

Registered for
The African Times.
[Transmission Abroad.]

"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."—PAUL D'ARNAUD, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, AUGUST 2, 1866.

VOL. IX., No. 97.]

LONDON, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1869.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
Subscription, 6s. per Ann.]

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AFRICAN AGENCY

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

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

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F. FITZGERALD, Esq.,

121, Fleet-street,

London, W.C.

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

SEPTEMBER, 1869.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

This Company's Steamers are intended to sail monthly between GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, and the following ports on the WEST COAST OF AFRICA—viz., SIERRA LEONE, CAPE PALMAS, ACCRA, LAGOS, BENIN, BONNY, FERNANDO PO, and OLD CALABAR.

The Steamship ROQUELLE, Captain JOHN GAFFRITHS, will sail from GLASGOW on AUGUST 24, and from LIVERPOOL on the 1st SEPTEMBER, for MADEIRA, SIERRA LEONE, SHERBRO, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, LAGOS, BENIN, HALF JACK, BRASS, BONNY, FERNANDO PO, and OLD CALABAR.

Arrangements will also be made for their calling at other Ports when inducement offers.

For Freight, passage, and other information apply in London to ALEX. WALKER, 158, Leadenhall-street; in Glasgow to TAYLOR, LATHLAND, and Co., 91, Buchanan-street; and in Liverpool, to EIDER, DEMPSTER, and Co., 2, Brunswick-street.

WEST AFRICAN STEAMERS.

ARRIVALS.

July 25, the Athenian, African Mail Steamer. This vessel was due on the 18th, but having to seek a cargo in the rivers, was delayed a week.

July 30, the Biafra, African Mail Steamer, with the monthly mails and forty-one passengers. She left Fernando Po 29th June.

August 13, the British and African S.N.O.S. Roquette, with a full cargo.

DEPARTURES.

July 24, the African R.M.S.S.C.S. Mandingo, with the monthly mail.

July 31, the British and African S.N.O.S. Bonny, Captain Lowry.

Aug. 4, the African S.S.C.S. Athenian. The Athenian took cargo for the Western Islands, which may delay her five or six days on her voyage out.

Aug. 14, the African S.S.C.S. Biafra, appointed to take the bi-monthly mails, was withdrawn on the evening of the 12th, and did not leave.

The Biafra is appointed to take out the mail on the 24th.

The British and African S.N.O.S. Roquette is appointed to leave on the 1st September.

DEATHS THROUGH WANT OF PRECAUTION AND A LITTLE EXPENDITURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, July 20.

Sir,—The cholera may be said to be at an end. But there are deaths still occurring as a result of it; among those people who ran away at the outbreak of the epidemic. They return to their huts and re-occupy them, without their having been properly fumigated, and they are attacked and die in a very short time. It seems inexplicable why the Governor did not have all these huts where there were any deaths from cholera destroyed, as was done at Senegal by the French. The Marabouts in Combo have been very careful and kept the disease out of places where, if it had entered, it would have made dreadful havoc. They established a complete quarantine in their towns and caused it to be very strictly observed.

Admiral Patey has been rather unwell, but is now better. He has been fighting with every one here, even to the officer commanding the troops.—Yours, O.

POST-OFFICE IRREGULARITIES. TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, July 17, 1869.
Sir,—I beg to draw your attention to the disgraceful condition of our post-office at this place, which is now disgusting to every one who is compelled to resort to it for the transaction of business. Nothing can be done there in the way of business which is not a table talk over the town the following, or even the same day. I was surprised, some months ago, while in conversation with a gentleman, he recounted to me not only the quantity of post-office orders that were issued about that month, but also for and by whom they were drawn; and again, to my surprise, the other day, when turning round the corner of a shop, I heard a gentleman telling another the amount of post-office orders a third person had drawn; and the day after people were heard talking of the same thing in the public street. Besides this, there are other complaints of letters lost in the post-office. Even a registered letter containing important documents had been picked up at the beach (high water mark), among rubbish and waste paper from the post-office, just three days after the arrival of the steamer, though the party to whom the letter was addressed has been at that office several times, and received other letters.

I would only beg that you will be kind enough to record these things, as it will most likely be necessary to bring them before the authorities, as at present people are heard to say that they will prefer sending their money on freight than through the post-office, and I, too, am of this opinion.—I am, Sir, yours obediently, R.

AFFAIRS IN THE RIVER GAMBIA. TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—The oft-quoted, but so often applicable, sentence of the old Roman poet, that the gods first make mad him whom they purpose to destroy, is surely receiving a new illustration by Administrator Patey. It appears, by the last accounts received from Gambia, that he is continuing his extraordinary and outrageous conduct, which is such that the whole population are unanimous in their desire to get rid of him and his secretary, a Mr. Fowler, who, it appears, was imported from Vancouver's Island, or from some other part of the world, to be a grievous source of annoyance to the good people of the Gambia. Bad as the Administrator is, I learn from all quarters that he would not be so bad if he had not this man, Fowler, about him; one seems to be the complement of the other. They must go away from a place on which they ought never to have been inflicted, and where they have each made themselves so thoroughly odious and unpopular.

I have heard that Admiral Patey is the brother-in-law of Mr. Cardwell, but we have all too good an opinion of this last-named gentleman to suppose that he would support Administrator Patey, if, as is evident, he be not the right man in the right place. It is rather amusing to hear Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell defending the character of Administrator Patey by a line of argument so preposterously fallacious as he makes use of. Admiral Patey never could have caused the death of unfortunate prisoners in the gaol of Bathurst; he never could have caused them to be flogged; he never could have half-starved them; he never could have tortured these poor ill-fed, emaciated wretches with shot-drill and treadmill-drill. Impossible! he, such a kind-hearted, tender, amiable creature! He who was so charitable, so good during the cholera—burying the dead with his own hands, aided and assisted by his Fides Achates, the *ci-devant* gold-digger, whose quondam occupations no doubt well qualified him for digging trenches! But, alas for Mr. Monsell; he is begging the question when he chaunts poems in favour of Administrator Patey, who, instead of playing the good Samaritan, as Mr. Monsell says he did, just did quite the reverse, as the letter of the Gambia merchants, which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, will prove. If any governor or administrator were ever convicted of wanting the milk of human kindness, surely the Administrator of the Gambia stands convicted therefore by the unanimous voice of the surviving population. Mr. Monsell's arguments tending to prove Administrator Patey's kindness and goodness of heart are, I am sorry to say,

Like an inverted cone,
Which hath no base to stand upon.

No, let the Colonial Minister leave Admiral Patey to his fate; he stands a good chance of being indicted for his complicity in the systematic murder committed in the case of Gordon, who, according to the verdict of a coroner's jury, was killed in the gaol of Bathurst, River Gambia, whilst undergoing imprisonment. I promise you that this murder in Bathurst Gaol has

got to come out yet. The sickening details of this affair will be published and circulated throughout the length and breadth of the British Islands and colonies. No Colonial office, no Colonial Minister, can whitewash Administrator Patey. Let them remove him from a place where he has become odious.

Of course it will take a large sum of money to bring the perpetrators of the murder in Bathurst Gaol to the bar of the Central Criminal Court here in London, but eminent lawyers have no hesitation in advising that an indictment will lie. There is no romance about this cold-blooded systematic murder of prisoners in Bathurst Gaol. There was no illusion as to the necessity of severity to put down revolution; the whole thing is free from every tinge of romance—it is palpable, hideous reality.

Our great hope is in the justice and impartiality of Lord Granville, if he himself can afford time to read the horrid details of the Gambia Gaol murder. Mr. Administrator Patey has been relieved from the presence of a Chief Magistrate whose position must have been dreadfully uncomfortable under such a man.

Mr. Chalmers was president of the inquiry, instituted by Administrator Patey, which, as you stated in June, he expected would have whitewashed him, instead of doing as it providentially did—viz., bring out horrid, vile, degrading cruelties, which, had it not been for this investigation, would have been unexposed and never shown up. There may be wheels within wheels that we know nothing of, operating and revolving in the working out of this plot—if such it be—for getting rid of Mr. Chalmers, but I promise if there has been a plot, it shall be unravelled and exposed in due time.

The dreadful details of the murder in Bathurst Gaol have excited feelings of disgust wherever they have been read; but another dish of horrors will be served up to the public, when all the details of the outbreak of cholera in the Gambia, and the conduct of Administrator Patey during its existence, come to be exposed, which they will be ere long.

The people of the settlements on the West Coast of Africa will find it to their interest to support your independent journal, which has done much towards the exposure of the misconduct of officials in these settlements. They must learn that the best, and, indeed, the only, way for them to reach that stratum of the British public which sympathises with the griefs and troubles of its colonies and dependencies, is through a powerful press, which shall be in a position to ventilate, expose, and show up the shortcomings of men who, without any previous training or qualifications, except those picked up on the quarter-deck of a man of war upwards of a quarter of a century ago, or some like school, when the lash was supposed to be the grand panacea, and when the power to inflict corporal punishment and torture was at its zenith, are sent out to govern a colony, which is not exactly like a ship.

It is found needful, now-a-days, to train men specially for the diplomatic, consular, and civil branches of the public service, but it would appear as if any man were good enough to be a governor of an African settlement—no training, no capacity, no qualifications. Men are sent out as governors and administrators possessing as much fitness for their office as Sancho Panza when he went to Barataria. Some few years ago I knew a gentleman who was going out to some West India island as superintendent of police, when the Government of the Gambia became vacant, and he was immediately gazetted to the latter office.

