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[Transmission Abroad.

The African Times.

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

"Talk to me anywhere of Power, and I'll tell you of Protection. Mention a Magistrate, and the idea follows of Property. Show me any Government, and you are to see the proposed interest of those governed. Power constituted otherwise is a monster that is impossible in every system where there is any notion of the justice of God or the good of mankind."—EDMUND BURKE.
"If any Colonist suffers from injustice, whatever may be his class, his condition, or his colour, he has a right to redress at the hands of the Colonial Minister in this country."—EARL OF CARNARVON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES
August 2, 1866.

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AFRICAN AGENCY

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

IN consequence of wishes expressed from all parts of the West Coast, MR. FITZGERALD has made arrangements for selling produce consigned to him by ships to London or Liverpool; and purchasing, and shipping goods ordered against the proceeds of consignments or other effective remittances only, from either of the above ports, on a system by which the greatest possible advantage of the markets will be secured to the AFRICAN TRADER; 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.

JUNE, 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 LOANDA, Captain JOHN GRIFFITHS, is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on MAY 30, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th JUNE, 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 29th MAY, and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 on the 5th JUNE. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from the Prince's Landing Stage at 11 A.M. on the day of sailing.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship VOLTA, Captain W. S. FOLLAND, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th JUNE, 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, 50a, Lord-street, Liverpool.

All letters must pass through the Post-office.

For further information apply in London to Messrs. MALCOLM, HUDSON, and Co., 5, Crosby-square; in Glasgow to TAYLOR, LAUGHLAND, and Co., 24, Oswald-street; and in Liverpool, to ELDER, DEMPSTER, and Co., 2, Brunswick-street.

WEST COAST MAILS.

ARRIVALS.

British and African Steam Navigation Company's ship Bonny, with a mail, April 28.

African Steamship Company's Calabar, with monthly mails, May 5.

African Steamship Company's McGregor Laird, May 7.

African Steamship Company's Lagos, May 9.

British and African Company's Loanda, May 11.

DEPARTURES.

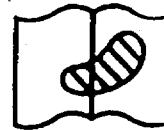
African Steamship Company's Mandingo, with the monthly mail, April 25.

A.S.S. Co.'s Eboe, April 30.

British and African Steam Navigation Company's Liberis, May 6.

African Steamship Company's steamer McGregor Laird, May 12.

B. and A.S.N. Co.'s Bonny, May 18.



CORRESPONDENCE ON THE DEFENCELESS STATE OF THE GAMBIA SETTLEMENT.

No. 1.—*Merchants' Letter to the Administrator.*

Bathurst, River Gambia, April 8, 1871.

Sir,—We have the honour to inform your Excellency that rumours have reached us that the Marabouts of Goongour are on the march to invade the British territory of Sabbagee and its neighbourhood, with the avowed purpose of plundering and taking by force of arms that district from the British Government; and as we have a considerable amount of property in goods and produce in the hands of British subjects and others settled there, we should feel obliged by your Excellency informing us what steps you intend to take to preserve the peace, and if our property within British towns in Combo will be safe. —We have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient servants,

T. M. QUIN, T. F. J. QUIN, W. MELTON,
THOMAS BROWN and Co., V.
BARRERE, THOMAS C. CHOWN.

To his Excellency Colonel Anton,
Administrator of the Gambia.

No. 2.—*The Administrator's Reply to the Above.*

Government House, 10th April, 1871.

Gentlemen,—I am directed by his Excellency Colonel Anton, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th April, received at 7 P.M., requesting to be informed what steps would be taken to preserve peace, and whether your property in British towns in Combo will be safe, in view of certain rumours that had reached you, that the Marabouts of Goongour are on the march to invade British territory, with the avowed purpose of plundering and taking by force of arms the district of Sabbagee.

1. In reply, Colonel Anton desires me to state that he despatched special messengers immediately on Mr. Quin's verbal statement of the rumour made at 3 o'clock the same afternoon, and his Excellency feels much pleasure in being able to inform you that the rumour, from the reports of the Manager of Combo, and Mr. Fowler, who visited the whole district of Combo yesterday, appears to have been entirely groundless.

2. As your letter is signed by most of the principal merchants of Bathurst, his Excellency takes this opportunity of informing you his instructions are to the effect that any force necessary for the protection of your interests must be furnished by the inhabitants themselves; therefore any practical suggestions made with that object will meet with his Excellency's cordial support. —I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

Messrs. Quin, Melton, Brown and Co., Munrel Frères,
Barrere and Chown, Merchants, Bathurst.

No. 3.—*The Merchants to the Administrator.*

Bathurst, River Gambia, April 14, 1871.

Sir,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Fowler's letter of the 10th, in answer to one we addressed to your Excellency on the 8th on the subject of the rumoured invasion of British territory by the Marabouts.

We are obliged to your Excellency for the prompt steps you took to make inquiry, and we are glad to learn there appears to be no good foundation for it at present, though we have no doubt the difficulty will crop up before long if we continue in our present helpless state.

The letter adds, your Excellency is instructed to inform us that any force necessary for the protection of our interests must be furnished by ourselves, and therefore any practical suggestions made with that object will meet with your Excellency's cordial support.

We have no confidence that Sir Arthur Kennedy, who has pursued a policy of destruction to our best interests—firstly, in advocating the transfer of ourselves, our commerce, our property, and our allegiance, to a foreign Power; secondly, in recommending the withdrawal of the troops from these settlements; and thirdly, in stripping them of all arms and ammunition—will pay any attention to any recommendation of ours, even though it may be supported by your Excellency. However, on your invitation, we make the following suggestions:—

Firstly. That there should be a considerable reduction in the Colonial establishment, so that a part of our revenue may be made available for purposes of defence, and that the colonists should have a greater voice than at present in the administration of the revenue and the general government.

