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The African Times.

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

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

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

VOL. X.—No. 118.]

LONDON, MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1871.

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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 Traders; and, as time is very important to small capitalists, return goods will be sent off in all cases without any delay beyond such as may sometimes be caused by manufacturers.

All letters and bills of lading, whether the shipments be to or from London or Liverpool, to be addressed
F. FITZGERALD, Esq.,
121, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

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

MAY, 1871.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The Steamers of this Company will henceforward be despatched from Liverpool on the 6th and 18th of each Month.

The Steamship LIBERIA, Captain FREXER, is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on the 29th APRIL, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th MAY, at 11.30 A.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar; also to any other intermediate Port to which inducement may offer. GOODS will be received in GLASGOW up to 6 P.M. on the 28th APRIL, and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 on the 5th MAY. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from the Prince's Landing Stage at 11.30 A.M. on the day of sailing.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship BONNY, Captain GRIFFITHS, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th MAY, at 9 A.M., for Madeira, Teneriffe, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar; also, to any other intermediate Port to which inducement may offer. GOODS will be received in LIVERPOOL up to 6 P.M. on the 17th. Passengers will embark at 8.30 A.M. on the day of sailing.

Goods for Sierra Leone will be landed there at Ship's expense, but Shipper's risk. All Goods while on board the Company's hulk at Bonny, to be at Shipper's or Consignee's risk.

Bills of Lading of the Company's Form can be obtained from THOMAS MURRAY and SON, 91, Buchanan-street, Glasgow; and D. MARPLES, 50B, Lord-street, Liverpool.

All letters must pass through the Post-office.
For further information apply in London to Messrs. MALCOLM, HUDSON, Co., 5, Crossley-square; in Glasgow to TAYLOR, LAUGHLAND, and Co., 24, Oswald-street; and in Liverpool, to BLDER, DEMPSTER, and Co., 2, Brunswick-street.

WEST COAST MAILS.

ARRIVALS.

African Steamship Company's Calabar, with monthly mails,
April 3.
African Steamship Company's Athenian, April 12.
British and African Steam Navigation Company's Liberia,
April 14.

DEPARTURES.

A.S.S. Co.'s Biafra with the monthly mail, March 24.
B. and A.S.N. Co.'s Roquette, April 6.
A.S.S. Co.'s Benin, April 12.
B. and A.S.N. Co.'s Congo, April 18.
A.S.S. Co.'s Mandingo, will take out the monthly mail
April 24.

THE GAMBIA SETTLEMENT OR COLONY.

Comparative Statement of the Estimated and Actual Expenditure during the year 1869, showing the excess of amount expended under each Head of Service.

HEADS OF SERVICE.	AMOUNT ESTIMATED.		AMOUNT EXPENDED.		EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE.		REMARKS.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Establishments—Salaries Fixed	9,003	14 6	9,962	1 11	—	—	
Salaries Provisional	145	13 0	102	11 3	—	—	
Allowances	388	7 6	367	1 3	—	—	
Office Contingencies	182	0 0	390	3 9	208	3 9	Stationery, &c., paid for by the Crown agents.
Pensions, Retired Allowances, &c.	2,156	1 6	1,141	6 4	75	3 6	More repairs done to the Customs boat and pilot schooner.
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishment	167	0 0	242	3 9	—	—	
Administration of Justice, exclusive of Establishment	176	0 0	152	3 9	—	—	
Charitable Allowances	160	0 0	136	3 6	—	—	
Education, exclusive of Establishment	300	0 0	210	16 1	—	—	
Hospitals, exclusive of Establishment	496	0 0	809	19 11	313	19 11	Medicines and sundries were paid for by the Crown agents.
Police and Gaols, exclusive of Establishment	635	0 0	431	7 7	—	—	
Rent	100	0 0	58	17 5	—	—	
Transport	100	0 0	317	9 0	217	9 0	Owing to the removal and changes of public officers.
Conveyance of Mails	—	—	4,130	7 4	484	7 4	Materials purchased and paid for by the Crown agents.
Works and Buildings	3,055	0 0	468	12 7	—	—	
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	836	10 0	216	9 10	—	—	
Miscellaneous Services	377	0 0	113	2 10	—	—	
Government Vessels, exclusive of Establishment	100	0 0	288	18 0	13	2 10	The excess is caused by a wire rope purchased and paid for by the Crown agents.
Aborigines	435	0 0	233	4 3	—	—	
Drawbacks and Refund of Duties	315	0 0	1,374	10 10	1,374	10 10	Owing to an outbreak of cholera epidemic.
Special Services	—	—	20,236	16 11	2,686	17 2	
	20,377	6 6	20,377	6 6	—	—	

Copy of Letter in which the above was enclosed to Earl Kimberley.
Apsley House, Bathurst, Gambia.
March 3, 1871.

My Lord,—In my letter of the 23rd November last to your lordship I called attention to the very defective system of audit of the local accounts, which affords no sufficient check against administrators spending large sums of money in excess of the annual estimates on their own authority, without the sanction, and, in many instances, without the knowledge of the Council.

In proof of this I brought under your lordship's notice the fact that for the first seven months of the year 1870 there had been an excess of expenditure over the estimates of 1,630l. 13s. 7d., and a further vote to pay off liabilities and carry on work commenced of 1,622l. 11s. 10d. was necessary.

I have now to bring under your lordship's notice another mode which appears to prevail of covering excess of expenditure under different heads, and yet to make it appear that the total amount of expenditure has not exceeded the total amount upon the estimates.

I enclose copy of an account furnished to the Council here on my motion. It is in three columns; the first is the amount estimated, giving a total of 20,377l. 6s. 6d.; the second column gives a total of 20,236l. 16s. 11d. expenditure, by which there appears a small saving; whilst the third column gives an excess of expenditure, under seven different heads, of 2,686l. 17s. 2d. For this large sum no supplementary estimate has been sub-

mitted to the Council, it may be on account of the small saving on the face of the account; but, my lord, how is this apparent saving arrived at? By the simple mode of transferring the whole of the salaries for the month and the accounts due and owing for the quarter ending the 31st December, 1869 (amounting to 1,382l. 3s. 2d.), to the first quarter in 1870, so that the last year has the burthen of the accounts of five instead of four quarters.

Looking at the items of excess, I find under "office contingencies," for which 182l. was voted, the expenditure is 390l. 3s. 9d., giving an excess of 208l. 3s. 9d. Office contingencies means stationery. Is it right that so large an expenditure under this head should be really requisite for so small a colony? Under good management I submit 100l. should be ample for such purpose.

Under the head of "hospital" I find 496l. voted, whilst 809l. 19s. 11d. was expended, giving an excess of 313l. 19s. 11d. The explanation is that medicines and sundries were paid for by the Crown agents. I entirely fail to see why these items, if necessary, should not have been included in the estimates.

The next important item is "works and buildings," which, in truth, means Government House. The vote was 3,655l.; the amount expended was 4,130l. 7s. 4d., giving an excess of 484l. 7s. 4d.; and, lastly, there is the convenient heading, "Special Services," 1,374l. 10s. 10d. The note appended to it in explanation is, owing to an outbreak of cholera epidemic. This last item reminds me forcibly of the way in which our native traders in the river clear up all outstanding balances against them under the head of "fire."

What, my lord, I respectfully ask, is the use of the Auditor-General at Sierra Leone if such large sums of unauthorised expenditure are allowed to pass unquestioned by him; and what is the supervision of a Governor-in-Chief worth when such proceedings pass unnoticed? Similar irregularities did not and could not occur when the accounts were audited in England, and all excesses brought under the notice of the Colonial-office.

This system of local audit on the Coast affords great immunity to administrators and governors for expenditure which the Audit-office in England never afforded them, and therefore it is convenient to uphold the system.

It must be borne in mind that the Auditor-General is an officer under the immediate control of the Governor-in-Chief, and it is not fair to expect that he can act as independently in auditing the accounts as the Audit-office at home, who owe no homage to administrators or governors-in-chief on the Coast, and can therefore fearlessly discharge their duties.

I consider I have done my duty in bringing this state of things officially under your lordship's notice and it rests with you, my lord, to apply the remedy to this crying evil.

With much respect, I have the honour to be, my lord, your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS BROWN.

To the Right Hon. Earl Kimberley,
Her Majesty's Principal
Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c.

OPPRESSION—THE CASE OF POOR BRUCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, March 12, 1871.