How can the Colonial office be otherwise than bothered with the African settlements when they send out incapable, unfit, and broken-down men to govern them. The whole system and mode of governing the African settlements require a change; and if the Colonial office would take the advice of some men possessing a practical knowledge of that portion of the world, they would find out that these colonies might be governed—first, at small expense; secondly, with little trouble; and thirdly, with more satisfaction by the people themselves than they now are.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AN OBSERVER.
London, August 20, 1869.

SIERRA LEONE.

We have received complaints of rough usage to goods landed from England, on the part of the Customs' examiners, so that goods are often greatly damaged by them; and we feel sure that it is only necessary to call the attention of the superior authorities to this abuse of power to ensure its discontinuance.

Sirius, 6, screw sloop, recently commissioned at Portsmouth by Captain D. Miller for the West Coast of Africa and the Cape of Good Hope, went out of the harbour and anchored at Spithead on Monday, August 2, and was tried at the measured mile on Friday, the 6th, and had her six hours trial at sea the following week. The Sirius was built at Portsmouth Dockyard, and was launched on the 24th of April, 1868.

EQUITIES OF CAPE COAST GOVERNMENT.

THE QUEEN V. W. C. FINLASON.

Customs-office, Cape Coast, April 26, 1869.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that two packages bearing your address, and landed by you on the 25th instant at S.S. Congo, have been seized for a breach of the Gold Coast Customs Ordinance, No. 3, 1867.—I have, &c.,
THOMAS JONES, Dy. Collector of Customs.

To Mr. W. C. Finlason.

Customs-office, Cape Coast, 27th April, 1869.

Sir,—Referring to my letter of yesterday, and the conversation I had with you, I have to intimate to you that on inquiry there appears a great discrepancy between your statement and that of the chief landing waiter, who asserts that he gave you no permission to land any packages in the Government canoe.

I have, therefore, the honour to inform you that the two packages are still seized by this department, and that in due course I shall prosecute you for a breach of the Gold Coast Customs Ordinance.

If you have any statement or explanation to make, you will please do so in writing, and it shall have my best consideration.—I have, &c.,
Mr. W. C. Finlason.

THOMAS JONES.

Hamilton House, Cape Coast, 27th April, 1869.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this day's date, and in reply I beg respectfully to state that I have not committed a breach of the Customs regulations.

The two boxes seized by you are not my property. I know nothing about them, and when I saw Mr. Hagan, the landing waiter, on board the steamship Congo, I asked him to take possession of them in the Colonial boat.

On my arrival some time after, I notified to the second landing waiter that I was not aware what was in the boxes, or who was the owner, and requested him to keep them until the real owner turned up. I did this to rid myself of all responsibility, and that the Customs regulations should not be invaded.

I am sure you will see at once that I had nothing to do with the boxes, and the very fact of my handing them over to the landing waiter on board is more than a sufficient proof that I acted in the only way that I could under the peculiar circumstances of the case.

Trusting that this explanation will be satisfactory, and that you will be pleased to hold the boxes until the owner is known, I have, &c.,

WM. CHAS. FINLASON.

Thomas Jones, Esq., Dep. Collector of Customs.

Cape Coast, 5th May, 1869.

Sir,—I have the honour respectfully to lay before your Excellency the following statement relative to the seizure of two boxes by the Deputy Collector of Customs on the 25th ult.

I was a passenger per steamship Congo, from Sierra Leone, and on my arrival here I found on board two small boxes addressed to me, and not knowing anything about them, I gave them in charge of the landing waiter on board the ship, in presence of more than half a dozen witnesses. He landed the boxes in the Government boat, and handed them and my luggage to the second landing waiter, and on my arrival about two hours after I proceeded to take my luggage away, but took care to leave the two boxes addressed to me in charge of the second landing waiter, telling him that I did not know who they belonged to, and requested him to keep them until I knew more about them. This he promised to do, but, to my surprise, I received a letter, dated 26th April ult., from the Deputy Collector of Customs, accusing me of committing a breach of the Gold Coast Customs Ordinance, No. 3, 1867.

In answer to this letter, I waited personally on the Deputy Collector, and in my presence he opened the boxes, and after my explanation he appeared satisfied that the articles in the boxes were not my property; but, to my astonishment, he addressed me another letter, dated 27th April, wherein he threatens me with an action for a breach of the Gold Coast regulations.

In reply to this letter I furnished the writer with an explanation as per enclosed copy, and yet the Deputy Collector persists in retaining possession of the two boxes, although the real owner has applied to him to pay the usual Customs dues, and still adheres to his determination to prosecute me for what I considered at the time to be the only safe way of escaping even the suspicion of evading Customs regulations.

When I arrived on the beach I took away (unmolested) all my luggage, and if I had been disposed to run the risk I might have taken the two boxes in question, but would not lay myself open to any liability.

When leaving Sierra Leone I was very nearly losing my passage, as the steamer had left before I got into the boat, and in the hurry I had not the time to see Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman,

who, I hear by yesterday's mail, have written to their son that they sent two boxes by me for him.

I am sorry that a severe illness, which confines me to my bed, prevents my writing at greater length, but I sincerely trust that your Excellency will at once perceive that I had no alternative in acting in any other way than the way I have, and that you will be graciously pleased to order that the boxes may be given up to the owner on his paying the Customs dues.—I have, &c.,
WM. CHARLES FINLASON.

P.S.—I beg to enclose the Deputy Collector's two letters (in original) to me, and my reply.

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

Government House, Cape Coast, 10th May, 1869.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a correspondence between yourself and the Deputy Collector of Customs, relative to a seizure made by him of two boxes addressed to you, and explaining to me the circumstances under which they were landed, and, further, requesting me to order that the boxes should be given up to the owner on paying the Customs dues.

I have taken the trouble to make inquiries into the case, and I regret to say that the information I have received is not in accordance with the facts as stated by you.

It appears that on his going on board the Congo, you applied to Mr. Hagan, the Head Landing Waiter, to land yourself and luggage in the Government canoe. This Mr. Hagan very properly refused, but during his absence in the saloon to transact some necessary business, you took advantage of his absence and bribed the canoe men to land your luggage, including the two boxes. After leaving the vessel, Mr. Hagan discovered that your luggage was in the boat, and, being greatly annoyed at this direct contravention of the Government orders and of his reply to you, he sharply reprimanded, and I believe castigated, the delinquent canoe men who had dared to act so contrary to their well-known duty; he also, immediately on landing, seized the goods in question, and reported the matter to the Collector.

The bribe of 2s. 6d. offered by you to the canoe men was paid by you when you arrived on shore.

The actual breach of the Customs regulations seems to me to be complete, as you assumed the ownership of the two boxes addressed to you; and employed (although wrongfully) the Government canoe to land them at your own expense, and that without a permit. You were in fact the importer of the goods—no matter to whom they actually belonged.

Whatever disposition I might otherwise have felt to interfere in a case of this description, I do not feel justified in doing so, from the mode in which the landing appears to have been effected—viz., in defiance of the Customs-office, and by an act tending to corrupt and seduce public employes from the plain dictates of their duty. The matter will, therefore, be left in the hands of the law, to find a conviction or otherwise of the breach of the Ordinance upon the facts as they may be proved in evidence.—I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. SIMPSON,
W. C. Finlason, Esq., Cape Coast. Acting Administrator.

The case therefore went to trial before Col. Delamaine Mends, J. C. Grant, and George Kendall, Esqs., on May 13. The entire evidence is before us, but we have not room for it. The points elicited were:—

1st. That although it had been the custom, and was still the custom, to land passengers by steamers in the Government boat, special instructions had been given by the Colonial Surgeon, Receiver of Customs, that Mr. Finlason and his luggage should not be landed in the said boat.

2nd. That Mr. Hagan, the chief landing-waiter, can land anything nominally for his own use, without entry or paying duty, and that he sometimes sold goods brought from the steamers, &c., under that privilege.

3rd. That Mr. Jones, the Deputy Collector of Customs, may also land brandy, &c., without permit or paying duties.

After the evidence for the prosecution, which to say the least "broke down."

EXTRAORDINARY EVIDENCE!!!

The Deputy Collector here puts in the defendant's letter to him dated April 27, 1869, marked A, and his Excellency the Acting Administrator's dated May 10, 1869.

The defendant objected to this letter being put in evidence, as being most unusual, but waived his objection, provided he should be allowed to express freely his opinion of it. This being conceded, the letter marked B was put in and read.

The Deputy Collector announced that the case for the prosecution had closed.

DEFENCE.

The defendant immediately got up and denounced the Acting Administrator's letter, saying it is a disgrace to the Government, a disgrace to the writer; ought never to have left Government

House, and would be the means of bringing Her Majesty's Government into contempt and ridicule, inasmuch as the writer had dared to pass judgment on him from the *ex parte* statement of some canoe men in his absence.

The defendant continued his statement, and denounced the attempt made by the Deputy Collector and the Acting Administrator to fix on him the stigma of having bribed canoe men, and of seducing and corrupting them from the plain dictates of their duty, as being mean and contemptible, and then retorted on the Deputy Collector, Mr. Thomas Jones, (bringing to the notice of the Court three specific charges against the Deputy Collector: First, with having, in his capacity of Colonial Surgeon, exacted the sum of 10*l.* from a poor Government officer for medical attendance, whilst he was bound to attend him free of charge, and which Her Majesty's Government at home compelled him to return, and threatened to dismiss him if he ever attempted the like again; secondly, with having exacted five guineas from the captain of a ship for medical attendance on his sailors, and unlawfully used his authority as Deputy Collector of Customs to detain the papers of the ship until his private bill was paid;—and thirdly, with having put his name to a raffle, and afterwards refused to discharge his debt of honour, for which he was cut by every officer and gentleman in the town, and the defendant protested against his honour being assailed by such a person.)