Secondly. That a small supply of small-arms, rocket-guns, small field-pieces, and ammunition be at once purchased for the use of these settlements.

Thirdly. That a practical military officer or non-commissioned officer be at once appointed to take charge of the military stores, to train, drill, and practise the Militia force to be raised; and

that he be appointed Superintendent of the Police force, to drill and train them also.

We have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servants,
(Signed as in No. 1.)

To his Excellency Colonel Anton, Governor.

No. 4.—*The Administrator's Reply to the Above.*

Government House, April 17, 1871.

Gentlemen,—I am directed by Colonel Anton to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 14th inst., containing certain suggestions in view of affording protection to these settlements.

1. His Excellency desires me to inform you that your letter will receive its due consideration, and that the arms referred to in your communication have already been applied for by Colonel Anton.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
HENRY FOWLER, Secretary.

Messrs. T. F. Quin, Thomas C. Chown,
Thomas Brown and Co., Munrel Frères,
Maurel H. Prom, C. A. Vernick and Co.

GOVERNMENT AND DEFENCE OF THE GAMBIA.

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

Apsley House, Bathurst, Gambia, March 31, 1871.

My Lord,—On the 20th instant I received a letter from Mr. Fowler, dated that day, which I set out *in extenso*:—

"Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 13th December last, addressed to the 'Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies,' complaining of the defenceless state of these settlements, Colonel Anton desires me to state that he has been directed to inform you, in answer to your remarks, that the existing police force was stated by the Administrator to be sufficient for the present safety of property and the maintenance of order; and that Earl Kimberley has desired Colonel Anton not to relax his efforts to improve its efficiency, and if necessary to increase the numbers as far as the revenue of the settlements will admit.

"Earl Kimberley requests Colonel Anton further to inform you that with such assistance as may be derived from the occasional visit of a vessel of war, the force necessary for the defence of the colony must be provided by the colony itself; and if you should have any suggestion to make for the establishment of a force of the nature of volunteers or militia, his lordship wishes the Local Government to give it attentive consideration.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, "H. FOWLER, Secretary."

For the sake of clearness I propose to deal with the two paragraphs in the letter separately.

Your lordship will, I trust, pardon me for saying that the above communication is not re-assuring to the merchants and inhabitants of these settlements.

Colonel Anton, the present Acting Administrator, will, I feel assured, do all in his power to make the present police force as efficient as he can; but seriously, my lord, what can Colonel Anton or any other gentleman do with fifty-four un-armed policemen, three corporals, and a civilian for a superintendent (who, holding a host of other public appointments, can therefore devote but little time to this one), and with such a force separated as it is—to wit, a part being at McCarthy's Island, a distance of two hundred miles; some at Albreda, a distance of twenty miles; some on the mile of ceded Barra territory, a distance of nine miles; and others at Cape St. Mary's, a distance of seven miles, without any steam or rail communication between all or any of them?

That these men so placed may be sufficient to do the duty of the ancient watchman in England, and may occasionally catch a thief or a burglar, or take up drunken people and preserve some order in the public streets, I willingly concede; but it is a cruel mockery to say they are sufficient in any emergency for the protection of life and property in these settlements.

Such an assertion exhibits a want of feeling and sympathy with the colonists, of which your lordship, I am confident, is wholly incapable.

The second paragraph adds that your lordship states the colony must provide the force necessary for its defence, and your lordship is good enough to desire the local authorities to receive, with attention, any suggestions I might have to offer for establishing a militia or a volunteer force.

I thank your lordship for this consideration, but how is it possible to establish such a force in this colony, when, with the exception of the governor and the collector, there is not a military man? How is such a force to be drilled and trained? And, more important still, how are these men to be armed and accoutred, seeing that Bathurst has been denuded—as I have already informed your lordship in my letter of the 13th December last—of every field-piece, rocket-tube, rifle, sabre, and even ammunition. This part of my representation your lordship has passed *sub silentio*.

I have been informed, on good authority, that the Commissariat Officer at this station (Mr. J. N. Marsden) was directed by his department to submit a list of the military stores and equipments in his charge to the Governor-in-chief, that the colony might take (i.e. buy) whatever it required for the defence of the place. I am further informed, that Mr. Marsden, the Commissariat Officer, did submit such list both to the Governor-in-chief and the Acting Administrator, but neither of these great potentates did "anything," and the stores were either sold at a sacrifice or sent home. I presume it will be no justification for their conduct to say they expected us to be transferred, *volens volens*, to the French, and therefore it was unnecessary to incur the expense of purchasing arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, or that the Colonial Revenue would not admit of the outlay, seeing by the expenditure for the year that over 4,000*l.* was spent in the repairs and ornamentation of Government House, to make it a palatial residence.

It is not possible, my lord, for a small colony taxed to the extent of 18,000*l.* per annum to provide efficiently for its defence, when Her Majesty's Government insist, regardless of the representations of the colonists, in maintaining an unnecessarily large staff of civil officers that costs the colony over 10,000*l.* per annum, and a pension-list saddled on them for the services of imperial officers of over 1,100*l.* per annum.

Is it right, my lord, first to take away our means of providing for our defence, and then to tell us we must provide it? Leave us to ourselves, if you will; leave us our own revenue intact, and we will undertake to provide for our defence, except in the case of a European war; or at least give us, not a nominal, but a substantial control over the colonial expenditure, reduce our present civil staff, and we will guarantee the funds necessary for protection.

