in the Custom-house. The insurgents allowed the women and children to depart, but forced all able-bodied men to stay and fight for them. An armistice had been agreed to for forty-eight hours, that both parties might bury their dead. Large bodies of troops have been sent down from this to act against the insurgents in conjunction with the fleet, if necessary. Disquieting news has been received from several other important provincial cities and towns.

MADRID, Dec. 17.—It is stated that there were above 1,000 persons killed in the late outbreak at Cadiz.

MADRID, Dec. 20.—General tranquillity is said now to prevail.

CUBA.—Advices from the Eastern Department of the Island of Cuba state that at a meeting of the Revolutionary Junta the majority, after a short argument, refused to accept any reforms offered as an inducement to surrender, and declared their determination to fight for independence. The Junta represents the talent and wealth of the department. Count Balmaseda, on hearing of their determination, notified them that a bloody struggle would commence soon. Later intelligence from Cuba states that the insurrection is assuming greater proportions; that the Spanish forces are surrounded at Santiago, and that their communications are all cut off. Villa Delcobre has been recaptured by the insurgents, and General Balmaseda had been obliged to abandon Puerto Principe.

TURKEY AND GREECE.—War is apprehended between these powers, diplomatic intercourse having already ceased, and Greece still refusing to grant the Turkish demands for satisfaction for the acts of Greek subjects with regard to the insurrection in CRETE. Any such war might forcibly reopen the whole dreaded EASTERN QUESTION.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—Dec. 5.

Sittings at Nisi Prius in Middlesex.—(Before Lord Chief Justice Bovill and a Special Jury.)

HARRIS v. ISAAC AND ANOTHER.

The plaintiff has been for many years engaged in trade upon the West Coast of Africa, and for the last seven years he has had business transactions with the defendants, Messrs. Isaac, Campbell, and Co. In September, 1867, he came to England, and two months afterwards he was arrested upon a *ca. sa.*, at the suit of the defendants, for 6,885l. The affidavit upon which the judge issued the *capias* stated that there was reason to believe that the plaintiff was about to return to Africa. The present action was to recover damages upon the ground that the defendants had maliciously caused the plaintiff to be arrested, the plaintiff's case being that he had no present intention of returning to Africa.

Mr. D. Keane, Q.C., and Mr. H. James appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hawkins, Q.C., and Mr. Cohen for the defendants.

In the course of the case it appeared that there were proceedings in the Court of Chancery, in which the accounts between the parties were to be investigated, and, further, that the present case must depend to a great extent upon the result of the accounts.

Under these circumstances his lordship interposed, and it was agreed that the whole of the matters in difference should be referred to the arbitration of Mr. J. J. Powell, Q.C.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR A. KENNEDY, C.B., AND EX-GOVERNOR BLACKALL.

Look here upon this picture and on this!—HAMLET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sierra Leone, Nov. 27, 1868.

Sir,—When the sorrow-stricken Prince of Denmark placed before his mother the counterfeit presentment of two brothers, he did not present for her guilty contemplation a greater contrast than that afforded by the government of Major Blackall and that of the present chief ruler of the West Africa Settlements.

When Sir Arthur Kennedy, C.B., arrived amongst us eight months ago, his Excellency found the whole machinery of the Government suffering from a profligate waste of public money, and the incompetent sycophants and toadies clustered around Governor Blackall usurping every office of the State. The public mind was debauched, and even some of the ministers of the Gospel succumbed to the reign of a universal corruption. The exchequer was exhausted, not in carrying out great works of public utility, when even failure might assume the aspect of virtue, but in tawdry shows and evanescent splendour suited to misguide the public mind and hide the inner rottenness of the worst of Governments. A considerable amount of public moneys was expended upon a race-course and upon a mock exhibition, whilst education, the basis of a nation's greatness, received the miserable stipend of 300l. per annum. Our quay (such a help-mate to commerce) lay neglected. Clearance and drainage, the two leading sanitary agents of recent years, were all but ne-

glected, whilst lavish sums were expended, through Governor Blackall's influence, over his Legislative Council of officials in atoning for the official blunders of Queen's Advocate Huggins and Collector Shaw, the offspring of his concupiscence and of his favouritism. The bench was filled by military men, and the clash of the sword drowned the calm teaching of Blackstone. To gratify the vanity and morbid craving of a parasite, a useless schooner was ordered to be built at considerable expense. The expenses of the police, with a Bravo and the son of the ex-Governor at its head, were increased in inverse ratio to their utility. The useless office of Auditor-General was created for Mr. Primet, the ex-Governor's private secretary, with a salary of 600*l.* per annum, in direct violation of an established rule of the Colonial-office, which provides "that appointments of gentlemen connected with the Governor, or who have accompanied him as private secretaries or otherwise, are open to much objection, and will rarely be confirmed." The Petty Debt-court, which worked well under the presidency of a magistrate and a merchant, was abolished in order to make way for the appointment of Mr. Huggins, the most incompetent judge that ever disgraced the name of justice. Trial by jury, which England loves so well, fell, through the grossest misrepresentations ever transmitted to the Colonial-office in Downing-street. In assessing the tax on the huts occupied by the poor African labourers, the most unheard of cruelty was adopted—in one word, in a few years more such a blighting, demoralising, and despotic sway as that of Major Blackall would have destroyed the social advancement and civilisation of eighty years, and reduced Sierra Leone to a "howling wilderness."