The evidence for the defence was then entered into, which proved beyond dispute that there never was the slightest ground or justification for such a charge against Finlason.

At this stage of the proceedings a most amusing scene took place.

It appears that in the boxes seized by Mr. Jones, were discovered two or three letters, and a lot of old newspapers and a few new ones, addressed to the Acting Administrator and other gentlemen. Before the Administrator's paper was found, Jones vowed, as *Postmaster-General*, he would prosecute all those parties who had letters or newspapers addressed to them. This announcement of course created roars of laughter, in which the Bench joined. Mr. Jones, seeing he was made a laughing-stock of by the crowd, said he would demand postage on the letters, which was paid. Jones then sprang up again and demanded double postage. This was the signal for another roar of laughter. The demand was complied with, and the letters were opened by the Bench, and only confirmed what was known before, that the boxes belonged, not to the defendant, but to Hagan's own mother, which fact, of course, he did not know before.

The defendant's statement fully confirmed the evidence already received in his favour; and after giving this, the defendant then left the witness-box, and proceeded to sum up the whole of the case, remarking, amongst other defects in the declaration, that he was charged with breaking the law, but no time was stated as to when the law was broken. It might have been twenty years ago, or even further back; therefore, on that point alone, the prosecution had broken down. But the defendant waved his objection, and took it for granted that it was April 25, that the prosecutor's allegations referred to; after severely, and in plain language, denouncing the foul conspiracy that had been framed by the Deputy Collector, Thomas Jones, and others to fix a most dishonourable act on the shoulders of the defendant, he referred to what he challenged as the malice and littleness of mind Mr. Jones had exhibited, by instructing the landing waiter (because he was not on terms of friendship with the defendant) not to allow Mr. Finlason or his luggage even to enter the Government boat, whilst he did not object to Robert Quansah (a private individual) and others using the Government boat.

Their Worships adjourned the Court, and notified their intention of giving judgment the next day.

May 18, 1869.

Present: Their Worships Col. Delamaine Mends, Assistant Magistrate, and F. C. Grant, Esq., J.P.

The following judgment was then delivered in writing:— It appears to the Court, after a careful perusal of the whole evidence on the part of the prosecution and defence, that the defendant did not land goods in contravention of Ordinance 3, section 7. Certain goods were improperly landed by the chief landing waiter in the Government boat, which might easily have been returned to the vessel if they had been put in the boat against the orders and without the consent of the chief landing waiter. Although he stated he gave no sanction, it appears in evidence the luggage was passed into the boat, when the chief landing waiter was standing in the gangway of the vessel he had it then in his power to stop the packages from being put into the boat.

The whole of the luggage was placed by the chief landing waiter in charge of the assistant landing waiter on the beach, and the opinion of this Court is that the charge against defendant having committed a breach of Ordinance No. 3, section 7, cannot be sustained, especially as subsequently, on coming ashore, the

defendant requested the assistant landing waiter to take charge of the two cases addressed to him; the contents of which he knew nothing of, or whether they contained goods subject to duty or not. The Court do not order the two boxes to be confiscated, but direct their being given up to their owner on the Customs regulations being complied with.

The case is therefore dismissed without costs.

(Signed) DELAMAINE MENDES, Assistant Magistrate.
GEORGE KENDALL, J.P.
F. C. GRANT, J.P.

The defendant in the above case gives notice of appeal on the question of costs.

The plaintiff also gave notice of appeal against the decision of the Court.

(Signed) DELAMAINE MENDES, Assistant Magistrate,
F. C. GRANT, J.P.

GOLD COAST.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, June 22, 1869.

No change to report in the state of the country. Trade is, if possible, still worse than before. Nearly all the merchants are out of cowries, and unable to obtain palm-oil, which is in greater abundance this year than for two years past. The scarcity of cowries arises chiefly from the entire stoppage of the Crepee and trans-Volta trade. One London house, which has been for some time past endeavouring to drive all other traders off the coast, had not a single cowry in its establishment last week. Unless the Crepee roads are speedily opened, the merchants and traders in Accra will be compelled to shut up shop. Matters cannot remain as they are. Neither the Local Government nor that of the Accras are doing anything to improve them. It is true that the Acting Administrator has given out to the kings a considerable sum from the Accra chest, for the ostensible purpose of enabling them to despatch a sufficient force to Crepee to assist Domprey, the Akim chief, in driving out the Ashantees and Aquamboes, and restoring order in the district; but the manner in which Mr. Simpson has gone about the affair has so disgusted the subordinate chiefs and the commons, both with himself and the kings, that not a single man will move, and the kings being powerless, nothing can be nor will be done; my previous letter will have shown you "why." Mr. Simpson's presumptuous contempt for the advice and opinion of the European merchants (to say nothing of natives) whose best interests are so largely involved, merits the severest censure; and his undisguised rudeness to them has deservedly deprived him of that respect which is generally accorded to the representative of the Queen. The last news from Crepee is that the Ashantees and Aquamboes are waiting for the junction of the Ahwoonahs before assuming the offensive. That the Ahwoonahs have despatched a force to their assistance is a fact of which even the Government is now perfectly satisfied, and yet the German missionaries and their agents assert the contrary. One of them has just returned to Accra from Crepee, *via* Jellah Coffee, and his friends declare that there is no truth in the statement of an Ashantee force being in those parts; that there are merely 600 or 700 peaceable Ashantee traders there.

But as a full proof of the Ahwoonahs having broken the treaty they signed with Sir Arthur Kennedy in December last, Mr. Paulus Dahsé, acting agent for the German Missionary Mercantile Establishment at Quittah, has sent in an official complaint to Mr. Simpson, demanding redress for having been brutally assaulted by the Ahwoonahs, who came to his house and demanded one hundred dollars from him to purchase ammunition to enable them to fight against the Crepees! Mr. Dahsé's premises were invaded by these innocent lambs, and he himself was severely castigated, after which he paid the money to save his life and that of his wife. All the other European traders at Jellah Coffee had similarly to pay. Poor Dahsé has been sent home for the benefit of his health.

The mail steamer Biafra arrived here three days before she was due. The *African Times* was, as usual, looked for with much interest, and the contents are particularly interesting this month for your Gold Coast readers. The *African Times* is gaining ground rapidly, and I attribute this chiefly to the bungling attempts of its enemies to "put down" the paper and its correspondents—I mean regular and acknowledged correspondents. I have frequently been amused by coming suddenly on some of those who run it down and affect never to read it, and finding them perusing it stealthily, and trying, but too late, to conceal it from my notice.

I regret very much to inform you that Captain Russell vacates the post of Civil Commandant of Accra, to assume the command of the troops at Cape Coast. Were he leaving to take charge of the Government none would regret his departure.

It is reported that Ussher is expected out again. I don't believe it. I am quite sure that he dare not set his foot again on any spot on the Gold Coast. Whilst writing, I have been informed on the best authority that an Ashantee force had actually invaded Croboe, but before they had been able to do any mischief, they received intelligence of the defeat of their troops in Crepee by the redoubtable Akim chief, Domprey, and hastily decamped to his aid; but, before setting out, their commander sent a message to the Croboes, to inform them that as soon as he had settled the Crepees he would return and wipe them off the face of the earth. The Croboes had commenced removing their families and their goods up the Crobo Mountain for safety.

Roquette came in at 6 P.M. on the 20th, from England and Cape Coast.

BURNING OF ANOOM—CAPTURE OF GERMAN MISSIONARIES BY ASHANTEES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, June 25, 1869.

Sir,—I am sorry to communicate the following intelligence. The Ashantees have taken and sacked and burnt Anoom, the great cotton depot in Crepee! They captured two white missionaries with their wives, and one child four months old. These they have carried off into captivity. The rest of the missionaries escaped to Hoe, hoping to reach Quittah in safety. These are all German missionaries, the Germans having a very extensive mercantile establishment at Hoe. These are connected with the firm at Christiansborg who declared that there was no war, and that we were crying for war so that we might fish in the dark in a war, and that they had assisted their "new Governor" (meaning Ussher) to establish a peace.—Yours,

RETRIBUTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, June 28, 1869.

Sir,—The accounts from Crepee are very bad. The Ashantees, I am afraid, will conquer the place, as the Accras really won't do anything, and Domprey cannot hold out alone. The Crepees are a very numerous tribe, and could muster a force of at least 30,000 men; but they are most dreadful cowards, and 5,000 of the Ashantees are more than a match for them under ordinary circumstances. However, it is possible that under such a man as Domprey they will behave with more pluck. The seacoast Ahwoonah towns have moved, and are now threatening Addah and Battoh. The Addahs have written up to the commandant complaining of this infraction of Kennedy's treaty, and asking what steps the Government intend taking. Sir Arthur is daily expected here, I am told. Captain Glover passed down the other day from Sierra Leone and told us so. I cannot say that, so far as we are concerned, Sir Arthur has justified the high opinion you express of him. He has completely deceived the Gold Coast complainants against Parker. Not a soul of us has heard a word of the result of our complaints. The four J. P.'s—Hesse, Dodo, the Bannermans—Mrs. Smith, and a host of others whom both Sir Arthur and Simpson declared had just complaints, and should get redress, have none of them received any. It is too bad. In future we shall redress our own grievances, and defy these fellows if they attempt any illegal nonsense with us. If they break the law so will we, and you can't blame us, for we can get no redress. Simpson is having a kind of wharf made here; it will cost some 300*l.*, and is nearly completed. But what we want as much, or more, is that the roads about Jamestown and Christiansborg should be repaired and made fit for use, public privies built, and people prevented from using the streets, the very streets, as privies.