The most ready and efficient mode of affording such protection would be for Her Majesty's Government to order a detachment of from seventy to eighty men and officers from the force kept at Sierra Leone to be stationed at Bathurst, these settlements undertaking:—

Firstly. To maintain and uphold in good repair the present barracks and military hospital, which have ample accommodation for such a force.

Secondly. The colony to have two colonial surgeons, whose services shall in turn be available for the military hospital. Under this arrangement the Imperial Government would be saved all expenses of maintaining public buildings—heretofore a very heavy expense—and the maintenance of a military medical staff.

Thirdly. To pay to the Imperial Government the sum of fifteen hundred pounds per annum towards defraying the further expense of such a force.

With the nucleus of this small military force these settlements should raise a militia force for Bathurst of one hundred infantry and eighty artillerymen and the necessary number of officers, to be trained, drilled, and commanded by a military officer, who should also be superintendent of police, at a salary of 400*l.* per annum, horse allowance, and quarters in barracks.

When a militia force has been thus organised it might easily be increased, and in a few years this force might be made sufficiently efficient to dispense with the presence of the detachment.

I had the honour to address your lordship on the 22nd of November last on the subject of the estimates for the current year, showing how a saving of 1,091*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* could be effected without detriment to the efficiency of the Local Government, but to this I have not had the honour of a reply.

I pray your lordship to extend to this colony the same measures of retrenchment and reform in the departments of Government which have distinguished the policy of Her Majesty's present Government at home.

If your lordship's department will carefully investigate the colonial expenditure of the West Africa Settlements since they have had the misfortune to be placed under a central government, it will be found that the expenditure has been very considerably increased in each settlement, without any corresponding advantage to the colonists, and that this system of *imperium in imperio* on the Coast has been a miserable failure; nor can I say of a Governor-in-chief who would sacrifice the interests of one colony for the imaginary advancement of another, *Imperio regit unus aquo*.—I have the honour to be, with much consideration, your lordship's most obedient and humble servant,

THOMAS BROWN.

GAMBIA NATIVE GRIEVANCES.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gambia, 19th April, 1871.

Dear Sir,—I am glad that you have called for information with regard to the statement made by the Governor-General, Sir A. E. Kennedy, that Colonel Anton writes him that there is no

one at Bathurst fit for the post of Sergeant of Police. Oh! Sir, the whole of their statements are based upon falsehood, and a palpable one. Sierra Leone only commenced to export men to fill offices at Bathurst in 1869. If their statements are true, how were the offices filled since Bathurst became a colony? Even when Bathurst was in infancy there is no record of persons being exported to Bathurst to fill offices. No, not even mechanics, with the exception of one, Thomas Raffle, the father of the Raffles, who was brought here from Sierra Leone by Sir, the late Charles McCarthy, to assist in putting up the town clock in the year 1821. We can remember being told that the former mechanics were men from Goree and Senegal, who came to Bathurst, some on speculation and others as runaway slaves, and the clerks were men from Sierra Leone, come on similar purpose, and even some of those men are still living among us who made their home at Bathurst. Of course they were obliged to wait their chances. Against such we have nothing to say. But the present system is a perfect nuisance. Words would fail to express how badly the offices are filled, by persons exported from Sierra Leone by the Governor-General. The whole thing is rotten, from the Administrator down to the police. It is vexing to see how public offices are knocked about by those persons exported from Sierra Leone, who have no knowledge of the duties of the appointments they fill. I say from the Administrator—Colonel Anton was sent by Sir A. E. Kennedy to succeed Major Bravo—Colonel Anton with his own conscience will admit that he is neither a statesman nor even very gentlemanly, but a poor hard-working soldier; one who is trying to scrape all he can find to store up for the future; one who must keep his post and extra appointment by so representing things as to suit his superior; one who must say yes when it ought to be no, and no when it ought to be yes, in order to keep his appointment; one who must be drilled without being able to resist; one that must be dictated by a Spilsbury and a Merden, from fear of losing his post. I say such an administrator is not a statesman, and not being a statesman he has no right to the post; and the sooner he is out of it the better, otherwise we shall be obliged to call upon you to assist us in putting him out of it. You will hear better by-and-by.

The next person whose conduct should have come long ere this time before the public is the Colonial Surgeon, Spilsbury; he was also exported from Sierra Leone by the Governor-General. Mr. Spilsbury scarcely made a living at Sierra Leone as doctor, not having completed his studies, was exported to Bathurst as the Colonial Surgeon. Sir, you will know presently what sort of Colonial Surgeon we have, a semi-professional man, into whose hands the lives of 20,000 British subjects are placed, had not completed his studies.*

SIERRA LEONE.
TRIAL WITHOUT JURY—SHAMEFUL DELAY IN
GIVING JUDGMENT.

SUPREME COURT, THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1871.

(Before his Honour Chief Justice French.)

LEWIS v. MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS—JUDGMENT.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that this action was tried upwards of a year ago, before his Honour Chief Justice French without a jury, trial by jury in civil cases having been abolished since 1866, and was, after the trial—viz., on the 10th of February, 1870—adjourned for consideration. His honour the Chief Justice took no further action in the matter until Tuesday last, when he stated in open Court that he would give his judgment on this day. The action was brought by a poor African widow, who is a neighbour of Mr. Justice Huggins, to recover damages against that judge for bringing a gang of Her Majesty's convicts at six o'clock in the morning to work upon her premises, doing damage to it, without her consent. She also complains of many petty annoyances on the part of Mr. Huggins, such as breaking her fence and putting up a building over-hanging her own, and stated that when she remonstrated with him he threatened to send her to a mad-house if she did not remain quiet. To this action Mr. Huggins pleaded "Not Guilty," and, further, he urged that he had obtained the leave and licence of the plaintiff for the alleged trespass. The evidence, as given at the trial, as well for the plaintiff as for the defendant, was published *in extenso* in the columns of the *Liberator* at the time.