Sir,—It is not often I write in newspapers, and I really don't like to trouble editors unless I have something of importance to communicate. But, Sir, so much irregularity and oppression are being carried on under the administration of Colonel Anton that it is high time that such things should be exposed. I shall mention to you the case of poor Bruce the pilot, now about sixty-eight years of age. Bruce has been in the service of the Colonial Government for the last thirty-two years, and his tenure of service was abruptly put an end to two months since by Captain Cooper, of Lagos notoriety, and Colonel Anton. Bruce was ordered by Captain Cooper, as Collector of Customs, to perform some work, and, being unable to do it, not having the materials, he so informed the Collector, who, in his accustomed excited manner, swore at him and ordered him to do it, using indecent language a little too high flown to be written here. Bruce could not procure the materials, as they were not obtainable, and if even obtainable he could not make any purchase for the Colonial Government, not being an authorised agent. Of course the work was not done, and the next thing which happened was that Bruce was dismissed and part of his salary stopped. Whether this money was placed in the colonial chest or not Bruce did not stop to inquire, but saw the Acting Administrator in person and told him of the Collector's treatment. Out of the frying-pan he jumped into the fire, for this soldier-Administrator of West Indian celebrity drove him away. Our present Acting Administrator, who formerly seems to have made a good impression here, is—I say it without fear of contradiction—one

of the most crude and uncourteous acting administrators that ever has dangled about in our Government-house. Refinement and civility are not now in his vocabulary. The only two men who can eat his incivilities are two toadies, of whom one is here now, the other has left. Well, Bruce afterwards was advised to send in a petition for a pension for long services, and he did so. The petition stated that he was first employed by the Government during the early part of the year 1839, and had continued in service until his dismissal by Mr. Collector Cooper; that he was sixty-eight years of age, and was at present in needy circumstances. After the lapse of several days, Bruce received an answer stating that he was discharged, and a pension was out of the question. Bruce sent another petition, addressed to the Legislative Council, and a letter to the Administrator, asking him to bring forward his petition before the Council. This Colonel Anton refused to do, and only laid the petition on the table. On further advice, Bruce sent a letter asking for a Board of Enquiry into the alleged charge of insubordination, which the Administrator also refused. Being struck with such a palpable injustice, Bruce applied to a professional man, who himself took a letter, with the enclosures of the correspondence in the matter, to the Administrator, to be forwarded to Sir Arthur Kennedy. As soon as the name of Sir Arthur was mentioned, the Administrator entirely lost his temper, jumped up, and abruptly said, "I shan't do anything of the kind." Mr. Fowler, with his accustomed courtesy and good manners, after the Administrator had left the room, said, "Please leave these documents, for they must be sent to Sir Arthur Kennedy." I don't know yet whether Mr. Fowler has succeeded in showing the Administrator his proper duty in this respect, but I think that Mr. Bruce will still endeavour to get the documents into the hands of Sir Arthur, where it is to be hoped he may then expect to receive adequate justice. Poor Bruce, who has worked for the Colonial Government for thirty-two years, is now in destitute circumstances, and is kept out of his pension on the ground of economy; and yet this very Administrator draws horse allowances when he himself keeps no horses! How much more deserving it would be to save unfortunate Bruce from starvation than that the public money should be squandered away for imaginary allowances! I shall conclude for the present; I am watching the course of events, and you may hear again from me shortly.—I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,
A CAZOLE.

MURDER BY SHOT DRILL AGAIN.

Cape Coast, Feb. 20, 1871.

The following circumstance has created a painful feeling in Cape Coast: A convict prisoner recently absconded from gaol and was recaptured. He was then flogged as a punishment for having run away, and whilst still suffering very severely from the effects of the flogging, he was put to shot drill, during which he fainted. He was carried to hospital, and there died in a shocking manner. An inquest was held on the body, and it came out in evidence that the manner in which it has been customary to carry on prison discipline is extremely reprehensible, seeming to savour strongly of inhuman cruelty. Dr. Jones, the Colonial Surgeon, who is the Inspector of Prisons, has been suspended, as also a turnkey named Elliott, pending further inquiry into their conduct as connected with the death of the poor creature who died in the hospital under the circumstances we have related. Painful rumours are afloat as to occurrences said to have taken place inside Cape Coast gaol from time to time, and we do hope his Excellency will take prompt and efficient measures for establishing a better system of prison discipline than that which at present exists. Hitherto, far too much power, irresponsible power, has been committed to the hands of heartless inspectors and brutal gaolers and turnkeys. The public is waiting with much anxiety to see what the Executive will do in this matter. Will it be hushed up, or will something be done? And, what?—*West African Herald*.

EUROPEAN DELINQUENTS ON THE GOLD COAST.

Within the last six months, from September, 1870, to March, 1871, we have received the following:—

1. A European merchant, occupying a conspicuous position, received goods to a large amount on credit, and was heavily indebted to the Customs Department, and from information received that he was about to skedaddle he was arrested. Under false representation of his affairs two gentlemen, one black, the other a half-caste, became his sureties and got him out of prison. He quietly made his escape from the settlement, and left them in the lurch.

2. A well-known European, once very popular, became official administrator of the estate of a German gentleman. The estate realised several hundred pounds; he misappropriated at least nearly five hundred pounds, was cast into prison, but afterwards compromised the matter.

3. A major, occupying high official position in the Colonial

Government, having large sums of public money in his charge. Defalcation to the extent of 665l. was lately discovered, as well as falsification of the books. He was brought into court and incarcerated for debt to the Colonial Government, but three native gentlemen bailed him out.

4. A doctor, the colonial surgeon, was suspended by the Administrator in consequence of a very grave charge having been preferred against him in connexion with his duties as Inspector of Prison and Colonial Surgeon. He eluded the vigilance of the police, escaped into the Dutch territory of Elmina, and embarked on board the steamship Athenian.

What examples are these to the natives!

A NATIVE.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY MEETING AT CAPE COAST.

The annual meeting was held on the 6th February, his Excellency Administrator Usher in the chair. The report of progress was satisfactory. The number of full members in the Gold Coast districts, including Lagos and Abeokuta, was stated at 2,634; members on trial, 192. There are 1,052 boys and 267 girls in the schools. The amount contributed to the funds of the society in 1870 was 856l. 2s. 8d., which proves that the people take an interest in the work by which they are benefited.

THE DUTCH GOLD COAST SETTLEMENTS AND ASHANTI.

The following from the *West African Herald* confirms what we have been urging for many years past on the consideration of the British Government: "Our firm belief is that the kingdom of Ashanti is doomed to destruction—a destruction to be speedily accomplished too. It is the connexion with the Dutch settlement of Elmina that has kept the Ashantee power up so long; for that connexion has given the Ashantee King importance in the eyes of surrounding native states. Now that it has become known that the English are to have Elmina and all other Dutch forts on this coast, and that the Dutch are going away, the Ashantee name has fallen very much in the estimation of the neighbouring communities. The King of Ashanti will no longer have it in his power to boast that some white men are his allies. He will no longer be able to make a grand show of sending a large body of men down to the seaside every year to carry up from Elmina the merchandise that the Dutch have been accustomed to give him as an annual tribute, or present, or black-mail, or bribe for selling them slaves to be shipped off to Java as soldiers! God-a-mercy!"

ASHANTI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

A meeting of Ashanti ambassadors was held at Palaver Hall, Cape Coast Castle, on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1871. Present: His Excellency H. T. Usher, Esq., Administrator; Major Reece, 2nd West India Regiment, and officers of the garrison, the colonial staff, the merchants, native chiefs, head men, &c., of Cape Coast.

At two o'clock Prince Anshah and the other plenipotentiaries of Ashanti entered the castle gate, and a salute of seven guns was fired from the battery and a guard of honour awaited him. The palaver hall was decorated with flags and green leaves; chairs and forms were conveniently placed. The Administrator sat on a large armchair in front of a large table placed at the top of the hall; on his right were Major Reece, commanding the troops, and officers of the garrison, and colonial staff, on his left the colonial secretary or collector of customs and merchants. In front on the right were the chiefs and caboceros of Cape Coast, and on the left Prince Anshah, Mr. Watts, and the Ashantee ambassadors; at the back were the people of Cape Coast and the prisoners who had been exchanged.

The Administrator opened the meeting by stating that he welcomed the ambassadors, and as they brought a message from their king he was glad to hear what they had to say in public.

The chief ambassador rose and made a long statement in the native tongue, and at the end presented a letter from the King to the Administrator, in which was contained all what he had said. His Majesty commenced by declaring his peaceful intentions to the English Government, and then brought several charges against the Akims and Assins, who formerly were subjects of Ashanti, but now under British protection; the King wished that bygones should be bygones, and that the Governor should not listen to the advice of ill-disposed councillors, as he intended not to do the same; he apologised for not having effected the exchange before this time, as he had several customs to perform, and hoped that on the return of his ambassadors there will be good feelings between the two Governments.

The Administrator expressed his delight at the peaceful tone of the King's letter, and said that he would take time to consider what reply he would give them after consulting with the other members of the Council.

The question now arises, is the King of Ashanti sincere in

the message that he has forwarded, and is he determined on peace? The following facts go very much against it: First, he said not a word about the European prisoners he has in Comassie; secondly, it is said that he is forwarding reinforcements to the army of Oduborfor, or Addoo Boffo, against the Creepees and Agotins; thirdly, rumour is current that he is about to forward a large army to assist Amekie, and place him again on the throne of Appolonia; fourthly, in the letter of the King there is nothing definite about peace negotiation. But the King of Ashanti may be determined on peace—first, because his kingdom is nearly exhausted, through the continuance of war, from the great difficulty he has of receiving supplies from the coast; secondly, because Jelly Coffee has declared against him, and has closed its port against the army of Ashanti now in Creepi and Agotim; thirdly, because he has lost a great many of the best blood of Ashanti in this continual warfare, which has greatly reduced the male population of the country; fourthly, because there is a general cry for peace among his population, which must be heard; and last, but by no means the least, because his principal chiefs are becoming very rebellious, refusing to pay the accustomed tax and to obey the orders to repair to the capital.

A CORRESPONDENT.

HORRIBLE AND DANGEROUS STATE OF CAPE COAST AFTER FORTY YEARS OF BRITISH RULE.

We have already endeavoured to direct the notice of the authorities to the abominable condition of the streets, lanes, and gutters of this town. We have no desire to trumpet up grievances, nor is it our wish to be for ever harping upon the same theme. But, in the interests of the entire public, we must again entreat those who have power to make some effort towards compelling people to deposit their dirt in some other places than the public thoroughfares. There is not the slightest exaggeration in saying that, for some time past, the town of Cape Coast, the head-quarters of Her Majesty's forts and settlements on the Gold Coast, has been *one vast dunghill*. We are all being actually poisoned by the foul atmosphere we breathe. A few days ago we tried to walk on the Anamaboc-road, but found it impossible to do so with safety to health; for upon that road, and within the precincts of this town, it would have been necessary to wade through thirty yards of sheer dung and minor garbage. An attempt has since been made to clean a part of this horrible and deadly accumulation, but not much good has been done. In various places in the very centre of Cape Coast, large masses of the most offensive matter render it really dangerous to pass by.