Arrivals of vessels at Accra from May 19 to June 22, 1869, inclusive: May 19, Congo Steamer (Croft), from Leeward, for Liverpool; 23, R.M.S. Calabar (Hamilton), from Bights, for Liverpool; 25, English Schooner Mary Campbell (Bright), from Cape Coast, for Jellah Coffee; 25, English Brig Emily (Padon), from Winnebuh, for Anamaboe; 26, Bonny Steamer (Lowry), from Cape Coast, for Bights; 28, American Barque Edith Rose (Fosset), from Cape Coast, for Bights; 29, English Brig Dromo (McDowall), from Whydah, for Cape Coast; June 5, R.M.S. Athenian (Preston), from Cape Coast, for Bights; 7, R.M.S. Mandingo (Davies), from Bights, for Liverpool; 7, French Brig Marie, from Marseilles, for Bights; 9, American Brig Ellen Bernard (W. H. Tufts), from Cape Coast, for Bights; 15, R.M.S. Biafra (Croft), from Cape Coast, for Bights; 17, English Schooner Harvestman (Berridge), from Anamaboe, for Jellah Coffee; 17, English Barque Constance (Justice), from Glasgow, for Benin; 20, B. & A.S.N.C.S. Roquette (Griffiths), from Cape Coast, for Bights; 22, B. & A.S.N.C.S. Bonny (Lowry), from Bights, for Liverpool.

Accra.

"ROLL HIM OUT," NOT TRUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

James Town, Accra, June 17, 1869.

Sir,—A letter appeared in your journal of 24th May, signed Joseph Richter.

On the occasion on which he alleges he was ordered to be "rolled out" of Court, I acted as interpreter for Mr. Addo, and I can unhesitatingly declare that no such orders were given by Captain Russell, the Civil Commandant, who entered most minutely and patiently into the matter. On judgment being given, Mr. Richter, not being satisfied, insisted on being allowed to address the Court further, and the Commandant simply informed him that the case was over, and that he must make room for other suitors who were waiting to have their cases adjudicated. He retired as far as the Court door, where he commenced talking, upon which the constables removed him forcibly, and as far as I could see from the position I was in at the time, I believe they really did use more force than was necessary; but Mr. Richter made no complaint at the time. I am not in Government service; I acted as interpreter on the occasion simply as a friend of Mr. Addo, the usual Government interpreter, who was temporarily absent. I am induced to address you now simply in the cause of truth, and from a desire to see justice done to one for whom, as Mr. Richter most justly observes, all classes in Accra entertain the greatest esteem and regard; and it was on that account that I signed the memorial of 7th May for Captain Russell's permanent appointment to the Chief Civil Commandantship of the district.—Your obedient servant,

JOHN SMITH.

Note.—We are happy to say that our Special Correspondent writes very strongly to the same effect.—Ed. *African Times*.

ORDINANCES BY SURPRISE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, July 23, 1869.

Sir,—The former Sierra Leone system in the Legislative Council of sitting with closed doors prevails here, and it now appears that the Local Government passed four ordinances in the month of March last, and sent them to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has approved of them, before the public here knew anything about the matter. These laws, which have been lately promulgated, I regard (with one exception) as most unsuited to this place. The first of these ordinances abolishes the application of forfeitures under the ordinance relating to customs; another imposes a tax on wholesale dealers in wines and spirits; another on all poor fishermen who are taking fish and oysters in Government waters; and the last taxes all poor people who are sitting in the markets and other buildings prepared for trade on Government grounds. More in my next.—Yours truly,

WM. J. RICHARD.

AGAINST MILITARY MAGISTRATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, June 8, 1869.

Sir,—I believe that every one who has the honour of being a British subject, is justly entitled to the privilege and protection which British laws afford. Prejudice of colour, with an inadequate or almost no knowledge of law, exist to such an extreme on the West Coast of Africa, that oftentimes in our courts of law we see entirely in vain for the impartial administration of justice. For instance, our police-court, over which a European magistrate presides, has been and is so much corrupted, that coloured men despair of ever obtaining justice in it whilst in its present state, presided over by a military man holding the responsible position of magistrate, without any legal training, and of whose total incompetency for the office there is not a shadow of doubt.

In our Supreme Court we should have failed in obtaining justice, were it not for the noble institution of trial by jury, which is a blessed privilege in Great Britain and her colonies. To say nothing of justice perverted and arbitrary powers assumed for many years past, I would only tell you that not very long ago, an individual who had been sentenced from the bench of his worship the magistrate of the police-court (for theft) to imprisonment for six months' hard labour, appealed to the Supreme Court, and was there declared innocent of the charge by the verdict of jurors. I conclude, Mr. Editor, with the wish and hope that the ears of the good people of Great Britain may no longer be shut to our cries, and that they, examining into our real conditions and wants, will give to us better men to administer to us.—Yours, &c.,

AN OBSERVER.

TREATMENT OF COLONIES.—The *Standard* says in a leader on this subject: "The new policy of Imperial disintegration is proceeding merrily. Lord Granville's skill in the art of irritating a colony is being rewarded with a success which is calculated to make the shade of Lord North, his illustrious predecessor in the same line, turn pale with envy."

NOTICE.

We beg to call the attention of our subscribers to the fact that another year of subscription became due after the publication of our June number. Those who have not yet paid for 1868-9—viz., to June, 1869, and arrears—ought now as a matter of conscience to pay up to June, 1870—that is, an addition of five shillings to what was before owing. We ought not to have to make these appeals; we do our duty, we are entitled to demand that our subscribers should do theirs.

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.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1869.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

W. R. Campbell, 7s. 6d.; W. H. Palmer, 5s.; J. B. McCarthy, 3s. 4d.; Thos. Gloucester, 5s.; J. S. Thomas, 5s.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE—ITS SYSTEM AND ITS VIEWS.

THE replies of Mr. Monsell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, to Mr. Chas. Buxton and Mr. H. B. Sheridan, on the shameful illegalities of Administrator Patey and Justice Huggins, open other issues than that of the humanity of the one, or judicial ability of the other, and some of them of the very gravest importance. The light that has been thrown on the secret counsels of the Colonial-office by Mr. Monsell is valuable, and will repay us for the efforts we have made to bring the conduct of Patey and Huggins before the House of Commons, even should the justice asked for on these officials be wrongfully denied. Then we have a further elucidation in Sir C. Adderley's remarks, when the West Coast estimates were before the House. Sir C. Adderley, it must be remembered, was Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Duke of Buckingham was measuring out so-called official justice to the dependencies of the British Crown, and the opinions he expresses are those which prevail in Downing-street. Being no longer subject to the rules of official life, he can speak with less reserve than last year. And what a picture of official justice, wisdom, and impartiality do these revelations present! We are not acknowledging the truth of Mr. Monsell's statements, but he, no doubt, believed them to be true. And what are they, and what the inferences he draws from them, as stated in his reply to Mr. Charles Buxton? "The officials on the West Coast are continually quarrelling;" "it is difficult to make out which party is in the wrong;" "the tendency of things on that Coast latterly has certainly been more to barbarise the Europeans than to civilise the natives," therefore, "considering the great difficulties in the way of carrying on the Administration of the Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, and considering, moreover, that the slave-trade, for the suppression of which they had been founded, had ceased to exist, he thought it would be better if this country abandoned its settlements there." Shade of Oxenstein! did any reviler or denier of the superior intellect of governments ever pass a stronger condemnation on any one of them? We have no intention to enter here on the examination of that important inference which Mr. Monsell has thus set before us. The consequences involved in the carrying out of such a policy or such a reversal of all the past policy of Great Britain, are too momentous to allow of our mixing up the consideration of them with that of any of the current abuses and illegalities, however discreditable and discrediting these may be. For, unhappily, it is not Mr. Monsell alone who has enunciated in Parliament the policy of abandoning the West Coast settlements. Sir C. Adderley also gave utterance to a very decided opinion that "we had no object in