The Chief Justice, in giving judgment, stated that with regard to the trespass complained of, it was done with the leave and licence of the plaintiff, and therefore held that Mr. Justice Huggins was not responsible, and gave his judgment for him on all the issues.

* This is an error. Mr. Spilsbury passed his examination and became M.R.C.S. in 1865; and as the further reasoning of our esteemed correspondent in his letter is based on the erroneous assumption that Mr. Spilsbury is not a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, he will perceive at once that it was not possible for us to insert it.—Ed. A. T.]

SUPREME COURT, SATURDAY, 11TH MARCH, 1871.
LEWIS C. MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS.

Mr. Rainy, on this day, moved for a *rule nisi* calling upon Mr. Huggins to show cause why the judgment given in his favour in this action should not be set aside and a new trial had between the parties, on the ground, 1st,—For that his honour the Chief Justice who tried this cause did not try it in conformity with the eleventh section of the Ordinance of the Legislative Council of this Settlement, passed on the 16th day of November, 1866, entitled, "An Ordinance to make further Provision for the Administration of Justice," inasmuch as after the conclusion of the trial on the 10th day of February, 1870, it was adjourned, and his honour took no further action in the matter until the 7th day of March instant, when he announced, in open Court, that he would deliver his decision on the 9th day of March instant, and on that day gave his judgment for the said defendant. Whereas, it is submitted, that the said eleventh section did not give the learned Chief Justice the power to withhold his decision for so long a time; and, further, that the issues were wrongly decided.

SUPREME COURT, THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1871.
LEWIS C. MR. JUSTICE HUGGINS.

Mr. Rainy resumed his arguments in this matter, but for want of space we are precluded from giving a full report of his speech.

The Court granted a rule for a new trial, returnable on Thursday next, the 23rd instant, when the case will be reopened and the evidence reviewed.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF SIERRA LEONE.

We find in the *West African Liberator* a review of the proceedings in the Legislative Council of that Settlement, in which complaint is made that Sir Arthur Kennedy had not attended as he ought to have done to the public interests, having closed the doors of the Council in December, 1869, not to reopen them until after the lapse of nine months, although he knew that many legislative measures were urgently needed. Among the latter mentioned are—

An Ordinance to regulate the gaol, the last being twenty years ago, since which the people have greatly advanced in civilisation.

An Ordinance to regulate weights and measures, the one in operation being useless to prevent dishonest traders from plundering the unwary.

An Ordinance to consolidate, arrange, and improve the Customs laws, regulate dues, &c.

Ordinances to alter the constitution of the Supreme Court so as to prevent future executions such as that of Whobay; for the improvement of Freetown; for the regulation of the Lunatic Asylum; for regulating anew the house and land-tax, which at present weighs with cruel oppression on the poor; to enable public companies trading there to sue, and be sued, in the Supreme Court; and, above all—

An Ordinance by which the constitution of the Legislative Council may be enlarged so as to give the people the right of sending men of their own nomination to the Legislative Council Board.

We rejoice to see much-needed legislation thus formalised. Allusion is next made to the voting of 70,000*l.*, the year's estimates, in three short sittings, on the 17th, 18th, and 21st of October, as noticed in our December number. After this the Council did not meet again until March 14, 1871, when there was presented by the Governor,

An Ordinance to enable the raising a loan of 60,000*l.* for erecting public works. On the motion of Mr. Huddle, the mercantile member, the 6th Clause was amended (relative to sinking fund, interest, provision, &c.) The Governor expressed his dislike of any change in an Ordinance already settled by the Secretary of State. The Chief Justice said the amendment was a mere change in phraseology to meet certain contingencies. Mr. Huddle then objected to the loan being authorised without a specific understanding as to the work to be done with the money that might be raised, which led to an amendment of Clause 11, and to its passing in the following form: 11. The money so borrowed shall be exclusively applied to the construction of a wharf for Freetown, carried out sufficiently far into the river to allow vessels of large draught of water to lie alongside for the purpose of loading and discharging cargo; and also in the construction of such other works of public utility as may from time to time be decided upon by the Legislative Council.

The Council then adjourned to the 17th March, on which day the Loan Bill was read a third time, the interest not to exceed 7 per cent. per annum, and the Ordinance to be known as No. 1 of 1871.

* We have not yet received account of further proceedings.

After this—shame be to Sir Arthur Kennedy!—the old iniquitous Ordinance, concocted in Governor Blackall's time by those officials of ill omen in Sierra Leone, Montagu and Huggins—an Ordinance against which we then battled successfully—was reintroduced. This proposed Ordinance, and what passed in the Council relative thereto, is thus described and narrated in the *West African Liberator*:—

"An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance establishing the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, was afterwards introduced. The object of this Ordinance is to give power to the Judge of the Supreme Court, on affidavit made before him, showing that the person seeking redress has no cause of action or is a man of straw, to order his action to be tried in the Summary and not in the Supreme Court, where the defendant would be put to an enormous expense, and possibly to no purpose.