Mr. Editor, I now turn from this disheartening and revolting picture of the past, and ask your readers, in the words of the philosophic Prince of Denmark, "Look you now what follows." The schooner which was being built, and which Sir Arthur Kennedy considered useless, was, by his Excellency's order, sold along with the materials for the benefit of the colony. Competitive examination, the noblest emulation which a people can enjoy, has been established amongst us. All further expenses on the race-course have been put a stop to. The Legislative Council no longer sit with closed doors. Public works have been placed upon a healthy and sound footing. The police force has been put upon a far more efficient footing. Our learned and able Queen's Advocate is at this moment revising our colonial statutes, which are a disgrace to this settlement. Government officers are now sustained only when in the right. Public confidence has been restored within the circles of civilisation, and the wars of native chieftains, so destructive to commerce, have subsided under the hallowed influence of a pure administration.

Wishing to secure to the colony a higher order of European officials, Sir Arthur Kennedy is said to have recommended that their salaries be increased, and that they should have six months' leave of absence every two years with full pay. He has thought, too, of the native officials, whose salaries, it is rumoured, are to be increased, and they are to be allowed the enjoyment of six weeks' holiday every year.

Yet in effecting all these great measures of public utility, no encroachment has been made upon the public chest, for Sir Arthur Kennedy is a strict economist, unless when the interests of the settlement require the expenditure of money.

I have thus imperfectly endeavoured to draw a contrast between light and darkness—between a debauching and emasculating tyrant and a liberal and wise ruler—between Kennedy the beloved and Blackall the detested.

In the imperfect record of our present Governor's virtues, never let it be forgotten that domestic slavery received its heaviest blow and most fatal discouragement at his hands. Let him now crown the lasting pyramid of his fame by the abolition of a more than useless court and the restoration of trial by jury.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
W. RAINY.

DEATHS.

MERRIMAN.—On board the Royal Mail Steamship Lagos, from Leeward Coast, shortly before reaching Bonny, on Friday night, Oct. 30, 1868, B. E. C. Merriman, Esq., late storekeeper of the Commissariat Department of Lagos, aged thirty-five years, leaving a widow and three children and a great number of friends to bemoan his loss. Mr. Merriman had gone down with the steamer, by advice of his medical attendant, to recruit his health.

LEWIS.—At the residence of her brother, William Lewis, at Sierra Leone, at 2.10 p.m. on the 14th December, 1868, after a three days' illness, Fanny, the beloved daughter of William Lewis, sen., Esq., of Freetown, Sierra Leone. She passed away with such happy resignation to the Divine will that it may indeed truly be said "her end was peace."

DEATH OF M. BERRYER.—M. Berryer, the celebrated French Legitimist advocate, died on Sunday, Nov. 29. at Augerville, in France, in his seventy-ninth year.

ANOTHER ERUPTION OF MOUNT ETNA.

Telegrams from Valetta, December 9, report that the violent eruption of Mount Etna which occurred on the 26th of November last had gradually subsided until the night of December 8, when at eight o'clock it broke out afresh with increased violence, and lasted until five o'clock this morning, vomiting flames and lava to an enormous height. The lava falling flowed in every direction, devastating the surrounding country. Throughout the past night crowds assembled at Malta, although distant 120 miles, to witness this magnificent spectacle.

MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS.

The following fourth petition was in course of being signed when the mail left Sierra Leone:—

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

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

Sheweth,—That the tenor of your Grace's despatch of the 22nd of September last, relative to the third petition to your Grace from this settlement, on the same subject as the present, has, in compliance with your Grace's directions, been communicated to the petitioners, and what it contains has occasioned so painful an impression, and is, your petitioners humbly conceive, so opposed to the requirements of justice, and it is so certain to be attended with the most serious ill consequences, should the bad state of the administration of justice, which at present exists in this settlement, in consequence of Mr. Huggins being the holder of a judicial post in it, be continued, that your petitioners feel it to be their unavoidable duty to address your Grace again upon the subject.