retaining the Gambia now, the slave-trade having been suppressed," and that "the transfer of the Gambia to France would be advantageous to this country." It will be indispensable, therefore, that we should examine the embryo policy thus shadowed forth with all the care and attention which the great issues involved, as regards the well-being of the West Coast population, demand from us. All that we can do in the matter this month is most earnestly to counsel those of the European merchants and educated natives of the Gambia, who only desire good and humane government, and as nearly as possible self-government, under the British Crown, and not to be separated from it, to express by memorial to Her Majesty's Government the gross and flagrant injustice of any transfer of them to France or any other Power, without their full and free consent first had and obtained. Meanwhile we will not relax our efforts on their behalf, and in behalf of other West Coast populations in British settlements. The absurdity of such pleas for abandoning them as the falsely-alleged continual quarrelling of the officials, and the appearance of an unnecessary and unreal drain on the British Exchequer for 2,000l. or 3,000l., must soon become patent. They could not bear the light of discussion or examination, even were they facts instead of being, as they are, only fanciful excesses. So far from the officials down the Coast being constantly quarrelling, what we have had always to complain of was their unanimity or mutual support in evil; so much so that, when setting forth the indictment against Admiral Patey, in a leader in our June number, and alluding to the extra-judicial inquiry into the death of Joseph Gordon, we pointed out how "credible it was to the other officials that they did not combine, as is usual on the West Coast, to whitewash the head of the local Executive." But if it were true that such a state of things existed—viz., that there is continual quarrelling among the officials, and that it is difficult to find out who is wrong and who is right (neither of which statements are true)—and if the tendency of things lately is to brutalise the Europeans instead of to civilise the natives (which is true)—whose fault, we ask, is it? whose but that of the Government at home, which allows the continuance of so disgraceful and dishonouring a state of affairs? Why, the head of a large mercantile firm in this country, who received accounts of quarrels and dishonourable practices among persons in his employ abroad, would soon find out who was in the wrong, and remove him or them, as the case might be. And we cannot conceive a Government so abstaining from the performance of a sacred duty, as to put forth such a paltry plea for the non-redress of alleged wrongs by one or more of its officials. We fear that in the case of Admiral Patey, whatever it may be in that of Mr. Huggins, the difficulty is not that there is nothing to bring conviction to the Government mind—but that "convinced against their will, they are of the same opinion still;" for in this particular men have not much changed since the days of our friend Hudibras. We do not believe, as a general rule, in a whole community, with one or two interested exceptions—a whole community, official and unofficial—conspiring wickedly against an innocent and unoffending governor; and unless Admiral Patey can show some corrupt animus in this unusual unanimity, we do not see any ground for the Government calling in question the motives of that unanimity; while even a corrupt motive would not change the nature of the facts—the lamentable facts, which seem to us to have been only more clearly established by the very means he employed for his disculpation. A Government ought to govern—and among their governing duties a very sacred one is not to permit any one of their officials to abuse the powers with which they have invested him. We believe Admiral Patey has done this, or we should never have written one word against him; we believe this on what seems to us conclusive evidence; the Government believes the contrary, only, so far as we can see, by an inference. In thus believing they stigmatise a number of other officials, merchants, &c. We believe they can remove that stigma; they are bound to do so if they can; and having done so, the Government will not be able to find in the House of Commons in 1870

any justifiable reason for not having removed an administrator who seems to have become odious to a whole community.

ILLEGAL EXERCISE OF OFFICIAL POWERS.

We have thought it our duty to give copy of some letters, and a condensed report of the trial, which have been furnished to us in elucidation of the charge brought against Mr. Finlason of a breach of the Customs' regulations at Cape Coast.* Looking at these, and referring to the recent thrusting of Mr. Lovell illegally into a filthy den, that it is disgraceful to any government to call a prison cell,† we certainly should not think of disputing the justice of Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell's assertion, that "the tendency of things on the Coast latterly had certainly been more to barbarise the Europeans than to civilise the natives." But why were such officials as Ussher, Skues, Parker, Elliott, &c., permitted to carry on, and upheld in carrying on, a system having such a "tendency"? Why is all the ability of the Government enlisted, and its power and influence exercised, in defence of the fully-proved official and judicial illegalities and cruelty of Mr. Huggins and Admiral Patey? And why are Mr. Simpson and Mr. Jones permitted thus oppressively to use the powers with which Her Majesty's Government have no doubt mistakenly entrusted them? Can it be expected that the system will ever have a better "tendency" while wrongdoers, because they happen to have been mistakenly appointed by Her Majesty's Government, are practically considered to have higher claims on Government protection than the poor victims of their ignorance, insanity, licentiousness, tyranny, and cruelty? If it were known among colonial officials that an ignorant or tyrannical abuse of their powers, or any other misdoings calculated to bring discredit on them and their office, would be visited with severe and immediate rebuke and loss of office, we should soon have to rejoice in a "tendency of things" diametrically opposed to that evil one confessed to by Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell.

DEATH BY SHOT-DRILL, AND FLOGGING OF JOHN DAY.

Our Bathurst friends cannot fail to read with interest the report of proceedings in the House of Commons, when the attention of the Legislature was called by Mr. Charles Buxton to the death of Joseph Gordon by shot-drill, the illegal flogging of John Day, &c., in the gaol at that place. As we shall have again to deal with these disgraceful and shocking occurrences, we shall not now do more than set forward the point at which, according to Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell, these matters now stand. Putting aside for the moment the official dust which Mr. Monsell threw up before the eyes of the House to prevent a clear view of the very serious charges brought against Admiral Patey, and the unjust doubt cast upon the very conclusive evidence that has been furnished against him, let us see where Mr. Monsell has left the important question involved. Mr. Monsell states "that a despatch has been written to Admiral Patey on the subject of the alleged atrocities; that his reply is waited for; that the whole subject shall be carefully inquired into; and that should it turn out that the statements Mr. Buxton had made (which are identical with what we have published) were correct, of course great blame would have to be laid upon the authorities for permitting such atrocities to be perpetrated." This is the exact substance of Mr. Monsell's statement. The question is what does it mean? Is some plausible statement by Admiral Patey and his prime minister and seemingly only official adherent, Mr. Fowler, to be allowed to baulk the inquiry? Our Bathurst correspondents, the merchants, the officials, all, in fact (and we believe that is nearly the whole population, except Mr. Fowler, whose bread Admiral Patey is buttering so richly, to their mutual satisfaction), who have been instrumental in exposing the odious barbarities that have been practised, are bound in duty to themselves, in

* Vide "Equities of Cape Coast Government," p. 15.
† Vide May number (leader).

vindication of their own characters, to take care that there shall be something more than this. Let them bear in mind that Parliament will meet again in February next—that its opinion can be again invoked—but that it will be expected of those who have deposed against Admiral Patey, that they should have done all in their power to secure a full and impartial examination into the truth or falsehood of the alleged facts. The whole course of Government proceedings must be very closely watched. The necessity of this is obvious. Pending the inquiry, when we should have expected something like neutrality on the part of those who "find it difficult to make out the truth of statements," we see by the *Gazette* that the Chief Magistrate of the Gambia, who, at Admiral Patey's desire, conducted the extra-official examination into the circumstance of Joseph Gordon's death—an inquiry in which Admiral Patey, *was not whitewashed*, as he had, no doubt, hoped he would be—Mr. M. D. Chalmers, has been sent or appointed by the Secretary of State to Cape Coast—a removal which, not being attended with any pecuniary advantage, can only have been made to free Admiral Patey from his presence. This, and what we hear of Admiral Patey's interdiction of the Colonial Surgeon, notwithstanding the Legislative Council declared him free of all blame, with other high-handed conduct of Admiral Patey, give strong ground of suspicion that he believes in his power to hold his ground through some strong backing up in the Government, and that he is not without some encouragement to that belief. The battle of humanity *versus* a cold and atrocious cruelty—of the rights of a population in a Crown colony *versus* the arbitrary will of a Governor, must be fought *à l'outrance*; and the men of Bathurst must not desist until they have shown that they whose industry supplies all the revenue of the Crown colony are entitled to something more than the mere privilege of breathing in it; and that there is protection for all, against official caprice and wrongdoing.

THE ILLEGAL WHIPPINGS AT SIERRA LEONE.

THANKS to Mr. H. B. Sheridan in the case of Mr. Justice Huggins, as to Mr. Charles Buxton in that of Admiral Patey, the illegal Sierra Leone sentences have been brought once more before the House of Commons. We are compelled in this matter concerning Mr. Justice Huggins, as in that of Admiral Patey, to refrain this month from a full examination of the important points involved in Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell's reply to Mr. Sheridan, among which are the appointment of Mr. Huggins to his present position, in defiance of a numerous signed memorial and petition from Sierra Leone, merely at the instance of his patron, Major Blackall; and the undesirableness of making the Colonial-office a Court of Appeal against West Coast magistrates and judges. Leaving these aside, not because they are of minor importance, but because we have not time or space to deal with them at present, let us see the position in which Mr. Monsell places the question of Mr. Huggins and his odious sentences. He says: "The petitioners might, if they pleased, appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Colonial court." This, he thinks, "would be the best mode of treating the controversy." And then he proceeded to lay down the following as the question at issue: "Whether the Act of 22nd and 23rd Victoria was in force in Sierra Leone," and added, "if it was not, then the sentences were in accordance with the law" (which we by no means admit, and do not believe the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council would admit); "and if it was, then they were not in accordance with the law." This, he further said, "neither the House nor the Colonial-office was competent to decide." We cannot help saying here that it is greatly to be deplored, and is moreover most unjustifiable, that if the Secretary or Colonial-office is not competent to decide this very simple, though important question, the appointment of Mr. Huggins to the vacant judgeship at Sierra Leone on the unsupported certificate of Mr. Governor Blackall, after this question had been raised by the Sierra Leone petition and memorials, was about as unjustifiable an official act as was ever perpetrated. Why by this very

act the Colonial-office did take upon itself to prejudice, and that most wrongfully, this very question. The appointment of Mr. Huggins in the face of the complaints against him, setting forth these alleged illegal judgments, was, in point of fact, a decision by the Colonial-office that Mr. Huggins was right—a decision which, according to Mr. Monsell himself, it was not competent to make. Hence the difficulty which the people of Sierra Leone and the friends of justice and legality have had to contend with. The act of the Secretary of State, as well as the legal fitness of Mr. Huggins, is in question. No wonder, then, that Mr. Monsell evaded the question of those judgments which the despatch of Earl Granville declares not to be covered by that point which Mr. Monsell lays down as the only one at issue. At the same time we quite agree with Mr. Monsell that it is desirable to have the decision of the Court of Privy Council. But how is this to be obtained? Does not Mr. Monsell know how very expensive even the first steps in such appeal unfortunately and unjustly are? To tell a poor man such as Thomas that his remedy lies in an appeal to the Privy Council, is equivalent to telling him that he has not any remedy at all. We believe that after such a statement as that by Mr. Monsell in the House of Commons, of the desirability of the question at issue being thus brought before it, the Court of Privy Council would allow Thomas to appeal *in forma pauperis*, and we hope they will be asked to do so. At the same time we must say that, so far as our own feelings and judgments are concerned, no decision in his favour by the Privy Council Court would influence us. The sentences passed by Mr. Huggins, though they might, contrary to our convictions, be thus declared valid through some paltry technicality, would never be justified in our eyes. They are out of all proportion to the crimes for which they were inflicted; so out of proportion that they indicate a character of mind in Mr. Huggins that ought for ever to exclude him from the judgment seat; for we cannot hesitate to believe that a man capable of passing such sentences would, under adequate political inducements, be easily swayed into atrocities similar to those which have made the character of Judge Jeffries so justly and universally infamous.