"Queen's Advocate went on to read the Bill, clause by clause, at the request of the Governor. The words, 'satisfy the Judge that the person has no cause of action,' were objected to by the Colonial Secretary on the ground that the Judge could only be made satisfied of such a fact by the evidence which would come out at the actual trial of the cause. Mr. Lumpkin seconded the Secretary; but Mr. Huddle thought it better to leave the discussion of the matter till the Bill came on for a second reading. His Excellency moved that the Bill be regarded as read a first time, and the Queen's Advocate, with the assistance of the Chief Justice, be asked to frame a scale of attorney's fees to be attached to the Bill. His Honour said that he never practised as an attorney, and would have to refer to the Master of the Court for information upon such a subject."

After voting a pension of 60*l.* per annum to a Dr. Deane, on which we may have hereafter to remark, the Council was then adjourned *sine die*.—Ed. A. T.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN'S ADVOCATE AT SIERRA LEONE.

It is with deep regret we hear that Mr. Charles Fyfe, the so-recently appointed Queen's Advocate, is dead. It is said he died of concussion (or congestion) of the brain, but how caused, or from what proceedings, we do not know. By the *African Times* of December last, it appears that his appointment only dated from the 30th November, being Gazetted on the 2nd December, and he was not sworn into office at Sierra Leone until the 14th March.—Ed. A. T.

THE BEGINNING OF A SIERRA LEONE PUBLIC DEBT.

The following notice from the "Crown Agents for the Colonies" appeared in the morning papers of the 18th May, 1871:—

The Crown agents for the Colonies will receive tenders on the 25th inst. for Sierra Leone Government Six per Cent. Debentures to the amount of 25,000*l.*, in sums of 100*l.*, 200*l.*, and 500*l.* each. The price of issue will be 100, of which 10 per cent. will be payable on allotment, and 90 per cent. on the 13th of June. The principal will be repaid in 25 years. Sierra Leone has not yet contracted any public debt, and has made considerable financial progress during the last nine years.

WHOBAY—(EXECUTED).

(From our Special Correspondent.)

April 28.

It is deeply to be regretted that the important case of Whobay, tried and executed here for an alleged murder by him when prosecuting a *native war* in the Sherbro country, should have been only incidentally brought before the House of Commons in a post-midnight conversation (not reported in the daily papers) on occasion of the third reading of the Bill for "Extending the Jurisdiction of the Courts of the West African Settlements." I feel sure, however, that you will have fully brought out the points involved, and venture to hope that they may yet be dealt with as they deserve, when Mr. McArthur gets his night for West African affairs.

You have very wisely urged that the people here should petition Parliament as to the position of danger in which they are placed, if the course pursued in Whobay's trial become an established one with the Executive authorities and the judicial bench. But they have sent so many petitions without any apparent result that they are thoroughly cowed by the authorities. They do not understand what it is to labour with a will day by day, and to wait with patience for the results. If once disappointed in their expectations, which are very often extravagant, their spirits become depressed and their energies paralysed.

—The Rev. Daniel Smith, Colonial Chaplain of the Gold Coast, left the settlement for England per Liberia on the 25th inst. [We believe there are circumstances which will prevent his returning to Cape Coast as Colonial Chaplain.—Ed. A. T.]

THE GOVERNOR AND HIS YACHT.

We are glad to find that the affairs of the West Coast Settlements are arousing the attention of independent members of Parliament. This, no doubt, is to be attributed to the exposures made in the columns of the *African Times* and of this journal; and we do hope the monster abuses so long complained of, and which are the characteristic feature in West African rule, will be rooted out by a full and searching inquiry.

It was not long since that Mr. McArthur gave notice, in his place in the House of Commons, of his intended motion relative to these settlements; and now we find another honourable and gallant member, Colonel Beresford, asking a question on a subject with which we have dealt in some of our past issues—namely, the yacht placed at the command of the "head-Governor at Sierra Leone." If Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen is correct in his reply to the honorable questioner, still there seems to be some mystery in the matter; for we find in our Appropriation Ordinance of the 13th October, 1868, the following, among other items, under the head of expenditure: "Colonial Steamer, 5,000*l.*" Again, in the Appropriation Ordinance of the 7th of August, 1869, the same provision is made in the same way, and in the Ordinance of the 4th December of the same year, 1869, we find it once more. Now, it is well known that we have no colonial steamer here, and since this steamer can only mean the Governor's yacht, the expenses of which, the Under-Secretary affirms, are defrayed by the Imperial Government, we should like to be informed how it is that the colony is debited with it every year. We wish, besides, that our authorities would learn to call things by their proper names; "Colonial Steamer" is a misnomer, and has a tendency to mislead. The vessel spoken of is exclusively intended for the head-Governor; is entirely under his control, and the colony derives no benefit either directly or indirectly from the existence of such a vessel.

But whether the expense of this yacht is defrayed by the Imperial or the Local Government, one thing we know, it is a useless and wanton squandering away of the money of some taxpaying community.

We have kept a record of the movements of this yacht since her arrival from England on the 31st of October last, and the following will show what she has done from that time to the present. From the above date to the 21st November following, that vessel was lying in Sierra Leone harbour, when she left for the Sherbro, returning on the 27th of the same month. Another spell was given her in harbour till the 15th December, when, very likely to keep her bottom from being covered with barnacles, it was thought advisable that another trip should be taken to the Sherbro. On the return of the vessel on the 24th of the same December, she was allowed to remain in harbour, doing nothing, till the 28th of January, when it was thought that it would be nice to have a pleasure excursion to the Isles de Los and about the Pongas River. Away about ten days, having returned on the 7th of February, and did nothing more till the 12th of the same month, when she left for the Sherbro. Returned on the 13th of February, to adorn the harbour till the 2nd of the present month, and then departed, we believe, for the Leeward Coast. By calculation it will be found that from the time of her arrival from England—namely, the 31st October—to the time of her departure for the Leeward Coast on the 2nd of April, a period of 153 days, 25 days were employed in roaming about, doing mischief, thus leaving 128 clear days during which she was laid up in Freetown Harbour doing nothing. Why not employ this vessel in the postal service between this place and the Sherbro, and keep her from doing harm? This would be better than either to use her as a scourge to the settlements, or to allow her to lie and rot in Freetown Harbour.