The health of the town is very bad in consequence of all this, and it is the opinion of experienced persons that we shall have some fatal pestilence before September.

We have written this article at the earnest request of several most respectable persons, native and European; and we have reason to hope that this appeal to his Excellency the Administrator will not have been made in vain.

A few stringent orders to the police would do all that is required, after some public privies have been constructed at proper spots outside the town. We have been told that there is an inspector of nuisances; also that orders have been given to somebody or other, about two months since, to see about taking steps to make arrangements to get some people to undertake to endeavour to persuade some one to speak to the inhabitants about throwing dirt in the streets. This is mere trifling, and while this nonsense is going on *death* is surely stealing onward. It will, it must come at last; the horrible *cholera* sweeping us off as it has done the people of Gambia. When most of the white people are dead, when all day and all night there shall be heard the well-known sound of coffin-making, when we are called upon to follow to the graveyard, at seven in the morning, four out of ten persons with whom we dined last night, then it may, perhaps, occur to the authorities, if there be any left, to give some directions and take some measures to arrest the strides of the awful visitor whom we may shortly expect. If the Government are determined to remain supine in this matter, let them at least provide for the speedy interment of the dead when the expected cholera comes upon us. In the latter part of 1869, when the cholera was expected at Sierra Leone, the Government of that settlement lost no time in making such arrangements as would at any rate lessen the horrors of the possibly impending calamity if it should come. If the streets are to remain as they are, Government ought to employ the convict prisoners in digging pits at proper places outside the town, for the purposes of burial. It would be quite absurd—nay, it would be a sin—to mince matters. How will those who exercise power in this settlement be able to answer to Almighty God if thousands of people should be suddenly swept off the earth, thousands of homes made desolate, simply because these, our lawful rulers, fail to use a little, a very little, exertion in order to save the lives of those entrusted to their charge?

Once for all, if there be shortly a great deal of disease in Cape

Coast, let all these words be remembered. An unusual number of persons are sick already, including several of the troops, who are mostly laid up in hospital from the consequences of breathing an atmosphere tainted with the smell of human excrement.—*West African Herald*.

CANNIBALISM AT NEW CALABAR.

We publish the following extract from the letter of a young townsman, dated February 29, 1871, who witnessed several of the incidents named: "It may not generally be credited that cannibalism is still in existence in some of the oil rivers on the West Coast of Africa; however, such is the fact. On the 22nd February upwards of 400 of the New Calabar nation, with twelve war canoes, armed with cannon of various calibre, opened fire upon the Ecruka country, situated some sixty or seventy miles from the mouth of New Calabar River. This challenge to a pitched battle was not accepted, and King Amachree, not feeling inclined to invade the country, turned his attention to blockading the creeks, so as to intercept any of King Phibia's men who were returning from their fishing-stations. Unfortunately, he was in this manoeuvre too successful, as sixteen men and women fell into his hands. Two or three of this number were immediately murdered, cooked, and eaten in the canoes, in sight of the Ecruka tribe, who were afraid or unable to attempt a rescue. The remaining prisoners were brought to Calabar on the 25th February, and there, after going through the rites and ceremonies usual on such occasions, were killed by hacking off their heads with hatchets. The bodies were then cut up into small portions and distributed to the different houses in the town to be cooked. In addition to the sixteen prisoners already mentioned, eight others were captured, who are supposed to be natives of Bonny, but as the Calabarites are not at war with the Bonny nation, the lives of these have for the present been spared. From the fact of their being captured while in the company of the Ecruka men, they were very naturally supposed to be in league with them. Moreover, one of the men took a solemn oath that the Bonny men were assisting the Ecrukas by lending canoes and supply them with ammunition. It now remains to be seen what Oko Jumbo and the other Bonny chiefs will say. If they deny all knowledge of the eight men, and can convince King Amachree that they are not his enemies, the palaver will be settled, and the men, of course, 'chopped' (eaten). Supposing, on the other hand, they are unable to do this, Oko Jumbo will find it hard work to maintain his present position against the attacks of Ja Ja, of the Opobo River, on the one side, and King Amachree, who will no doubt prove himself a formidable antagonist, on the other."—*Sheffield Telegraph*.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST SCHOOLMASTER AT FERNANDO PO.

Having received very long letters from known individuals at Fernando Po, relative to the Primitive Methodist schoolmaster there, we, in our January number, briefly noticed his alleged dismissal from the school; that he had previously been dismissed by the Baptists at Cameroons; and stated how necessary it was that care should be taken in the selection of schoolmasters, lest the result of their teaching should be evil, and not good. We have now received a long letter from Mr. Wilson, stating that it was he who dismissed himself from the Primitive Methodist employment, and not they who dismissed him; that he did this solely because of disagreement with the Primitive Methodist missionary then in charge, relative to Baptist doctrines; that his leaving Cameroons was at his own request to the Baptist missionaries there, and solely because of some pecuniary difficulties, &c. Although we did not publish any of the allegations against Mr. Wilson in the letter we had received, there was certainly something in our notice of his alleged dismissal which implied serious charges against him, and we therefore feel it to be our duty to give this denial of Mr. Wilson's to the alleged facts which involved the observations we then made. We sincerely hope the school will prosper, and that great good may be effected by the Primitive Methodists in that interesting island.

MR. SAKER ON THE CAMEROONS.

Mr. Saker relates great progress during the twenty-five years he has so assiduously laboured there. "Step by step," he says, "both civilisation and Christianity have been planted, and the severe sufferings of those early years are being repaid in the improved condition of the people, and the spread of the Gospel light."

"I cannot describe to you the condition in which I found this whole people. A book they had not seen; the commonest implements of husbandry, and tools of all kinds, were unknown; household, with all its appliances, were all absent. The hut for dwelling, and its separate shed for working, were objects beautiful to sight, and in their formation showed taste and

ingenuity. Crockery, too, had just been introduced by traders, and bartered for oil. These formed objects for inspection and admiration to those who could not obtain them; they were the possession of the chiefs.

"I brought with me tools to make my own dwelling. These attracted immediate attention, and soon several youths learned to use the saw, the plane, and the adze. The want of tools was felt by numbers, and I gave away much to meet that want. Implements of husbandry, the spade and the hoe, were introduced. Then I taught them to cut the large timber-trees, and supplied the crosscut and the pit-saw, and aided them in sawing, till they could do it alone. I taught them better modes of culture, and planted ground as an example. I introduced seeds from other parts of the coast at a considerable charge, until the country was stocked with the sweet potato. And I had the pleasure of seeing a gradual extension of cultivation, and with much less suffering from want. At our first settlement here, the total produce from the land did not exceed three months' consumption for the year, and there followed months of semi-starvation, and a running to distant places to purchase food at great expense. In the course of years we so improved that in some things there is now a redundancy.

"In teaching these men various handicrafts and husbandry, many wants were created, and, except from me, there was no means of meeting those wants. Hence I had to lend them tools, and nails, hinges, screws, locks, &c., &c., and this lending was, for a long time, no better than giving. In the course of time, and when the people were able to do it, I demanded a payment in produce, and accepted such a price as each was able to render. This also passed away, and now, for a long time past I have (except in needy cases) exacted the full value of tools and other goods supplied; and as we live chiefly by barter, we oft maintain our large family of native children by the use of nails, screws, hinges, &c.

"In all such expenditure you will readily see that mission funds are not available, and the attempt to supply the want was a heavy drain for years; indeed, my circumstances were for years on a level with the natives; our food was nearly the same; but we were clothed, and they were not.

"Recalling thus the past, my heart again utters its glad thanks to those friends who aided me in the heavy expenses of those early years. Never shall I forget the relief I felt when a friend sent me 10*l*. to buy seeds, or in any other way helped me on—in books, too, for those who learned to read and write, and in class and copy-books. I may also safely say that the many reams of note-paper I have consumed in translation, vocabularies, and grammars, friends have supplied the whole.

"Lest I weary you, I will cease this reference to the past. Our great need now is education, and there seem to be expenses before me which I cannot ask the Committee to meet. We shall soon be obliged to raise a building for a higher school, and its various fittings. The salary for teacher and other annual charges will be the mission charge."—From the *Missionary Herald*.

VINDICATION OF TRIAL BY JURY.

In the House of Commons, Mr. O. Morgan and others having ventured to censure the jury for their verdict in the case of Martha Torpey, Mr. M. Chambers, Dr. Ball, and Mr. T. Chambers nobly vindicated trial by jury, as follows:—

Mr. M. Chambers remarked that they forgot themselves when they attacked that admirable tribunal—which was constituted to do justice to the whole country—a British jury. He would not follow his hon. and learned friend in his equity disquisition, because he was not so well acquainted with equity; but he would tell his hon. and learned friend that the presumption of law was that the wife was under the control or dominion of the husband. They were said to be one in Scripture, and the English law was founded on Scripture. He would rather carry out the humane principle that the wife was subject to her husband, and would give her the benefit of it when a great crime was committed in the presence of both man and wife. In his opinion the present law was a good one, and ought not to be abandoned. Unless it could be shown that the wife had free will, that she had a free will of her own, it was to be presumed that she was under the husband's control. With regard to this particular case, were they not going much beyond their tether? They had no right to blame the jury any more than the judge. He recommended the Government not to be too hasty in listening to the soft persuasions of his hon. and learned friend.