ADMIRAL PATEY'S JUSTIFYING HUMANITY.

AMONG the astounding statements and revelations made by Mr. Under-Secretary Monsell in the recent African discussions in the House of Commons, not the least remarkable was the high eulogium passed on Admiral Patey for his humane conduct during the outbreak of cholera in the Gambia districts; and the building on that supposition the argument of its being impossible that such a man could have been guilty of inhumanity toward the prisoners in Bathurst Gaol. We have heard of persons, under certain circumstances, striking themselves severely in order to determine whether they were awake or in a dream; and we might have felt a similar doubt ourselves on this occasion, but for the stern array of 1,600 grisly spectres—many of them palpable victims of that strange "humanity"—that rose before our mental vision from out the festering, putrid cholera pits of Bathurst, while the voice of the avenger was ringing in our ears, if that be so, who and whence are these? "Alas, poor ghosts!" and do ye thus rise before that strange humanitarian, like Banquo's issue before the conscience-stricken Macbeth? An extraordinary humanity presiding at Bathurst, with practically unlimited resources—the visitation of an expected epidemic—and 1,600 victims between the 3rd of May and the 3rd of June, out of a meagre population of 5,000: do there not, on the very face of it, seem to be irreconcilable contradictions in this? And such indeed there are. We cannot afford, like Mr. Monsell, to deal only in generalities. This is an age that loves statistics. Let us, therefore, appeal to them. The fatal epidemic first visited the French settlements on the Senegal. Energetic measures were taken by the French authorities at St. Louis, and the disease was stamped out in fifteen days, with a loss of 1,800 out of a population of 12,000. The strange disease, however, ravaged the banks of the river far into the interior, whence

it crossed over to Mr. McCarthy's Island, in the River Gambia district, 180 miles from Bathurst, the seat of British authority on that river. It had been for some time certain that the cholera would come there; and what were the extraordinary efforts made by the singularly humane Admiral-governor at Bathurst to meet it? He seems actually to have expended the munificent sum of 531. out of the colonial resources, against the pestilent foe at Mr. McCarthy's. 531! Look at the munificent sum, and let any one say whether the disease must not indeed have been an obstinate one, to sweep off half the population of the unfortunate little island in the face of such profuse expenditure against it by this kind and feeling man. Having triumphed over him there, down the river banks it marched, strewing the panic-stricken country thickly with unburied corpses. But this kind and feeling man, who held firmly the keys of the full Colonial chest, knew nothing of panic. Beyond decreeing a useless quarantine, no precautions whatever were taken. All the instructions distributed since 1855 from England to meet such emergencies were ignored. Alas! they would cost money—that precious stuff, in comparison with which human life, and especially African life, is not worthy of mention. But the European and educated native community thought differently. A meeting of inhabitants was held early in April—a memorial was presented to the Governor—and assurances given that every known measure of precaution should be taken. On the same day a meeting was also held at Government House, at which were present "the humane man," the Commander of the Troops, the Colonial Surgeon, and two army surgeons: the medical men recommended the disinfection of dwellings—the erection of cane hospitals at 101. each, house to house visitation, &c. These necessitated the exertion and energies of the whole medical staff. It was therefore proposed to give the army surgeons a guinea or guinea and a-half day. The humane man was horrified. Perish the population, but keep the precious metal in the chest; he broke up the meeting in disgust and rage. The cholera came marching on, mowing down the people. The arduous Colonial-surgeon fell sick—the two army officers made extraordinary efforts spontaneously and gratuitously, but would not be interfered with by a governor who so contemned their services, and who refused, when applied to, to give the necessary powers and indemnity under the preventive Act of 1855. But surely under such dreadful circumstances as then arose the Governor convened his Legislative Council, entirely official, with but one exception, as that council is? No: such extraordinary kindness and humanity as that of Admiral Patey could not brook co-operation or control. "Alone I did it," was to be his great future motto. He would not employ doctors on the spot; but in face of the epidemic which had now begun its ravages in the town, he sent to Sierra Leone for that medical aid which he ought to have known could not be obtained there—and then to the Colonial-office in Downing-street! Shades of the now corrupted 1,600—to England, to fight their grim enemy whose scythe had already begun its relentless work. We must do the Colonial-office the justice to say, *en passant*, that although, from the well-known character of the epidemic, it was certain that, before he could arrive, it would be at an end, either from having passed onward or left itself no more human victims to devour, they immediately despatched some favoured Mr. W. Holman to receive a fee of 5001. and his expenses, in all say some 7001., out of that Colonial chest which could not afford its three guineas a-day to medical officers on the spot; though we in our ignorance cannot for the life of us divine why the Secretary of State did not rather send out peremptory orders to employ the staff surgeons instead. But official ways are not our ways, nor the ways of people gifted with any other kind of intelligence than the official—and so the 1,600 died, and Mr. Holman arrived out, to take his voyage home again. But again to our statistics. The humane man was at least profuse in care and expense among that poor famine and cholera stricken population when the disease had come. Yes, he expended in Bathurst, in all, from 931. to 1001., in prevention and succour to the living; and 1801. in putting

the dead out of sight in those horrible pits. Less than 1001. for a half-starved population of 5,000!!! How inveterately obstinate those 1,600 wretches must have been to die in the face of such kind and humane profusion. Peace be to them in their sad resting-place. It is related in England of a once Governor-General of India, under whose kind and humane government—for which he was ennobled—tens of thousands of miserable victims of famine died, while his storehouses were full of rice, for want of which they perished; that his dreams were so horrid in his noble British home, with the ghastly spectres of that famine-stricken crew which conscience brought up constantly before his eyes, that his nights became a shrieking penance, and his death was one of unmitigated horror. The avenger is ever on the track of erring mortals; and we confess that we would not—to be a thousand times Governor or Administrator of the Gambia, have the memory of those reeking pits with their 1,600 victims present to our mind, with their accusation—"many of us died for want of precaution which it was your duty to have taken—of assistance that it was your duty to have given—and which you cruelly neglected, although it is written that you are one of the most kind and humane of men!" But if it will afford any consolation to Admiral Patey to know that his certificate of character by Mr. Monsell is not unique and unrivalled, we can refer him to the trial for "slave-trading and murder"—the one consequent on the other—of Captain Howell, of the ship *Young Australian*, at Sydney, on the 25th May. Both crimes were fully proved, yet two shipowners and a captain rivalled Mr. Monsell by declaring on oath that he was "one of the most humane of men," notwithstanding which the verdict of "GUILTY" was returned. What the verdict of a British jury will be, should Admiral Patey be called upon to answer before them as regards the death of Joseph Gordon, and have nothing to depend upon but Mr. Monsell's certificate, it is not for us to say—but Heaven help us; if Admiral Patey and Captain Howell be paragons of humanity, what must cruel men be!

THE OLD AND NEW STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

THE reckless system of opposition to the British and African Steam Navigation Company now pursued by the old Mail Company is bringing, and most deservedly, great discredit on the latter. In a vain attempt to crush the intruder on their wealthy African preserves, they put forth hasty announcements of new and increased facilities to be afforded by them to the African trade; their ships were to leave Liverpool thenceforth on the 4th, 14th, and 24th of each month. Those who doubted their ability to do this with the ships they then possessed, were silenced by accounts of vessels being chartered for service until new ships should be added to their permanent fleet. Hitherto nothing but disappointment and disgust to shippers, and loss of character and position to the Company, has resulted. Guarded from pecuniary liability by their published reservation, "the directors retain the right to vary the dates of the 4th and 14th at any time, and also to postpone the departure of any or all these steamers from Liverpool as they may find it convenient," their announcement of steamers to depart on all other days than the 24th of each month cannot be in any way depended upon. Their contract with the Government compels them to despatch the mail steamer on the 24th or 25th; but, not being otherwise bound, they trifle with their customers, consulting only their own interests and caprice. Merchants do not know when their ships will go, or whether they will or will not go, or to what ports they will or will not go. Harassing uncertainty pervades all their movements; a steamer will go to the Gambia, then she will not go, then, again, she will go. The *Athenian*, which left on the 4th instant, after taking in cargo for the West African ports, finished, we are informed, by taking cargo also for the Western Islands, which is likely to retard her voyage five or six or more days, if the sea be rough; the *Don*, which left June 15, and the *Lagos*, which left on the 24th, were going down the Coast together from Sierra Leone taking

care of each other; and we cannot help believing that it is in order to avoid a similar spectacle with the slow *Athenian* and the *Biafra*, that the *Biafra*, after receiving cargo on the engagement she was to leave on the 14th, was announced, so late as the evening of the 12th, not to leave on the 14th, but to be kept back till the 24th. Are we not, then, justified in saying that hitherto the boasted increased facilities supplied by the old Company are a discreditable delusion; and an injurious snare; and that the only vessels for which shippers ought to prepare, as being the only ones to be depended upon at present, are the old mail steamers of the 24th, and the *Roquette*, the *Congo*, or the *Bonny*, of the new Company, on the 1st of each successive month, until these are reinforced by additional new ships, so as to enable the despatch of one also on the 15th as well as on the 1st. This, we hope, will soon be an accomplished fact, as there will then again be a dependable regularity of intercourse between England and the West Coast of Africa; and merchants in England and their friends in Africa will not be subject to the injury of their goods being detained an extra ten days on board the steamer in Liverpool, and being then, perhaps, sent *via* the *Western Islands*.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 29.