Since the answer of the Under-Secretary would leave the impression on the minds of persons who know little about the affairs of the Settlements on the West Coast, that the amalgamation has cost Sierra Leone nothing, we take this opportunity of informing the honourable member, Colonel Beresford, and others, that Sierra Leone has to pay the Governor an extra 500*l.* a year, besides providing suitable pay and allowances for himself and attendants when they feel disposed to take a pleasure trip in the Governor's yacht—professedly to attend to the affairs of the smaller settlements. In consequence of this amalgamation, Sierra Leone has also been harnessed with the increase in salary of the Queen's Advocate for taking care of the legal interests of the other settlements, and there are other pecuniary burdens unknown before the amalgamation. Besides all these, another evil has arisen out of this amalgamation, and consists in this—that the legislation for Sierra Leone has been sadly and inexcusably neglected within the last two years. Another serious evil resulting from the amalgamation is the office of Auditor-General. As long as Sierra Leone remained a separate colony, there was a Colonial Accountant, subject to the Audit-office in England, to manage our financial affairs; and this Accountant not being under the power of the Local Government, and not to

be tampered with, considerable public confidence was placed in him. The arrangement worked well. Since the amalgamation, we find the Auditor-General, who, as before, ought to be an independent man, a mere creature of the Governor, who may suspend him at any time; and what wonder that no confidence is had in a man so utterly at the mercy of Sir Arthur Kennedy? If we had a representative assembly, this Auditor-General would be under the supervision of that body, who would have authority to question all his acts, and the power of the Governor would be curtailed. This arrangement would satisfy people that no jobbery was being carried on. We say that the amalgamation was an error of judgment, and the sooner the settlements are separated, each having its own Governor, with control over his own immediate government, and full responsibility, the better it will be for the settlements, for the Colonial-office, and for the honour of the British nation.—*West African Liberator*.

LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

April, 1870.

Sir,—For the last two years I have been a resident at Lagos, West Coast of Africa, a British colony, and through the medium of your columns would draw attention to the management of affairs on the Coast. The Council at Lagos (with the exception of one member, a Government nominee) are all Government officials. The English and native merchants resident there, who pay all the duties, taxes, &c., have no voice in the disposal of the large revenue or management of affairs. It is said that taxation without representation is contrary to the British Constitution, and in common fairness we ought to have a proper voice in the Council. Many abuses exist, and it is difficult, and frequently impossible, to obtain redress from Sir A. Kennedy, the Governor, and his subordinates. A petition from Lagos to the Colonial-office was, I believe, presented last year by Colonel Gourley, M.P., and other Members of Parliament, asking that some of the merchants elected by the people be on the Council, and that it be an open one.—I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,
A EUROPEAN MERCHANT.

PROJECTED TRANSFER OF ELMINA, ETC., TO GREAT BRITAIN BY THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT.

From the Gold Coast we hear by the last mail that "his Excellency Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, the Governor-in-Chief of the West Africa Settlements, will be here in a few days, and on his arrival Elmina will be taken over by the British Government. Some vessels of war have been ordered to be here to give effect to the ceremonies when the transfer takes place." Scarcely had we read this when we found the following from Amsterdam, published in a London journal: "When you hear of parties in Holland you smile, and think of the high and low heels and the small and bigendians of Lilliput and Blefuscu; but I assure you that not even the one and indivisible German Empire itself has so many parties as we have here. The 'Liberals' now in power see their reign much imperilled by the necessity to cope with the questions of the national defence and the equally avowed aversion of the people against higher taxes and the German 'army organisation.' There is another danger threatening them, arising out of the projected treaty, by which the Coast of Guinea, or shorter, 'the Coast,' will be ceded to England. Everybody admits that the possession of this colony is neither profitable nor creditable to us, but then you see it has been one of our colonies for ever so long. The very names of the different places remind us of the time of our highest prosperity and power; and nobody ever dreamed of ceding—i.e., selling—it, before some months ago, when a whisper of the coming treaty called up a storm of indignation against the Government. Then it was officially declared to be utterly false, and now it has proved to be really true; our Cabinet wants to transfer our possessions in Africa to England, for a sum not exceeding a certain amount. Only one of our leading papers, the *Handelsblad*—in more than one respect the Dutch *Times*—has driven its loyalty to the Cabinet so far as to defend this measure; but the general opinion is that the treaty will be rejected when it is brought into our Parliament, and that Holland will be found unwilling to part with its costly 'Coast.' In that case it will most likely have to bear the loss of its not less costly 'Liberal' Administration."