Dr. Ball would express no opinion in the particular case of Martha Torpey, because, without a perfect and complete report of it from beginning to end, it would not be fair to do so. It was not on account of that case, but on account of observations made by some of his learned friends, that he had risen, and he confessed the proposal of a change in the law seemed to him to be attended with more difficulty than appeared to be apper-

hended. (Hear.) The relation of husband and wife was so peculiar, it was one so intimate, and implied so much confidence, that he owned he was not prepared to lay down the doctrine that in every case of a criminal act committed by a husband in the presence of his wife she was to be held responsible. It was impossible to avoid, in the case of man and wife, becoming cognisant of the most secret and intimate transactions, and was the wife to become the spy of the husband if she obtained a knowledge of his guilt? (Hear.) They were dealing with a matter of far more importance than the escape of a single criminal. (Hear, hear.) He was not prepared that in cases of petty larceny, for instance, the wife was to be held responsible. (Hear, hear.) It was not because in a single case the jury were wrong in their verdict, that Parliament should alter the law in the absence of any judicial recommendation.

Mr. T. Chambers thought that his hon. and learned friend had not laid the smallest foundation for a change in the law. His case was, that there was a wrong verdict against the right law laid down by the Recorder; and an alteration of the law, therefore, might produce no effect. He believed it was not wise to censure the verdicts of juries, who did not go astray in a larger proportion of cases than other tribunals, and he trusted that the Attorney-General would not trouble himself about the matter, especially as it was a case in which they could afford to wait.

The Attorney-General said no doubt, as a general rule, the House should be careful not to challenge the verdicts of juries.

SIR S. BAKER'S EXPEDITION TO THE NILE.

The following are extracts from a letter from Sir S. Baker to Consul Rogers:—

"Tewfikyea, Dec. 6, 1870.

"The expedition is in complete order, and the first division of eight vessels started on the 1st of this month, followed daily by sections of the flotilla. I bring up the rear on the 9th inst.—in all fifty-nine vessels, 1,000 bayonets, ten pieces of artillery.

"I returned all my sick to Khartoum. The north wind is strong, the river full, and I have no fear of the impediments that were fatal last season—shallows. The dams of vegetation we must cut through, but for that I am well prepared. Out of twenty horses I have lost only one, thanks to great care in stabling and attendance. I regret to say that poor Dr. Gedge is dead. He became suddenly insane in manner and habits, but I had no idea that so frightful a malady was insidiously working within. I forwarded him to Khartoum, but after some weeks, during which he refused nourishment, he withered away and died almost a skeleton, insane to the last. Mr. Higginbotham was in Khartoum when he died. He directed his effects to be sold by auction, and paid the Governor-General the amount, to be handed to the British Consulate upon application. I believe the amount realised was about 100*l*. . . . Our Europeans are all well, although they have more or less suffered during the rains. Thank God, I am always well, and Lady Baker is the strongest of the party."

CHANGE AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE.—Sir Frederick Rogers has resigned the Under-Secretaryship of State for the Colonies, which he has held since 1860. He will be succeeded by Mr. R. G. W. Herbert, now Assistant Under-Secretary, who acted as private secretary to Mr. Gladstone when Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1855, and who, after holding the office of Colonial Secretary in Queensland, was appointed one of the assistant secretaries to the Board of Trade in 1868. The Assistant Under-Secretaryship of State, vacated by Mr. Herbert, will be conferred upon the Hon. Robert Meade, of the Foreign-office, who has for some years acted as private secretary to Lord Granville.

RELIGIOUS EQUALITY IN THE WEST INDIES.—At the opening of the Legislative Council of Barbadoes in January, the Governor expressed approval of proposals for extending ecclesiastical grants in the colony, and stated that they would be in harmony with the policy of Her Majesty's Government for establishing religious equality in the West Indies. On Thursday night Mr. Crum-ewing, M.P., asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether the Governor had correctly described the policy of the Government, and whether it would lay before Parliament any despatch in which such policy was set forth. In reply, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen said: "The Governor of Barbadoes has correctly described the policy of Her Majesty's Government in stating that they wish to establish religious equality in the West Indies. This may be effected either by impartial disendowment or concurrent endowment upon equal terms. The choice of the alternative to be adopted must in every case depend upon the special condition and the feelings of the particular colony with which we are dealing, and Her Majesty's Government will always endeavour to consult as far as possible the wishes of the colonists. There is no objection to the production of papers, if the hon. gentleman thinks it desirable to move for them."

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The African Times.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1871.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S YACHT—SIERRA LEONE ESTIMATES.

We give in another column our small passage of arms with Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, terminating with the honourable Member's graceful reply of April 7 in the *Daily News*, for which we have pleasure in now tendering our acknowledgments. At the same time we add the expression of our sincere regrets that we should have wrongfully charged Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen with looseness of statement in committee, although we never held him answerable for such alleged looseness. We again repeat that in all our strictures on West African affairs we have one only object in view—viz., the present and permanent interests of the West African Settlements. In pursuance of this great object it was our duty to make the remarks of which Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen complained. We had before us only the items of Sierra Leone expenditure as voted. We had published these, in which stands the 5,000*l.* for the colonial steamer (in other words, the Governor-General's yacht), and had animadverted strongly on this and other items in our number of 23rd December last; the usual courtesy extended to the press of sending from the Colonial-office a copy of its Parliamentary blue-book, with the proposed colonial estimates for the year, had not been observed in our case; we had in view grants in those estimates in previous years for the construction of the colonial steamer, and never for one moment supposing that a Government which would not send a gun-boat up the River Gambia on an absolutely necessary three or four days expedition, unless the colony paid for the coals consumed, would show such extraordinary liberality as to allow 5,000*l.* a-year for the totally unnecessary services of this yacht, we naturally, as we think, and not because we omitted the exercise of ordinary intelligence, deemed that the Hon. Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies had been induced in error, and that his statement was of that loose character of which we have had to complain in other years. We have already expressed in our brief letter to the Editor of the *Daily News* that we are happy to find it was not so; and that the Imperial Government is really bearing the charge which we had feared was a new infliction upon the already heavily-plundered revenues of Sierra Leone. And our error has, at least, had the satisfactory result of placing the matter in a right light. The Imperial Government gives this 5,000*l.* a-year, and we sincerely hope it will conduce to the Governor-General's usefulness, health, and enjoyment; but we are now distinctly told that if the cost per annum exceeds the 5,000*l.*, the Colony of Sierra Leone will have to make good the deficiency. Here we stop for the present. In our observations in December last, as well as in those in our March number, we had another object in view as well as that of defending the Sierra Leone revenues. The Colony of the Gambia had been officially and unjustifiably reproached with being a burthen on the Imperial Treasury to the extent of 1,000*l.* a-year; and we desired to secure the ground by our protests in advance, in the event of its being proposed hereafter anew to transfer the Gambia, or any other of the West African Settlements, to a foreign power, because of their money drain on the Imperial Exchequer. We are always looking ahead for good to Africa. The present Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies enjoys, and we believe most justly, the reputation of being a high-minded, honourable, conscientious man; he is not committed to any of those past errors which have disgraced the British name and rule in the West Coast Settlements, and we are therefore "rejoicing in hope"

that as he could not conscientiously defend in the House of Commons such an enormity as that recently committed at Cape Coast Gaol, such an infamous neglect of administrative duty as is shown in the pestilential condition of Cape Coast Town (and other towns are we believe as bad), or such a shameful, arbitrary, and wanton exercise of magisterial authority as the shaving of Maria Susanna's head in the prison at Bathurst, he will apply a stern and sweeping remedy to those great moral blots on English rule; as well as to the financial excesses practised with revenues like those of the Gambia, where every farthing that can be legitimately levied without oppression is required for really necessary objects.

THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE AT THE GAMBIA.

We have received by the last mail from the Gambia a long and well-written letter denouncing that of "A Gambia Creole," which appeared in our January number (so far as it related to Mr. Jackson, the Chief Magistrate). We could not have inserted this letter without a violation of our absolute rule as regards correspondence, seeing that it came to us *anonymously*. We were, however, very much inclined to depart for once from this rule, the letter being a defence of one whose conduct as magistrate had been animadverted upon in our columns, but were finally decided not to do so because we fancy we recognise, in an attempted but cancelled interlineation, the handwriting of the honourable Chief Magistrate himself, whose self-praise, without supporting facts (if this supposition be correct), cannot be considered as entitled to any weight as against the broad allegations of "A Gambia Creole," and the brief statement we gave of proceedings in the case of a man whom, sitting as amateur Coroner, he committed for murder—whom he again, sitting as Police Magistrate, committed for murder—and whom, sitting as Chief Magistrate, the now supreme legal head of the Colony, he finally tried on this very same charge of murder! But there is yet something more. This mail also brings to us documents, the substance of which we shall now proceed to give under the only reasonable heading,

SHAMEFUL OUTRAGE BY A CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

The facts as established in the documents before us are as follows:—

Many of the native people at Bathurst belong to the great Jolloff race. In all business matters these people speak the Jolloff language; the few who speak English at all, speak it but very imperfectly—and as Jolloffs have to be tried or examined as witnesses in the courts of law and justice, there is an interpreter paid by the Colonial Government to attend daily in the Courts, as interpreter for the Jolloff people who are suitors or otherwise in cases before the Court. On the 11th March (Saturday) a young Jolloff woman, one *Maria Susanna*, appeared to give evidence as a witness in a case before T. W. Jackson, Esq., Chief Magistrate, then sitting as Police Magistrate in the Police-court. When called upon by the Court to give evidence, she proceeded to do so in her own language, Jolloff. The interpreter, who began to interpret for her, was stopped by Mr. Jackson, who ordered her to give her evidence in English, which she was unable to do, being on her oath and knowing too little of English to express herself properly; whereupon *Mr. Jackson ordered her to be imprisoned for two days for contempt of Court!* Down goes *Maria Susanna* from the witness stand into the society of sundry convicted persons and felons; she is marched off to the gaol by constables, and delivered over to the custody of Mr. Campbell, the gaoler, who places her in charge of the matron, Elizabeth Gray. This is between one and two o'clock on Saturday, the 11th March. At about half-past five on the same day (as stated by Mr. Higgins, the High Sheriff) down came Mr. Chief and Police Magistrate Jackson to the gaol, and "ordered the matron to shave off all the hair from *Maria Susanna's* head, which order the matron carried out unknown to the gaoler or myself" (the High Sheriff.) Acting under orders thus, as alleged, given directly by Mr. Jackson to her, the matron shaved off all this poor Jolloff witness's hair, she being held against the wall while it was being done, and forced to submit to this

cruelty and indignity, because she was helplessly in the power of the prison authorities! Kept in confinement in the gaol until Monday she was then set at liberty. These facts were laid before the Acting-Administrator, Colonel Anton, by letter, with a demand for redress for the gross outrage thus committed; and the reply is so unsatisfactory, and amounts, according to our view, to such a denial of justice, that we transcribe it as follows:—

Government House, March 15, 1871.