Your petitioners beg to say that the ground upon which the charge against Mr. Huggins of untruthfulness and deception, of his having misled and deceived your Grace by alleging what is utterly false, was based was the statement in your Grace's despatch of the 8th of June last, to the effect that Mr. Huggins shewed "that the sentences passed by him which are complained of were strictly in accordance with sentences which had been regularly imposed for a long course of years by former chief justices at Sierra Leone," and against which, so far as your Grace was aware, no remonstrance had been made, and your petitioners humbly conceive that your Grace's despatches of the 8th June and 22nd September conclusively manifest that untruthful allegations have been made to your Grace respecting this matter, and that the effect of them has been that they actually have misled and deceived your Grace with regard to it.

What has been alleged to your Grace, for instance, to the effect that the practice in Sierra Leone with regard to offences committed after previous convictions is different from the practice in England, and that the practice here is not to state the previous convictions in the informations against the persons proceeded against, but to impose punishment for them without, is utterly untruthful; and in proof that it is so, your petitioners beg to annex hereto office copies, marked from A to E, of the informations in five cases for offences after previous convictions, which were prosecuted before Mr. Huggins himself during the very same time that he was passing the unlawful sentences that are complained of. The cases referred to are those of the Queen v. Barrow, the Queen v. Metzgar and Dannab, the Queen v. Marsh, the Queen v. Hill, and the Queen v. Williams; and on these informations being examined, it will be found that they manifest the practice in cases for offences committed after previous convictions to be exactly the same in Sierra Leone as it is in England. And nothing contrary to this practice, or to the Act of Parliament by which it was prescribed, which will presently be more particularly mentioned, was ever done by any judge at Sierra Leone from the time of the Act's coming into force there, but Mr. Huggins. He continually flagrantly violated it by passing sentences both to years of imprisonment and to cruel whippings contrary to it, but this had never been done by any preceding judge at Sierra Leone.

What has been alleged to your Grace, too, to the effect that Mr. Huggins only continued a practice which he found in operation, is also utterly untruthful. Fortunately, there is the Act of Parliament which has been referred to, which came into force in Sierra Leone only a few months prior to Mr. Huggins coming to it, which expressly provided what should be the practice with regard to cases of offences committed after previous convictions, and by which it can be seen exactly what the practice was, which Mr. Huggins found in operation with regard to such cases; which was, in fact, that the previous convictions should be stated in the indictments or informations against the persons proceeded against, and that every person proceeded against should have his trial by jury, if he thought proper, both as to whether he had been previously convicted and as to whether he had committed the subsequent offence. The Act of Parliament referred to is that of the 24th and 25th Vic., cap. 96, to amend

the statute law relating to larceny, and other similar offences. The 123rd section of this Act provided that it should commence and take effect in the mother country on the 1st of November, 1861, shortly after which an Ordinance was passed by the Local Legislature which had the effect of bringing it into force in Sierra Leone from the 2nd of August, 1862, and Mr. Huggins's connexion with Sierra Leone, according to the Colonial-office list, commenced no longer after that than the 29th of May, 1863. It is almost needless to say that this Act has continued in force in Sierra Leone to the present time. It is in fact the Act which provides the chief part of the criminal law which is administered in Sierra Leone. As conclusive proofs, therefore, as to what practice Mr. Huggins found in operation in Sierra Leone with regard to cases of offences committed after previous convictions, and conclusive proofs also of the untruthfulness of the allegations which have been made to your Grace on the subject, your petitioners beg, in addition to the annexed copies of information, to refer to the Act of Parliament 24th and 25th Vic., cap. 96, and the Ordinance (a copy of which is annexed, marked F) by which that Act was brought into force in Sierra Leone. It is the 116th section of the Act that contains the provisions as to the practice to be pursued with regard to offences committed after previous convictions; and on reference to this section (a copy of which is annexed, marked G) it will be found that its provisions apply to any offence punishable under the Act. Consequently, as the cases in which Mr. Huggins passed the unlawful sentences which are complained of were all of them punishable under the 24th and 25th Vic., cap. 96, the provisions of the 116th section of that Act apply to the whole of them. There was therefore not one of these cases in which it was not utterly unlawful on the part of Mr. Huggins to pass any sentence, or impose any punishment, except that prescribed by the Act for the offence stated in the information against the person proceeded against, and of which such person was convicted upon that information. There was, however, not one of them in which, contrary to anything which had ever been done in Sierra Leone subsequently to the Act coming into force there, by any judge who had preceded him, Mr. Huggins did not pass sentence imposing a punishment greatly exceeding that prescribed by the Act. And some of the punishments he imposed, as, for instance, the whippings, were of a character which had not been imposed in any case by any preceding judge at Sierra Leone, from the time of the 24th and 25th Vic., cap. 96, coming into force. Looking, indeed, only at the unlawful sentences to whippings which Mr. Huggins imposed, when no sentences to whippings were ever imposed by any preceding judge at Sierra Leone after the 24th and 25th Vic., cap. 96, came into force, your petitioners humbly conceive what has been alleged to your Grace to the effect that Mr. Huggins only continued a practice which he found in operation, to be not merely untruthful, but idle and reckless, and strongly exhibitiv of the great want of a proper knowledge of law which makes its appearance in everything which Mr. Huggins either says or does.