POLYGAMY AT THE GOLD COAST.—It is mournful to add that polygamy and licentiousness, the baneful snares of Satan, and curses to the Church of God, are at work amongst us here. The churches have to weep and to mourn over many persons who have fallen away to the practice of the abominable and deadly poisonous sins; who, if they had been consistent, would have been bright ornaments to the Church; but, alas! their bad examples have made the heathen to abuse and ridicule the Gospel of Christ.—*Wesleyan Missionary Magazine*.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We are sorry we cannot say that, as a general rule, our African subscribers have improved in their payment of subscriptions during the present year. The amount we have received since July last is ridiculously small, when compared with the amount then owing, and in the course of another month the advance subscriptions for the year 1871-2 will become due. It is not right that we should have year by year to urge on our African subscribers the remembrance of the fact that a paper cannot be published without money—money continually going out, and that our unremitting efforts to advance their interests and the welfare of their countries merits at least that they should regularly pay their subscriptions. 6s. a year is not a large sum—and we feel shame for them in being compelled thus continually to urge its payment. We consume for them many precious hours that we might otherwise devote to recreation and health. We never neglect to publish our paper for them, whether well or unwell, and they ought never to neglect to pay our small subscription.

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The African Times.

TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1871.

QUEEN'S ADVOCATE AT SIERRA LEONE AND THE EX-DELICTO ORDINANCE.

A SAD event at Sierra Leone has placed in augmented peril one of the last few safeguards left to the native population against the criminal excesses of men who look upon the African as intended by nature to be a mere beast of burden to Europeans, a minister to their most degrading propensities, and a legitimate victim of their brutality and their lust. Under the persistent official malice of Mr. Montagu, abetted, to our surprise and regret, by Sir Arthur Kennedy, the old Ex-delicto Ordinance of 1864 has again made its appearance in the Legislative Council, under the title of "An Ordinance to Amend the Ordinance Establishing the Court of Summary Jurisdiction." The Blackall-Montagu-Huggins projected ordinance of 1864 was part and parcel of the machinery of European official oppression, which was finally set in motion by the confiscation of the right of trial by jury in civil causes. It is just possible that if the projected ordinance of 1864 had been allowed to become law, that confiscation of the right of trial by jury would not have taken place, because the most unprotected portion of the community would have been effectually debarred from all civil action against an oppressor, from his or her inability to furnish security for costs, that might be incurred by the defendant. We opposed that ordinance with all our might, other friends of the African people did the same, and the threatened danger was for the time averted. Governor Blackall's envenomed hatred to the *African Times* dated from that period. We had supported him, as we have since supported Sir Arthur Kennedy, in some measures we thought would be beneficial, and then there was no word too good for us. When we entered our ardent protest against his Ex-delicto Ordinance, he sought more than one interview with us in England, with the express object of converting us to his views. He failed, of course; and on his return voyage to Africa he denounced this journal immediately he set foot upon its soil at Bathurst, threatening with dismissal from the Government service every one who should dare to subscribe to or receive it. Unhappily, the Ashanti war discussion, the Special Commission to the West Coast, and the Parliamentary Committee that ensued, became instrumental to the success of the nefarious plan of Messrs. Blackall, Huggins, and Montagu, and the mulct Mr. Marston was avenged by the confiscation of the trial by jury in civil causes. Any one ignorant of the perversity of such men as Montagu and Huggins would have fancied this sacrifice of the best safeguard of a people's interest to their evil passions would be deemed sufficient by them. But alas! no; with sleuth-hound pertinacity these men have followed on the scent, until at last they have succeeded in making the once honoured Sir Arthur Kennedy a partner in their official iniquity, and, under his auspices,

in re-introducing their measure, with a new title, into the chamber of the Legislative Council. The object of this new ordinance is officially described to be, "to give power to the Judge of the Supreme Court, on affidavit made before him showing that the person seeking redress has no cause of action, or is a man of straw, to order his action to be tried in the Summary and not in the Supreme Court, where the defendant would be put to much expense, possibly to no purpose." Mr. Fyfe, the Queen's Advocate, who had only three days before been sworn into office, and who is since deceased, proceeded, at the request of Sir Arthur Kennedy, to read this revised serpent-ordinance at the sitting of the 17th March. The words "satisfy the judge that the person has no cause of action" were most justly objected to by the Colonial Secretary, on the ground that the judge could only be made satisfied of such a fact by the evidence which would come out at the actual trial of the cause. Nevertheless, the Governor pressed the first reading of the Bill, which went through this preliminary stage accordingly. This Bill, be it remarked, was drawn by Mr. Montagu while officiating as Acting Queen's Advocate previous to the late Mr. Fyfe's arrival. And herein now lies the augmented danger for Sierra Leone. As Sir Arthur Kennedy did not hesitate on a previous occasion to outrage the public feeling of the settlement by appointing Mr. Montagu to be Acting Queen's Advocate, it is to be presumed he will not hesitate to re-appoint him. Our only hope is that the Colonial-office, before whom the disqualifying antecedents of Mr. Montagu for such official employment have been long since laid, will promptly interfere to prevent the renewal by Sir Arthur Kennedy of this dangerous insult, and will express their dissent to the further progress of a course of legislation so retrograde in its character, and which has for object to hand over every aggrieved, assaulted, battered poor African to the tender mercies of a Huggins, the Judge of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and of that prime mover in the iniquity, Mr. Montagu. These confiscators of the African rights and guarantees will surely be stayed in their mad career of insult and wrong to the people among whom they unhappily officially dwell, by an authority superior to that of the deluded Governor, who, to the annihilation of all his former prestige, has fallen within their snares. We find it difficult to comprehend on what ground Sir Arthur Kennedy can justify his support of such an ordinance—his seeming determination to force it upon a Council in which there is no elective power to dispute his will. If such an ordinance be necessary now, it must have been equally necessary when Sir Arthur Kennedy became Governor-General, and if it was then so indispensable, he has been greatly guilty as a Governor in not procuring its enactment at an earlier period. We are at least entitled to demand on behalf of the injured people of Sierra Leone, and we hope that Mr. M'Arthur, in his notice of West African affairs in the House of Commons will demand, that before such an ordinance be allowed to proceed further, Sir Arthur and those persistent official enemies of the people who have done so much to bring justice into disrepute in Africa, should be called upon to furnish public and justificatory proof of its necessity, by exhibiting a catalogue of cases in which the right of procedure for redress of private wrongs sustained, which the people have hitherto enjoyed, has been grievously abused by them, to the injury of worthy, inoffensive Europeans, official or other. We have called in vain for proof in justification of the confiscation of the constitutional right of trial by jury. It was a flagrant error on the part of a British Secretary of State to have sanctioned such confiscation upon the mere *ipse dixit* of such authorities as Colonel Ord, Major Blackall, Mr. Huggins, and Mr. Montagu, the first-mentioned being only a friendly mouthpiece of the others, and knowing nothing by any personal experience. We hope better things of those at present in power in Downing-street than to believe they will become parties to a similar error. It is quite true that the turning over a cause from the Supreme Court to the Secondary Court, to be determined only by the judge there, has not the full significance it had when trial was by jury in the Supreme Court, as in