Sir,—I am directed by his Excellency Colonel Anton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, bringing to his notice certain circumstances relative to *Maria Susanna*, who was a prisoner in Bathurst Gaol.

It appears *Maria Susanna* was committed to the gaol by the Chief Magistrate, and if she considers she has been unjustly treated the remedy lies in her own hands.

With regard to the practical irregularity complained of whilst the prisoner was in gaol, his Excellency has made inquiries, but regrets that he has not been able to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

(Signed) HENRY FOWLER, Secretary.

"The remedy lies in her own hands." What remedy, when this magistrate who personally ordered (as alleged) this outrage on the poor Jolloff woman is the sole judge in the court in which alone she could bring an action, and in a settlement where *there is no longer trial by jury* in civil causes, such as action for damages, for assault, &c. *Practical irregularity!* the forcible shaving of all the hair from the head of a woman who had committed no offence, save an imaginary one against the bloated magisterial pride of a man "dressed in a little brief authority," of which we must say this grossly oppressive case shows him to be *practically unworthy!* No satisfactory conclusion! Of course not. And yet surprise is constantly expressed that our journal should contain severe strictures and plain denunciations of men from time to time in authority on the West Coast as administrators and chief magistrates and judges!

We comment no further on these facts here. They are, to our sober thinking, too serious to be treated of as they deserve at the tail of the brief statement here made of them, and we can leave them without fear or doubt to the just appreciation of our readers and of the supreme Colonial authorities at Downing-street, who have so recently evinced their sensitiveness to statements made by us in this journal, a flattering tribute to our general faithfulness and uprightness.

BRITISH OFFICIALS AND PESTILENTIAL FILTH.

A GLANCE at our 112th page will convince the most incredulous that it is not only in the matter of gaol discipline and management that the *extremely efficient and well-selected* officials appointed by the Colonial-office to the West Coast of Africa show an entire absence of that "ordinary intelligence" which Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen so desiderates for a proper comprehension of West African affairs. Any one not accustomed to the contemplation of West Coast enormities would imagine that, putting humanity altogether out of the question, the common instincts of self-preservation would stir up the European officials who are sent out to teach civilisation to the natives to insist upon the adoption and enforcement of those ordinary sanitary regulations which simple decency demands, and which are essential to the preservation of the public health even in temperate, and much more in tropical climates. Yet after forty years and more of British Government authority at Cape Coast, the state of the little town and neighbourhood is such as described. In the presence of so offensive, disgusting, and dangerous a state of affairs, are we not justified in becoming disturbers of official tranquillity? It is no doubt the *summum bonum* of official life to get as much pay, as many perquisites and indulgences, as much consideration and homage, and do as little work as possible; and it is perhaps an excess of impertinence to criticise the conduct of the favoured mortals sent of course expressly into the world to work out so delicious a destiny. But as a common every-day labourer in the vast field of humanity and progress, we have no sympathy with men who are content to enjoy their mistresses and drink their brandy and champagne upon a dunghheap, provided they may occupy the highest position of the stinking

mass. For after all, if this description be correct, as we know that it is, what are Government House or any other official abodes in the town of Cape Coast but the most elevated sites on a dangerous and offensive dunghheap? The only man in office, so far as we remember, who ever made the slightest move toward doing anything for the purification of the streets and roads of Cape Coast Town was that blundering and arbitrary soldier Governor, Colonel Conran, whose one idea of governing was to bring every individual in the community under the provisions of the Mutiny Act. Our columns teemed years ago, before Colonel Conran's time, with denunciations of the public filth and indecency of Cape Coast Town, and of the British officials in power who made no effort to apply a remedy. And now of course, with the increase of population, things have gone from bad to worse. Shame and disgrace and infamy be upon successive governors and administrators, colonial surgeons and principal medical officers, who have attended only to their own selfish aims and enjoyments in the presence of the ever-augmenting abomination. We write with warmth; we have lately lost there a dear and cherished friend, who fell a victim to the pestilential atmosphere, and who, it may be, if governors and administrators had done their duty and made Cape Coast Town what it ought to be as a seat of British authority, might have been spared for yet many years of usefulness in the noble work to which she had dedicated the remainder of her existence. She had, it is true, mental anxieties, and a not over vigorous frame, but it was the pestilential fever atmosphere of a tropical town full of all stinking abominations that killed her. And there is no excuse. There have now for a long time been abundant funds in the colonial chest—the British Administrator lives in the town—a governor-general goes, or ought to go, there occasionally—there is always one principal medical officer (army surgeon) as well as a colonial surgeon—there is (it is now some nine months or more since he was sent out) a Government civil engineer—and yet it seems that nothing effective has been attempted, and Cape Coast Town and its adjacent roads are one vast public privy and dunghill, upon which, as the Editor of the *West African Herald* justly observes, a general annihilating pestilence may, and most likely will, suddenly swoop down to carry off its thousands of victims. People who do not know what may be done by officials on the West Coast of Africa will perhaps say, "Oh, things cannot be so bad as that; the Administrator, &c., would certainly take care of himself, and he must incur the same danger there now as others." This is a great mistake. Let pestilence swoop down, as is but too reasonably anticipated, and the occupant of Government House, as well as other principal officials, would find no difficulty in obtaining leave of absence on urgent medical grounds. We can see no remedy, no efficient remedy, but a change, and a sweeping one, in the whole official system at Cape Coast. With continually augmenting revenues, soon we hope and believe to be doubled or trebled, no sanitary measures are adopted, no roads are planned, much less commenced; men may be flogged in gaol almost to the verge of death, and then sent to shot-drill to close their mouths for ever, and the Colonial-office sits still and looks on with contented self-complacency and admiration, and will, we fear, continue to look on, until the indignant thunderings of an outraged humanity shall make themselves heard from the mouth of some new Brougham amid the plaudits of an electrified House of Commons. Would to God that he may soon appear upon the colonially apathetic pool of the Imperial Legislature and impart a healing power to its waters!

MURDER BY FLOGGING AND SHOT DRILL AT CAPE COAST.

THOSE of our subscribers in both Houses of the Imperial Legislature who can find time, amid the engrossing pursuits of everyday public and private life at home, to read the two extracts we give to-day respecting the death of a man by flogging and shot drill, from the *West African Herald* (a local paper published at Cape Coast), will, we think, be as legislators amply repaid. We rejoice especially that the dreadful and disgusting facts revealed in

them have not only been forwarded to us direct by some of our own correspondents, but have been thus published at the seat of British authority there, because but for this some Member of the House of Commons might again have been asked by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies to "put a question," and we might have again heard "that the exercise by us of a little ordinary intelligence would have enabled us and any one to perceive that such facts could not have occurred, such a state of things could not exist in a British Settlement, even on the West Coast of Africa." What we have heard from time to time of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen has led us to entertain a high opinion of his character and abilities, and we may therefore be allowed at the very commencement of our observations on these revolting and disgraceful facts to express the hope that he will "exercise, as regards them, a little ordinary intelligence:" descend altogether from official stilts and from the clouds of Colonial-office obstinacy and indifference, and grapple with them, damping and distressing as they are, in a spirit of energy and determination that the name and rule of Great Britain shall not be thus disgraced with impunity in a British settlement. It is not a new thing for us to have to expose the illegal and atrocious barbarities of Gold Coast gaols within the British Protectorate. We have waged war with these abominations during many long years, sometimes with good results. But, alas, the Hydra has so many heads, that though one be cut off the deadly wound is healed at once by Colonial-office stypities and indifference, and the battle has to be begun anew. Of course we have been always wrong in official quarters—of course we have never exercised that "little ordinary intelligence" which should have convinced us that things were not that were. We do not complain of this; it is the usual fate of reformers of abuses, and we are as ready to encounter it again as we were when first we published the indignant denunciations by Finlason of the disgusting state of the prisons at Cape Coast and the infamous cruelties practised therein, when Mr. Richard Pine, lately rewarded with a pension, was Governor, and Mr. Michael Doorley his Inspector of Prisons; and as we were in our crusade in the cause of outraged humanity against Admiral Patey's shot-drill practice in Bathurst Gaol. But it is natural we should ask ourselves, when is there to be a permanent change for the better? when is illegality and cruelty to be put an end to in those British West African Settlements? We answer, instructed by the Past, Never, until the Colonial-office shows sufficient sense of what is due to the British name, as to punish swiftly and severely those who commit and permit them. When Mr. Finlason denounced the Cape Coast prisons, things were allowed to be made quite right for Mr. Pine and Mr. Doorley; when we rescued Finlason and the Bannermans from the official clutches in which they were on the point of perishing, especially the former, Mr. Parker was promoted to St. Helena, and Mr. Ussher, after a lengthy stay in England, was allowed to resume his administration; when we showed how Mr. Acting Chief Justice Huggins, at Sierra Leone, had violated law and humanity in his criminal sentences (many of which the Colonial-office has since been compelled to admit were illegal), he was made a permanent Judge of the Supreme Court, and still remains there; when we exposed the shameful shot-drill practices in Bathurst Gaol, and Admiral Patey could no longer be kept at the Gambia, he, too, was promoted to St. Helena. What compensation has Mr. Lovell ever obtained for his incarceration in the filthy cells at Cape Coast, or what rebuke was ever administered to the unjust officials and the complacent magistrate by whom the outrage was perpetrated? None! Is it any wonder, then, that we have continually to begin our work anew? We are not surprised at it, although we do own to occasional discouragement in this task of continually rolling the stone up the hill, with but little, if any, assistance from those who will be most benefited by our success. But we have faith in the ultimate triumph of good and truth, and our shoulder or our hands are to the stone again. This new case is even worse than the old Bathurst one. Here it is in a few words: "A convict prisoner recently absconded from

gaol and was recaptured. He was then flogged as a punishment for having run away, and while still suffering very severely from the effects of the flogging, he was put to shot-drill, during which he fainted. He was carried to the hospital, and there died in a shocking manner. An inquest was held, and it came out in evidence that the manner in which it has been customary to carry on prison discipline is extremely reprehensible, seeming to savour strongly of inhuman cruelty. Hitherto far too much power, irresponsible power, has been committed to the hands of heartless inspectors and brutish gaolers and turnkeys, &c., &c."