ILLEGAL WHIPPINGS BY ORDER OF MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS.

On the motion that the "Speaker do leave the chair" that the House might go into Committee for Supply, Mr. Secretary Bruce appealed to the hon. Member for Dudley (Mr. Sheridan) to postpone the motion of which he had given notice, as it was of great importance to the House, as well as to the Government, that they should proceed with Committee of Supply, in order to finish the remaining money votes. The hon. Member for Dudley would have an opportunity of bringing his motion forward to-morrow.

Mr. SHERIDAN, who had intended to call attention to the case of "Samuel Thomas v. Horatio James Huggins, Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone," and to the conduct of Mr. Huggins in his capacity of judge, agreed to postpone his motion, but he hoped that the course he now took would be considered when the question came before the House again.

SUPPLY.

On the vote for 46,2981. for salaries and allowances to go vernors of colonies,

Sir C. ADDERLY wished to make one or two remarks. The expense under this head was necessarily diminishing year by year, and he hoped that the charge would soon disappear altogether from the estimates. A great portion of the sums voted to the colonies was expiring, most of those that still remained being retained merely during the lives of certain individuals. . . . There was an increase in the expenditure on the West Coast of Africa which demanded a word of explanation. It was satisfactory to find that one of the stations upon that coast had this year ceased to be a charge upon the Treasury,* but, at the same time, Gambia and the Gold Coast still remained heavy charges. The expenditure upon the West Coast had been increased in consequence of the purchase of a steamer, which, however, would eventually lead to a decrease. This steamer was purchased for the Governor of Sierra Leone, because the Government had decided to abolish several of the small governorships, and concentrate them under his authority, and this could only be done by giving him facilities of communication with the various parts of the coast. It required to be explained, however, how the vote for the steamer, which appeared upon the estimates in 1866, was again set down this year. The Gold Coast was still a charge of 2,5001. to this country. There had, within the last few years, been a change in our position on that coast. Formerly our forts were mixed up with those of the Dutch, but last year it was arranged that all the forts upon one side of the river should belong to England, and all those on the other to Holland. Some explanation was also necessary with regard to Gambia. Looking at the estimates it was found that the committee were asked to vote 1,5001. in aid of the local government of that country, but he found that whilst the local expenditure of Gambia was 18,0001., the revenue was 21,0001., and yet, in spite of the revenue being greater than the expenditure, they were asked to vote the sum he had mentioned. This should be explained. He would like to know from the Under-Secretary whether the negotiations were still going on with France in respect to Gambia. France wished by means of some exchange to get possession of that territory for the purpose of extending their western settlements in Africa. His opinion was that the transfer of

* Lagos.

Gambia to France would be advantageous to this country. The slave-trade having been suppressed we had no object in keeping it up, and there could be no harm in giving it to France, seeing that all the trade of the place was French. . . . Lord Carnarvon, when Secretary of State, had laid down a scale of reduction by which troops were to be withdrawn from West Africa and elsewhere. He hoped that the right hon. gentleman opposite would be able to inform them that these reductions were being carried out on a still larger scale.

Colonel Sikes believed that the saving effected by the withdrawal of our vessels from the West Coast of Africa was absorbed by the cost incidental to the maintenance of one steamer placed at Sierra Leone, which entailed an expenditure of 10,000*l.* a-year. He asked for an explanation in regard to the grant of 1,500*l.* for Gambia, although it appeared that the revenue was 21,000*l.*, and the expenditure 18,000*l.* On the Gold Coast he observed that the revenue was 8,000*l.*, and the expenditure 10,000*l.*

Mr. MONSELL was understood to say in reply to the last question that he thought he could promise a considerable reduction of expenditure on that head. In answer to the other questions he said when the whole of the West African settlement was placed under one governor-in-chief it was thought necessary that he should have at his disposal the means for the most rapid communication with every portion of the territory over which he was placed. A steamer was therefore purchased for him at considerable expense, but it having been found to draw too much water, it was considered necessary either to alter her or to place another steamer there in her stead. It was found that it would cost so much money to alter her, that it would be much more economical to purchase a new steamer at a cost of 15,000*l.* Apart from this expenditure there was a considerable reduction in the estimate. There was already a reduction of 7,000*l.* a-year in the military expenditure, and there would be a still further reduction in the next year from the steps which the Government were now taking. (Hear, hear.) There was likewise a reduction of between 300*l.* and 400*l.* a-year in the naval expenditure. In respect to the vote for Gambia, it was only an estimate founded upon a considerable falling off of the commerce and a frightful outbreak of cholera in that colony. The arrangement between the English and Dutch Governments had been carried out, and with very good commercial results, although there might be some political difficulty.

The vote was agreed to.

JULY 30.

BATHURST GAOL—TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND DEATH BY SHOT-DRILL AND TREADMILL.

Mr. CHARLES BUXTON, in moving an address for copies of a petition and other documents forwarded by the merchants and other inhabitants of Bathurst to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the treatment of prisoners in the gaol by Admiral Patey, said he wished to call attention to the extraordinary proceedings of Admiral Patey, the Administrator of the Gambia, as regarded his treatment of the negro prisoners in the gaol. A coroner's inquest was held upon one of the prisoners who had died, and the verdict of the jury was that his death had been caused by shot-drill and treadmill labour. Upon this an inquiry was instituted, and he must say that the case against Admiral Patey appeared to be so strong that the Government was bound not to let the matter rest, but to consider whether he was not unfit for his very responsible and important situation in the Gambia. The gaoler showed, in the first place, that the Governor, Admiral Patey, had the entire control of the gaol. It was altogether his doing that the prisoners were subjected to the treatment which he (Mr. Buxton) was about to describe. Admiral Patey regulated the hard labour without reference to the sheriff or the visiting justices. The prisoners had insufficient food, and their labour was excessive. All prisoners sentenced to hard labour were put to shot-drill and treadmill, without distinction and without reference to their fitness. He should quote only from the evidence given by the gaoler himself, the head turnkey, and Dr. Jeans, the surgeon of the gaol. The facts proved at the inquiry were these. The prisoners had two meals in the day—viz., some boiled rice at ten o'clock, and a very small allowance of bread and meat at five o'clock. But the food was stated by the surgeon to be insufficient, and was very far below that given to prisoners in any well-managed gaol. However, they had their second meal at five o'clock, and were then locked up in their cells. At about half-past five the next morning they were woke up, and sent to work. They were at hard labour from that time until they came in at half-past nine, having been 16½ hours without food, and even then they were not allowed to go to their breakfast, but were put to shot-drill for half an hour. The shot-drill was thus described. It was done in a circle. The men were marched round, at each four paces putting down and taking up a ball and carrying it. The shot was a 24-pounder. "At first," said the gaoler, "we had only 18 pounds,

but Admiral Patey said they were too light, and caused me to get 24-pounders." It obviously was outrageous that a man should be put to this very severe work after being from sixteen and a half to nineteen hours without food, and that food itself very insufficient. After shot-drill was over the men were at length allowed to go to their breakfast of plain boiled rice. They were then sent to work again until half-past four, and they were then put upon the treadmill. The gaoler seemed to have been strongly impressed with the cruelty of the system, and as soon as Admiral Patey went away on leave, he stopped the shot-drill and treadmill labour, but since the Admiral returned they were renewed, in addition to the ordinary labour. The attention of the gaoler was also called to an entry in the diary—"May 9. Whipped six prisoners." He said, "They were tied up and and flogged with a cat. The Governor did not fix the number of lashes, but told me to tell the Sheriff to give John Day and — Jie a good flogging." Dr. Jeans, the colonial surgeon, was examined with reference to their floggings, and he said that Day was flogged, though he had just come out of a very dangerous illness. Dr. Jeans added that he had "felt special interest for Day, because he had been excessively sick." He (Mr. Buxton) had no wish to detain the House, but the brief statement he had made was, he thought, quite enough to show that great and unreasonable cruelties had been exercised upon the prisoners in Bathurst Gaol, and he trusted the Secretary for the Colonies would make further inquiry into the case, and would publish any correspondence that bore upon the subject.

Mr. R. N. FOWLER was very glad that notice had been taken of this subject, which, he thought, strongly demanded the attention of the Colonial-office.

Mr. A. JOHNSTONE called attention to the case of a person who was put into a most filthy dungeon in Cape Coast Castle.