It may be requisite that it should here be brought distinctly into view that it is not to be supposed that the unlawful sentences Mr. Huggins passed would all have been lawful had it been stated in the informations that the persons proceeded against had been previously convicted. Such a supposition would be by no means correct, for a considerable number of the unlawful sentences Mr. Huggins passed would still be unlawful, even if previous convictions were stated in the informations, and the persons sentenced had been found guilty of the whole of the informations.

In proof of this your petitioners beg first to refer to the annexed office copy (E) of the information in the case of the Queen v. Williams. This is a case which was not included in the lists annexed to the former petitions, your petitioners having only become aware of it in consequence its becoming requisite to procure the annexed office copies of informations to accompany the present petition. On examining this information it will be found that the offence charged in it is that of stealing twenty shillings in money after a previous conviction, and for this offence, it will be found, by the endorsement on the information, Mr. Huggins sentenced the prisoner Williams to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and to be thrice privately whipped. Stealing twenty shillings in money is simple larceny, and if sec. 7 (a copy of which is annexed, marked H) of the 24th and 25th Vic., cap. 96, is referred to, it will be found that the punishment, as regards imprisonment and whipping, which that Act prescribes for the offence of simple larceny after a previous conviction, is imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years with or without hard labour, and with or without solitary confinement, and if a male under the age of sixteen years with or without whipping, sec. 119 (a copy of which is annexed, marked I) providing that the whipping shall be once only. The prisoner in this case could not therefore, even if under the age of sixteen years, be liable to more than one whipping. He was,

however, not under the age of sixteen years, but of the age of thirty-nine years, as appears by the records of prisoners' ages kept at the gaol of this settlement under the provisions of the Ordinance of the Local Legislature in that behalf, and was, consequently, not liable to any whipping. This was a case, therefore, in which, notwithstanding that the information charged a previous conviction as well the subsequent offence, and the prisoner was found guilty of the whole of the information, the sentence passed by Mr. Huggins was still excessive and unlawful to the extent of the three whippings imposed, which the prisoner was not liable to, but which Mr. Huggins, notwithstanding, subjected him to, and caused him to suffer.

And in the six cases of the Queen v. Coker, the Queen v. Coomber, the Queen v. Ginger, the Queen v. Thomas, the Queen v. William Johnson, and the Queen v. Lewis (office copies of the informations in which, marked respectively with the letters J, P, Q, S, T, and V, were annexed to the third of these petitions to your Grace, Mr. Huggins passed exactly similar unlawful sentences; that is, that although the offences the prisoners were found guilty of was in each case simple larceny, and that the punishment which they would have been liable to, as regards imprisonment and whippings, had previous convictions been stated in the informations, and they had been found guilty of them (which, however, was not the case, for previous convictions were not stated in the information), would have been simply imprisonment with hard labour, &c., for not more than two years, and not to be whipped if they were above the age of sixteen years (which all of them were), and to be only once whipped if they were under that age, Mr. Huggins sentenced every one of them, not only to imprisonment and hard labour, but to be thrice whipped. And one of them (William Coker) he sentenced also to four years' imprisonment and hard labour—that is, to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, as well as three whippings, beyond the punishment the prisoner was liable to.

[To be concluded in our next.]

MR. HENRY WARD BEECHER ON UNITED STATES MORALITY.

On Sunday, November 15, Mr. H. Ward Beecher, the celebrated American preacher, taking for his text "Abhor that which is evil," made a violent attack on the present state of society in the United States. Mr. Beecher first devoted his attention to the alarming wickedness of the times; it seemed to him that, what with French operas and immodest, incongruous, and flaring dress, nine men out of ten and nine women out of ten had made up their minds to go headlong to the devil. Having exhausted the subject of a great variety of public and official corruption and crime, he thus denounced the Legislature and the courts of justice: "The general rule," he said, "in our Legislatures to-day is buying and selling. 'Money' is the cry; and men are undisguisedly bought and sold." The preacher finished his remarks with an attack upon the judicial system. "Corruption," he affirmed, "desecrates the courts. So corrupt are the courts of law that the name of judge stinks. The judges plunder, and are known to plunder. They make decisions and hold them up for sale. They auction justice, and grow fat on bribes."

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Dated this 25th day of November, 1868.

H. L. MORTIMER, } Trustees.
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LAMPLOUGH'S

EFFERVESCENT



PYRETIC SALINE.

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

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

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

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

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

In cases of 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."

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