The most disgraceful thing is that there is nothing new in this. We have exposed it over and over again—at the time of Finlason's denunciations—at the time of Finlason's cruel incarceration—in the case of the poor unfortunate sea captain, done to death in Accra Prison, the whole of the evidence taken at the inquest on whom we published. And who was punished for any one of these atrocities? Ask Pine, Doorley, Ussher, Parker, and the Staff Surgeon who, in the case of the poor sea captain, was at one and the same time Civil Commandant, Committing Magistrate, Inspector of Prisons, and Surgeon of the Gaol! Nobody of course—nobody was ever punished; and that is why these atrocities are ever cropping up anew. The statement from which we have quoted says: "Dr. Jones, the Inspector of Prisons, and Elliott, a turnkey, have been suspended pending inquiry." But if we may judge by the past, which we have briefly alluded to above, Dr. Jones and Elliott, the turnkey, and especially the former, who has been hitherto a fortunate and most favoured mortal at the Gold Coast, need not be greatly alarmed. They certainly need not have been at all alarmed if the matter had not come under our notice; and as we have above shown, we have but scant reason to expect much fruit from our labour, seeing that the poor wretch who was flogged and shot-drilled has committed the additional offence of dying in a shocking manner, with the express purpose, no doubt, of trying to get respectable officials into trouble. It is true that one of our correspondents tells us that the poor wretch was sent to shot drill immediately after his severe flogging, but we can scarcely believe this, seeing that Dr. Jones is not only Inspector of Prisons, but Colonial Surgeon also—must therefore, we suppose, have been present at the flogging, which was clearly one of no common severity; and being a surgeon must have seen that the lacerated culprit's proper place was the hospital—the hospital until he should have quite recovered, and shot drill after, and not before he had so recovered. We therefore cannot believe this, and must wait until we get the evidence taken at the inquest. Shall we, however, ever get that evidence? We doubt it; we doubt there being any one at Cape Coast who dare to be known to send it to us. The authorities at Cape Coast will perceive by this that we are not at all unaware of the reign of terror that has set in so far as regards the forwarding of disagreeable information to the *African Times*. We are not surprised at it. Where the authority is despotic and irresponsible—and we have proved by preceding details that it is both the one and the other at Cape Coast, practically, if not nominally—where the subjects have had the former experience, the bitter and almost fatal experience of Finlason before their eyes, we cannot be surprised that public virtue dies beneath the frown of authority. Have we not heard by the very last mail of a most worthy man having been removed from the Commission of the Peace simply because he was a known and proved friend to the *African Times*? We may be pardoned therefore if we have no confidence in justice being done at Cape Coast in the matter of this murdered man—for surely a man is murdered when he is thus put to death—and if we press it as we now do upon the consideration of Members of the Imperial Parliament. We say—and we think every unprejudiced man among them will say so too, whatever the Colonial-office may choose to think—that if facts are as alleged in the paragraph we have copied from the Cape Coast paper, the chief administrative authority at Cape Coast cannot be exonerated from blame. Cape Coast Town is so small a place that the Administrator

living therein as he does, ought to be so cognisant of the state and discipline of the prison that if "inhuman cruelty" has been practised in the gaol, respecting which the Editor of the *West African Herald* says "painful rumours are afloat of occurrences said to have taken place inside Cape Coast Gaol from time to time," he also ought to be held responsible in the matter. Hitherto nobody, as we have shown, seems to have been held responsible in any one of the very serious cases we have alluded to. We can only hope that the cruel death of this poor wretch will lead to a new state of things, under which responsibility will be made to fall heavily upon those who ought to have prevented, as well as upon those who have committed such enormities.

ANOTHER OFFICIAL JEWEL FOR ST. HELENA.

Moved by what impulse we know not, but acting no doubt upon information of some sort, as probably that there is a vacancy at St. Helena, to which place Administrator and Admiral Patey, his glorious predecessor in shot-drill practice, and Mr. Chief Magistrate Parker, of Finlason and other notoriety, were honourably sent by an admiring Colonial-office when their official virtues became too conspicuous for the West Coast of Africa, the Colonial Surgeon and Inspector of Prisons and Nuisances is reported to have suddenly disappeared from Cape Coast. Our informant says "that he 'eluded the vigilance of the police, escaped into Dutch territory, and embarked at St. George d'Elmina, in the steamship Athenian for England.'" This steamer reached Liverpool on the 12th instant, and we feel it to be our duty to give this public notice of the arrival of so meritorious a public servant in this country, in order that the authorities in Downing-street may lose no time in conferring upon him that distinction to which they must feel him to be most fully entitled. We suppose that by his vigorous strategical movement on Elmina just in time to catch the homeward-bound steamer, he will have arrived here before the evidence taken at the coroner's inquest held on the poor victim of lash and shot-drill; and it is, therefore, with pleasure that we notify his advent to those whom it may officially concern. It is not for us to point out what honours Dr. Jones should receive, because we might even be tempted to go so far as to suggest the impracticable one of applying the "lex talionis" in his case. As to Dr. Jones "having eluded the vigilance of the police" we do not believe one word of it. "Hawks will not pluck out hawks' een," however angrily they may seem to flutter about one another under certain irritating circumstances. Until we see some official action quite convincing to the contrary, we shall remain of opinion that Dr. Jones conceived, not unreasonably, that he had now, with the death of that flogged and shot-drilled wretch, fully qualified for the highest order of St. Helena honours, and hastened his return home without the formalities of leaving-taking, that he might be gazetted accordingly.

MR. JOHN HAMPDEN'S ADVERTISEMENT.

The world not a globe?—not turning round its own centre at the rate of a thousand miles an hour?—not dashing through space at the rate of a thousand miles a minute?—the sun and all the stars at conceivable instead of inconceivable distances?—the sun and other heavenly bodies travelling round and over the earth, instead of the earth and those bodies travelling round the sun? This, and nothing less than this, is implied in John Hampden's advertisement, which we insert to-day, where he asks for proof of there being a continuous rise or fall on the earth's surface of eight inches per mile, multiplied by the square of the distance. Now there must be this if the earth is a globe; and as it must be so, surely it cannot be difficult to find an indisputable proof that it is so. There is a great scandal somewhere that ought to be got rid of, and it ought not to cost much to do it. We have not personally much scientific knowledge, and do not know how to set about it; but we cannot suppose that the immortal Newton and the

* See Page 111, paragraph 4, of "European Delinquents on the Gold Coast."

members of all the learned societies who teach this grand system, in the belief of which we have been brought up, have left so inevitable a fact without a clear demonstration; though we do not remember to have seen it. We live in an age when no belief whatever seems to be respected. It is only the other day we learned for the first time that, according to Darwin, all our previous belief as to the origin of our species has been a delusion, and that some myriads of ages ago the germ of this great noble human race, as we thought it, was only a little almost formless thing in the seashore mud, called a "Proto-plasm." Now of this we say simply that we do not believe it; it is in the very nature of things incapable of proof, and so we leave it as we found it. But this of the world being something like an orange 25,000 miles round, and travelling with such majestic haste year by year upon its axis, and round the sun and with the sun, this must be capable of proof by ocular demonstration that there is a continuous rise and fall on the earth's surface of eight inches per mile, multiplied by the square of the distance, which undoubtedly there must be if it be a globe; and so Mr. John Hampden be set at rest. We shall be glad to lend our assistance in any way we can for the full demonstration of undeniable truth. If it be only a little money that is wanting surely some of our wealthy scientific men will come forward to clear the memory of Newton from the aspersions cast upon it. Of course we do not forget that Rome has always persistently ignored the Newtonian system, but we at least have never been taught to regard the Roman Pontiff as infallible.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

THE German troops still hold St. Denis and other positions north of, and immediate to, Paris, while daily combats take place on the south side between the troops of the Versailles Government and those of the Commune of Paris. There has been great loss of life on both sides. M. Thiers has rejected such terms of reconciliation as the Commune have put forward; and his dispatches to the Prefects throughout France state that in a few days he will have 150,000 men, under Marshal McMahon, ready to take Paris by assault. It seems as if great horrors are impending, in which Paris must be greatly injured.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 27, 1871.

SESSION OF DUTCH TERRITORY TO ENGLAND.

In reply to Mr. Magniac, Viscount Enfield said that a convention had been signed for the cession of Dutch possessions on the Coast of Guinea, but it had not yet been ratified by the Dutch Chambers. The cost of the stores and materials to be transferred would not be defrayed from the Imperial Treasury, but out of the resources of the British settlement in that part of the world.

MARCH 31.

THE WEST INDIES.