Mr. MONSELL hoped the hon. gentleman who had just sat down would give him the name of the person to whom he referred. From some cause or other the officials on the West Coast of Africa were continually quarrelling, and it was difficult to make out the truth from the statements which were sent to this country. Accounts had been received corroborative of those given by the hon. Member, but it appeared that those accounts rested entirely upon an investigation conducted by persons who were the known enemies of Admiral Patey. Owing to the conflicting accounts of these disputes which reached the Colonial-office, it was very difficult to make out which party was in the wrong, and that was the case with respect to the complaint submitted by the hon. Member for Surrey. It was said that Admiral Patey had introduced a system of punishment which was a perfectly proper system under certain circumstances, but which was wrong at Gambia, owing to proper precautions not being taken to reconcile the punishment with the exigencies of the climate. The Colonial-office had referred the matter to the director of convict prisoners, and a despatch had been sent out to the Governor of the West African colonies, but no answer had yet been received. The Colonial-office had received no reply to that letter; the reason probably was the lamentable visitation of Gambia, to which the hon. gentleman had referred, and which was probably unparalleled in the history of our colonies. As Admiral Patey had performed most humane offices towards the colonists during that visitation, it was most improbable that he could have been guilty of the cruelties which were alleged against him. He could assure the hon. Member for Surrey that the whole subject would be most carefully inquired into. Should it turn out that the statements he had made were correct, of course great blame would have to be laid upon the authorities for permitting such atrocities to be perpetrated. Considering the great difficulties in the way of carrying on the administration of the colonies on the West Coast of Africa, and considering, moreover, that the slave-trade, for the suppression of which they had been founded, had ceased to exist, he thought it would be better if this country abandoned its settlements there. (Hear, hear.) The tendency of things on that coast latterly had certainly been more to barbarise the Europeans than to civilise the natives. (Hear.) The subject then dropped.

AUGUST 3.

THE CONDUCT OF MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS.

Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN rose to call attention to the case of Samuel Thomas v. Horatio James Huggins, Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court at Sierra Leone, a report of which appeared in the *African Times*, June 23, 1869, and generally the conduct of the said Mr. Huggins in his capacity of judge; and to move "That, in the opinion of this House, a court of inquiry should be held at Sierra Leone to investigate the charges against Mr. Horatio James Huggins, the Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, contained in the petition from that settlement sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies." He said that the plaintiff Thomas had been convicted of stealing a coat and trousers, and the defendant Huggins was the judge who tried him. At the trial Thomas was induced to plead guilty, and

he was then condemned to receive 150 lashes with the cat-and-nine-tails, and to undergo a year's imprisonment with the hardest kind of labour during that time. It was generally believed that this sentence was not justified by law, and it certainly was a barbarous punishment. Mr. Justice Huggins had also condemned many other persons to the lash. Thomas brought an action against him for an illegal sentence, and the decision on the trial of the action was that Mr. Justice Huggins was not responsible for any act committed by him in the course of his judicial office. Now there was no appeal from this judgment in Sierra Leone, the only appeal being to the Privy Council or to the Colonial-office. A number of petitions had been sent to the Colonial-office, complaining of the sentences that have been pronounced by Mr. Justice Huggins; but notwithstanding the complaints made, Mr. Huggins was, in 1868, promoted from the office of Assistant Judge to that of Judge. The answer of Mr. Justice Huggins was that his acts were all sanctioned by law, and he referred to an Act of George III. which justified flogging, but it was generally believed that this Act was repealed by one of the present reign, which had been extended to Sierra Leone. Mr. Justice Huggins contended that it was competent for him to judge whether the Act of George III. was repealed or not; but Earl Granville, in a despatch, admitted that there were six of the sentences which he could not justify. The hon. gentleman proceeded to read a number of cases in which Mr. Huggins was alleged to have sentenced persons to punishments beyond the periods prescribed by the law, and quoted the *African Times*, which summed up the excess as twenty-one years' of penal servitude, six years' of hard labour, and 2,200 lashes with the cat-o'-nine-tails. All that the petitioners asked was a full and fair inquiry, in which both sides should be heard; and he hoped that so reasonable a prayer would not be refused by the House or the Colonial-office. The hon. gentleman concluded by proposing his motion.

Mr. R. N. FOWLER, in seconding the motion, said it might be desirable, as many persons believed, that some of these colonies should cease to be connected with the Crown; but as that policy had not yet been adopted, the Imperial Government was bound to investigate all such complaints as that which had just been brought under the notice of the House. He believed it would be only fair for the sake of Judge Huggins himself that the proposed inquiry should take place, because there remained upon his reputation at present a certain amount of suspicion which nothing but such an inquiry could remove.

Mr. MONSELL said his hon. friend the Member for Dudley could not complain that the attention of the Colonial-office had not already been directed to that subject, for they had received three or four petitions with respect to it, and they felt it their duty to give their consideration to each of those petitions. One of them had been received when the Duke of Buckingham had been at the head of the Colonial-office; it had been referred by him to the then Governor of the colony; and the report of the Governor was so favourable to Mr. Huggins that the Duke of Buckingham had promoted him to the position he at present held. It was not desirable that the House should require the Colonial-office to constitute itself into a court of appeal in judicial matters, for such a course could only be calculated to fetter the independence of judges. When complaints of this kind were made, the usual course was to present a petition to the Governor, who was bound to submit it to his Council; and if the judge was considered to be in fault he might be suspended, and his conduct might be brought under the notice of the Colonial Secretary; but in the present case that course had not been followed. The petitioners in this case might, if they pleased, appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the colonial court, and that would in his opinion be the best mode of terminating the controversy. The question of law at issue was whether the Act of 22nd and 23rd of Victoria, chapter 57, was in force in Sierra Leone; if it was not, then the sentences were in accordance with the law, and if it was, then they were not in accordance with the law. But that was a point on which neither that House nor the Colonial-office was competent to decide. If his hon. friend desired that the petition of Mr. Huggins and the remarks made upon it should be laid upon the table of the House, he had no objection to that course, if the documents were moved for, and that would afford the hon. gentleman a fair opportunity of judging of the merits of the question than anything else. All that he (Mr. Monsell) could do was to promise that the question should be submitted to Sir Arthur Kennedy; he would shortly be in this country, and the whole case would then be submitted to him.

Mr. SHERIDAN, in reply, pointed out that Lord Granville had stated that six of the cases were not justified by any law. He (Mr. Sheridan) relied upon that in calling upon the right hon. gentleman to say whether he would institute this inquiry which had been so earnestly asked for.

The motion was then withdrawn.

PORTO NOVO.

The Rev. Mr. Grimmer writes as follows from Lagos relative to Porto Novo:—

"I regret to say that the Porto Novo side of the circuit is still in a confused state, and the King continues to vent his increasing fury upon any innocent victim whom he may please to suspect, or against whom he may have formed any personal dislike. The person upon whom suspicion falls is compelled to submit to an ordeal in a 'fetish water,' surrounded by a dense bush, in which experienced divers are concealed, by whom the accused is either held under water till dead, dragged through the water to the bush, and afterwards sold to the Dahomeans; or, in very exceptional cases, when the King's greed has been sufficiently satisfied by cowries, &c., his bonds are cut, and he is allowed to swim out and escape, a confirmed believer in the existence and wisdom of the 'great water god' so much dreaded by the people; the sounding of a horn notifying to the divers what the fate of the person being brought is to be. The King's malice against the Christians has not at all subsided, and the way at present seems as firmly closed as ever against Mr. Marshall's return. The British subjects living in the place continue to have service at our chapel, and the school is still kept open; but the native Christians are all banished either to Badagry or to Lagos. The King is still at war with Waina, a town between Porto Novo and Abomey."—*Westleyan Missionary Notices*.

WONDERFUL MEMORY OF THE AFRICAN RACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Palmas, Liberia, May 9, 1869.

Sir,—Mrs. Rose Nelson, aged ninety years, came out with her son, the late Mr. Isaac Knox, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, from Charleston, South Carolina, America, to this country in August, 1867. She states to me that she was born in the Soomblah country (the Soosoo tribes), which is near Sierra Leone. She was stolen away from her home about the age of fifteen years, and though she had been in America seventy-five years, yet she can speak some of her language; she remembers the name of her mother, which was Coombah, and also the names of her aunt and brothers; she gave an account of the marriage of her aunt, which is just the same manner in which the Soosoo now marry. I complimented her in the Soosoo language, and she replied. Her granddaughter relates that on her arrival here she assured them that this was not her country, and regretted very much that she was disappointed, as she was under the impression she was going to the Soomblah country, where she was taken from. She states that in her country there were plenty of cows, milk in abundance, and butter was made, though she said it was not coloured; plenty of oranges, rice, fowls, sheep, honey, &c. Mandingo bread and foerah are made in her country, and to these I bear evidence, as I am from Sierra Leone. It is indeed surprising that a person having been taken away from her home when a girl about the age of fifteen years, and having been away about seventy-five years, should have such distinct recollection of the country of her infancy.—Yours,

A SIERRA LEONIAN.

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE" OF FRIDAY AUGUST 6.

DOWNSING-STREET, AUGUST 5.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint David P. Chalmers, Esq., to be magistrate for the Gold Coast Settlement on the Western Coast of Africa, and Assessor to the Native Chiefs within the protected territories near or adjacent to the said settlement.

We understand that the Rev. D. Smith has been appointed to be Colonial Chaplain at Cape Coast Castle, vice Blake retired.

DIAMONDS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—By the last mail from the Cape of Good Hope it is stated that "more diamonds have been discovered, one reported to be worth 80,000*l.*"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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