In reply to Sir C. Adderley, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen said that the Windward and Leeward Islands had agreed upon a scheme of federation, and a measure to enable the scheme to be carried out would soon be introduced by his noble friend the Secretary for the Colonies. The new appointment to the governorship of these islands had nothing to do with that scheme.

THE GOVERNOR OF NEVIS.

In answer to Mr. Peek, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen said that information had been received to the effect that a guard of honour, consisting of seventeen men, had stood on the steps of the court-house during a debate; that no intimidation had been practised or intended; that the vote was taken in a perfectly legal assembly; and that Her Majesty's Government were not aware of any wrongs to be redressed. There were some objections to the scheme of confederation, but these he believed would disappear as the scheme advanced. Governor Pine had appointed an engineer who was believed to be competent.

APRIL 3.

WEST AFRICA.

Colonel Beresford asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention had been called to a recent number of the *African Times*, in which it was alleged that his statement with regard to the defraying from Imperial funds of the expenses of the steamer on the West African Coast was incorrect, and that the burden was actually borne by colonial revenues.

Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen: This is a matter of personal

explanation. My attention has been drawn to the newspaper in question. It is good enough to charge me with wilful misrepresentation, and it goes on to say that I was ill-informed, and that I made loose statements to the committee. (A laugh.) The facts are these. The committee which sat in 1865 recommended that the West African Station should be placed under the Governor of Sierra Leone, and that steam communication should be provided, and the arrangement being one by which a considerable saving to the Imperial revenue was effected, it was thought desirable that the charge should be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. A steamer was provided, and a vote of 5,000l. for its maintenance is taken this year. If that sum is exceeded the colony will no doubt be charged, but there is no probability of that being the case, and my statement was in every respect strictly accurate. It is true that a sum of 5,000l. does appear in the estimates of Sierra Leone for the colonial steamer, and so also does 3,500l. for governor's salary; but if the editor had exercised a little ordinary intelligence he would have seen that both these sums appear under the head of revenue, and not expenditure.—*Daily News.*

WEST AFRICAN EXPENDITURE. To the Editor of the Daily News.

Sir,—In your Parliamentary report of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's remarks in the House of Commons last evening, relative to the statement in the *African Times* re the Governor-General's yacht, Mr. Hugessen is represented as saying that I accused him of "wilful misrepresentation." To disprove this I beg leave to quote the precise words used by me in the *African Times*: "This looseness of statement by an official personage is, to say the least of it, disgraceful. The Under-Secretary, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, is so new to the office he now holds that we have no reason to suppose he had any personal knowledge of the matter respecting which he was called upon for an official reply, and we have not, therefore, to accuse him of wilful misrepresentation." I have only to add further that I have not confounded revenue and expenditure, but really quoted from the voted estimates of expenditure which were published in Sierra Leone, while the estimated sources and items of revenue were not so published there. I am very happy to know by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's statement that the 5,000l. for the steamer does appear on the Sierra Leone estimates of revenue as a grant from the Imperial exchequer, and that this serious charge, totally unnecessary, whether taken from Imperial or colonial resources, will not fall upon a colony the revenues of which have been shamefully squandered, while the most necessary works of civilisation have been neglected by successive governors and officially nominated legislative councils.—I am, Sir, &c.,

THE EDITOR OF THE "AFRICAN TIMES."
African Times Office, 121, Fleet-street, E.C.
April 4.

To the Editor of the Daily News.

Sir,—Allow me to assure the Editor of the *West African Times* that I never said he had accused me of "wilful misrepresentation" on the matter of the Sierra Leone steamer. My words were, "the newspaper in question was good enough to acquit me of 'wilful misrepresentation,' but said I had been guilty of a 'looseness of statement which was disgraceful.'" I have already shown that my statement was accurate in every particular.—Your obedient servant,

E. H. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN.

Colonial-office, April 7.
NOTE.—In the *Times* report we find it stated that Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen said the *African Times* had been good enough to acquit him of "wilful misrepresentation."—Ed. A. T.

OBITUARY.

Died on the 3rd of March, 1871, at Christiansborg, only seventeen days after her marriage, Ann Randolph, the wife of John L. Randolph, Esq., of Quittah, and the only daughter of J. C. Briandt, Esq., of Christiansborg, after a very few days' illness. Born 19th January, 1851; married 14th February, 1871. "The memory of the just is blessed."—Prov. x. 7.

Died at Sierra Leone, where he was landed from the British and African Steamship Company's vessel the Congo, William Quin, Esq., brother of Mr. Thomas F. Quin, of this city, merchant. Mr. W. Quin was on his way to England for the benefit of his health, which had suffered by a residence at Benin. Owing to the long voyage of the Congo on the Coast—some fifteen days—he was so prostrated that, on the arrival of this vessel at Sierra Leone, he was, by the advice of the medical men and at his own request, taken on shore to the house of A. Pike, Esq., where, notwithstanding the most unremitting attention of that hospitable and kind friend, duly appreciated by the relatives of the deceased, he gradually sank, and died on the afternoon of Thursday, the 23rd day of March last, in the forty-seventh year of his age.

[Advertisement.]

THE WORLD NOT A GLOBE.

To the Principals, Tutors, Professors, and Students of any Public, Private, Military, or Commercial School or College in Great Britain. To the Members of any Literary or Scientific Institution, or others who are in any way associated with or interested in the progress of Knowledge and the advancement of true Science.

A premium of £75, in three annual payments of £25 each, is hereby promised to be legally guaranteed to the author of the best paper proving and demonstrating, upon indisputable evidence, that what is known as the Newtonian theory of a round and revolving world is agreeable to Scripture, to reason, and to fact. No reference whatever will be permitted to the planetary system or to any other conjectural and incongruous basis; but a reference must be made to some portion of the earth or ocean where the prescribed curvature of eight inches in the mile multiplied by the square of the distance can be clearly and publicly demonstrated. If no pretence of proof can be furnished, and not a vestige of fact produced capable of sustaining the globular and rotatory theory, the youth of Great Britain should not waste any more time and labour in the acquisition of error and falsehood on a subject of such universal importance.

The candidates for the above premium may avail themselves of any professional assistance they can secure. Six weeks from this date will be allowed; at the expiration of that time a list of those schools and colleges to which this offer has been made will be published.

Any candidate succeeding in reducing Newton's theory to practice will instantly receive double and treble the amount above offered, in the sale of his copyright, over which no control will be exercised.

Now then, young men of England, with the courage and candour by which your age is characterised, we pray you look this matter honestly and fairly in the face; go to the most renowned philosophic societies of the day, and ask them to help you, in a practical manner, to earn the £75 above promised; and if you do not turn away from them with disgust and derision, say that we have deceived you and mocked you, and waste not another moment in listening to our appeal. Let there be an emulation among the ten thousand schools of Great Britain, which will be the first to grapple bodily with this subject. There shall be no hesitation or demur on our part to fulfil the pledges above given; and, to assist you in every way to understand more clearly the nature of our objections and determined opposition to the Newtonian theory, we will, on receipt of six stamps, send you more than double the value of pamphlets and papers, which will convince you that you have a noble task before you, and one worthy of your most profound attention and the highest talents you possess. Do not be deterred by the scoffs and sneers of your masters and tutors; but tell them that you are resolved to know the truth, either to confirm their teaching, or to justify your abandonment of the follies and absurdities of their antiquated systems.

The promoters of a society now in course of formation, having for its object the deliverance of this nation from the fraud and imposture of the Newtonian theory, by insisting on some practical revision, and re-adjustment of the first principles of astronomical and engineering science, earnestly appeal for some aid towards defraying preliminary expenses; all of which have been hitherto borne by one individual; which, considering the national importance of this subject, is neither fair nor reasonable. They, of course, expect no encouragement from those whose interests and prejudices render them indifferent about truth on any subject, but they venture to hope that Christian and intelligent men of all classes will resolve to inquire more diligently than they ever hitherto have done, into the truth of those theories they have hitherto been wont to regard as established realities.

Subscribers may or may not have their names published in connexion with the Society, but they are earnestly requested to use their individual influence to secure the subject a fair hearing and the most public and open scrutiny that can be employed.

All communications are requested to be made to the Secretary, JOHN HAMPTON.

3, Oxford-terrace, Chippenham, Wilts.

PETROLEUM.—The business last year in refined American oil was on a most enormous scale, the exports from the United States up to the 16th of December, 1870, reaching the total of 3,254,374 barrels, against 2,496,046 barrels for the whole of 1869, although the shipments of 1869 were in excess of any former year. It would thus appear that the supply is almost inexhaustible; and as the value of the year's shipments is about 8,000,000l., it will be seen how important a part petroleum plays in the world's commerce. The range during the past 12 months was from 1s. 5d. per gallon to 1s. 11d.; and closing prices are 1s. 6½d. for contract quality, and 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6½d. for fine.

THE BEST MODE OF TRANSPORTING LIVING PLANTS AND SEEDS.

We copy the following addressed to the editor of the *Colonial News*—

Gardens of the Royal Botanic Society,
Regent's-park, London.

Dear Sir,—As your "Circular" is so extensively distributed amongst travellers, and throughout the British colonies and foreign countries, it is particularly suited for conveying an answer to the question so often put to me and others interested in the introduction of exotic plants to England—namely, "the best mode of importing living plants and seeds."

A few general rules to be kept in view will be, perhaps, better than any detailed instructions. With regard to seeds, the most important to be observed is to gather the seeds when quite ripe, and thoroughly dry them, in the sun if possible, or in an airy place, and not at a very high temperature, and then to keep them dry until they are planted—moisture will either cause seeds to germinate or to decompose. As the best plan to preserve and transport seeds is to carry them in the coat-pocket, any arrangement the nearest approach to this must be the next best, such as tying them up loosely in canvas or paper bags, and keeping them in as dry and airy a place as possible. Packing seeds in boxes, jars, or tins is a very bad plan; we have often received collections of valuable seeds, very carefully packed in air tight tin cases, which, when opened, exhibited a mass of mouldy decomposition.

As large oily seeds, nuts, &c., are most difficult to preserve in a living state for any length of time, it is a good plan to plant them in boxes of earth soon after they are gathered; they will then either germinate during the voyage or soon after they arrive.

The transport of living plants is a more difficult matter; the danger of too much moisture is to be guarded against and feared, rather than too little. Plants intended for long journeys should be prepared at least one year beforehand by planting them in the cases or boxes in which they are to travel; if this is not possible, rather stunted short-branched specimens, with well-ripened wood, should be selected; they must not be pruned or cut to make them go into the case; at least, if this is quite necessary, it should be done time enough before they are packed to enable the wounds to dry up and heal. If for a long voyage, study the season, so that a portion, if not the whole, should be during the time the plants are naturally at rest, so that they should be required only to live, not to grow, during the voyage. The shape, size, or fittings of the case are not important. Let it be perfectly water tight, not so much to keep water in as to keep it out, and prevent the sea water getting to the plants; for the same reason the glass sides or top should be well protected by wirework or wood or iron bars, to prevent breakage; it is very necessary to provide a "ring bolt" or rope loop at top of the case, that in shipping and unloading it may "swing" right way up. As to treatment when on board: "Plant cases" in general, unless under the special protection of the captain, or some other friend, fare but indifferently; but if any one can be interested to patch up a hole in the glass or repair any other damage, and thus prevent salt water getting in, or throw a blanket, rug, or old bit of sailcloth over the case in cold or frosty nights, and remove from off it such like articles as may happen to be placed there, on fine days—is all that can generally be expected. Travellers might often, with much ease, and great pleasure to themselves, carry a pet plant or two in a case the size and shape of a birdcage, to be treated in all respects as a cage with a living bird. The best example I remember of the successful transport of plants was that practised by a captain fond of plants, who fitted up shelves under the "skylight" of his cabin, and sank pots in the shelves; in this "marine greenhouse" he carried plants round the world, and brought to us, from very distant countries, some valuable specimens in the best possible condition.

Trusting these few hints may be of use to some of your friends and correspondents who are lovers of flowers, I remain, faithfully yours,
WM. SOWBAY, Secretary.

March, 1871.

MURBY'S EXCELSIOR SCHOOL BOOKS.

Now that we have looked into these books, and know their great merit, and are brought therefore to think of the good they might have done to some who would have had them, through our notice of them, we feel really guilty and ashamed at the fact that they have been in our possession more than eighteen months before we took the trouble, no—before we gave ourselves the pleasure of examining them. We think Mr. Murby really entitled to praise, and to the thanks of those who are engaged in any way in the work of teaching boys and girls to read themselves into knowledge. As a consecutive series, from the first effort at the alphabet up to a real proficiency on reading, they deserve the title of "admirable;" and in no one instance have we observed a

departure from a systematic effort to inculcate, with the knowledge of letters, sound and useful information and moral and religious precepts. We are inclined to make extracts that would show how amusingly that information and those precepts are conveyed to the impressionable youthful mind; but our space is very limited, and where there is so rich a store of quotable matter, it would be almost invidious to select the work of any one author who has contributed, to the necessary exclusion of the equally meritorious productions of his talented compeers. We have always held the belief that there is nothing more difficult in literature than the compilation of really good books for the young. Mr. Murby and his contributors have mastered this difficulty, and so mastered it that we are not surprised to learn that, while these books have remained unnoticed on our shelves, they have been sold by hundreds of thousands. All we can now do to atone for our neglect is to recommend them to our African friends, for the vast store of general useful information and practical knowledge they will convey to their children who are being taught in missionary and other schools. The lessons in these books will bring their minds into the European groove, the formation of ages of Christian civilisation; and this is the greatest advantage that can be conferred on African youth, enabling them to reap rapidly and easily what has been painfully sown through long ages of gradual advancement. All our friends should order "Murby's Excelsior School Books," printed where the "African Times" is printed, at 121, Fleet-street, London.

TRADE OF 1870.

TRADE OF NATAL.—Last year's Customs returns for Natal included large importations caused by the gold rush; this year the effect of orders for the diamond-fields will be seen. The returns for the first three quarters of the year 1870 show imports amounting to 325,818l., an increase of 63,188l. over the corresponding period of 1869. The chief increase is under the heads of gunpowder, guns, coffee, gin, and *ad valorem* goods. The exports for the nine months have been 307,571l., against 274,728l. in 1869. They include shipments of diamonds valued at 7,300l. There is an enormous increase in the export of hides and skins; and the export of wool has increased from 98,724l. in 1869 to 115,415l. The year's export of sugar will be diminished by the large demand for the diamond-fields. There is no return showing the quantity consumed in Natal and the interior, but good judges estimate the quantity at 500 tons each.

COAL.—During the month of November the quantity of coal exported from the United Kingdom reached 966,430 tons, as compared with 774,410 tons in the corresponding month of last year, and 732,399 tons in November, 1868. France figured in these totals for 90,860 tons, against 158,560 tons and 138,557 tons respectively. In the 11 months ending November 30 the exports were 10,576,880 tons, as compared with 9,679,942 tons in the corresponding period of 1869, and 10,042,111 tons in the first 11 months of 1868. In these totals France figured for 1,970,422 tons, against 1,794,918 tons and 1,722,877 tons respectively. There was an increase last year in the exports to France, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, the Hanse Towns, Prussia, Spain, Italy, the United States, and Brazil, and a decrease to British India. The value of the November exports was 470,678l., against 375,178l. in November, 1869, and 368,713l. in November, 1868; and in the 11 months ending November 30, 5,050,784l., as compared with 4,629,081l. in the corresponding period of 1869, and 4,963,684l. in the first 11 months of 1868.

DIFFICULTY IN THE WAY OF TEACHING AT SIERRA LEONE.—In our day-schools there has been a large distribution of educational books, so that nearly the whole of the children are provided with them. The general improvement consequent upon this is gratifying. I have repeatedly visited and examined the schools, and, with one or two exceptions, am able to report favourably of them. The elder children can write, read, and do arithmetic very creditably; their greatest difficulty being English grammar. Their notions on this subject are somewhat crude, which I attribute to the fact that as soon as they get out of the school they converse one with the other in broken English (which may be termed their native tongue), which is almost as difficult to understand as Kaffir; for, although I have been among the people a year, it is often with the greatest difficulty that I can understand what they say, especially in the case of the old people.—*From Letter of Rev. E. D. Donnell in Wesleyan Magazine.*

COAL IN INDIA.—The explorations of the geological survey in Berar have resulted (says an Indian paper) in the discovery of 121 square miles of coal strata, averaging in thickness forty feet, and therefore representing, in that one vein over the above space, the enormous quantity of 4,840,000,000 tons of coal, which is of superior quality to any previously found in India, and at a comparatively easy working depth.

COTTON GOODS.

MANCHESTER, April 8.—The holidays have interfered very considerably with business this week. The yarn and cloth markets continue in a very healthy state owing to the plentiful and cheap supply of cotton. American cotton is in larger supply now, as compared with last year, by 54 per cent.; East India, 41 per cent.; and other description, 104 per cent.; while middling Orleans cotton is 31; fair Dhollera, 35; Brazil, 34; and Egyptian 33 per cent. cheaper than in 1870. This gives a wonderful impulse to the expansion of business, and so far during the present year the only check to production has been the limitation of machinery; or, rather, the supply of labour to keep it in full employment. Nearly all the best makers of yarn and cloth have been well supplied with orders during many months past, and still hold very considerable unfinished contracts, in some cases at prices which afford a margin for profit such as has not been known for many years. For instance, 27 inch 5lb. printing cloths, which in September last were sold at 5s. 6d. per piece, are still quoted at the same figures, although the raw material can be purchased nearly 2d. per lb. cheaper; 36 inch 7lb. shirtings are quoted at 8s. 1½d., as in September, and 8½ lb. shirtings are still at 11s. 1½d., notwithstanding the reduction of New Orleans cotton from 9½ to 7½d. per lb. The prices of other goods have been but slightly modified. There has been a downward tendency this week, but in actual transactions it has rarely exceeded ½d. per lb. reduction on yarns, and a proportionate amount on cloths.

April 22.—Things continue in about the same state.—
Ed. A. T.

WEST COAST.

WANTED by a Young Englishman, aged 23, an ENGAGEMENT in any Settlement on the West Coast. Well up in business routine, correspondence, book-keeping, &c. At present engaged in the offices of a large London company. Excellent references.—Address, R. E. M., care of Davies and Co., Advertising Agents, Finch-lane, Cornhill, London.

LAW NOTICE.

PURSUANT TO A DECREE OF THE "NIEDERGERICHT" COURT OF PROBATE.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN that any Creditors or other persons having any claim or demand against the Estate of JULIUS alias ISAAC VALENTIN, who died on the 25th of January 1871 at Hamburg and whose will was prepared at Lagos Africa on the 22nd of September 1869 and proved at Hamburg on the 2nd of February 1871 by Carl Busch and Louis Lüdemann mand. noic. E A Müller at Berlin executors; the deceased having lived in Lagos Africa until 1870 and there traded under the firm of Valentin Lossmann and Co. of which firm he had been a partner from the 1st of June 1867 to the 1st June 1869 and further under his own firm Julius Valentin. Will have to bring in full particulars of their claims and a statement of their account, if not personally by legal proxy on or before the 5th of September 1871 the only and final day, before this Court, or in default thereof they will be peremptorily excluded from the Benefit of the said Decree.

Hamburg, 9th March 1871

Certified

BULAU Notary.

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December 22, 1870.

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