1864. But Mr. Chief Justice French, with all his acknowledged weaknesses and defects, inspires at least some confidence which Mr. Justice Huggins does not inspire; and any ordinance which hands over suitors against their will to the tribunal of Mr. Justice Huggins, deserves the severest condemnation of the watchful guardians of African rights and liberties.

THE CHAMEROVZOW TESTIMONIAL.

WHEN we urged upon our African friends the duty and propriety of their subscribing a testimonial to Mr. Chamerovzow, who had fought so hard through many long years the arduous battle of negro emancipation from the yoke of slavery in all parts of the world, we ventured to remind them that in such cases quickness in giving doubles the value of the gift. When we tell them, as we now do, that we have reason to believe their gifts will be peculiarly valuable and acceptable to Mr. Chamerovzow at this present time, we feel sure that those who have not yet sent in to the collectors the amounts they promised, will now hasten to do so. We do not know what sums have been thus promised and still remain unpaid; and shall be glad when we can have a complete list to publish as a lasting record in our journal. We were informed at the time that Lagos, which elected to have its separate list, had not been at all backward in the performance of its duty, but have never yet heard the name of the subscribers or the amount subscribed. As we know that whatever is due from Sierra Leone will come forward without delay, now that the desire for its remittance forthwith has thus been made known by us, we beg leave to impress earnestly upon our friends at Lagos to send us also without delay the names of the subscribers there and also the money, so that our publication of the list, so honourable to the Africans who may be included in it, may be complete; preventing thereby the necessity of our again recurring to the subject. We will close by the expression of a hope that our African friends have remembered "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

THE POST OF QUEEN'S ADVOCATE, SIERRA LEONE.

THE lamented death of the late Queen's Advocate, Mr. Fyfe, after only one month's real tenure of office, has again created a vacancy in the legal staff of the chief of the West Coast Settlements. Inadequately paid as this office is, it must be difficult for Her Majesty's Government to obtain for it the legal talent and experience so indispensable to a right and efficient discharge of its onerous duties. Under these circumstances, it is with much pleasure we have heard that Mr. Pater, of the Temple, a gentleman of long and great experience in the London Courts, but now and for some months past resident in Sierra Leone, has applied to be nominated to this office. Recalling to mind the length of time during which this important post was filled by Mr. Montague (so unwisely appointed to it by Sir Arthur Kennedy), in the interval between the resignation of Mr. Philippo and the arrival in Sierra Leone of the lamented Mr. Fyfe, and the evil results that ensued, we feel that we are entitled to congratulate not only the people of Sierra Leone, but Her Majesty's Government also, that Mr. Pater has expressed his willingness to accept the office. The administration of justice in Sierra Leone always suffers under an acting Queen's Advocate; and we hope that if an acting one has been again appointed, no time will be lost in appointing a permanent successor to the late Mr. Fyfe.

MR. M'ARTHUR'S NOTICE ON THE WEST COAST SETTLEMENTS.

WE understand that the precedence of other motions in the House of Commons on the 23rd inst. will render it impossible for the honourable Member for Lambeth to call the attention of the House on that evening to the state of the West Coast Settlements, as he had proposed. We have no doubt, however, that some other day will be found for him before we again go to press, and that in our next number we shall have to place on record the official state-

ments that may be elicited by the honourable Member. We earnestly hope they may be satisfactory, because it would be so easy to satisfy the just and legitimate desires and expectations of the people of those settlements, if the authorities in Downing-street would only see how much more important it is, and how much more just and noble it is, to study the interests and feelings of those who are indissolubly connected with those settlements, in which they have been born, and in which they expect their children and descendants will find a home and liberty and prosperity, under the benign protection of Great Britain, than to outrage those feelings, to invade those interests, at the behest of a small knot of obnoxious officials. As Treasurer of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, the honourable Member must, we think, have been made cognisant of the just desires, the necessities and wants, of the people of Sierra Leone and the Gambia, the Gold Coast and Lagos. He will, we hope, be able to assure the Government that the feeling of attachment to Great Britain among the native population of the Gambia, in spite of many and grievous oppressions and errors by ignorant, unworthy, and incompetent officials, is of so deep rooted a nature, and fortified by so keen an appreciation of the moral difference between French and English colonial rule in Africa, as to merit something more than to be treated as a "mere sentiment;" and entitle them to the continuance of that protection under which so many of them have emerged from ignorant barbarism into the light of Christian knowledge and civilisation. It seems to us, further, impossible that we should omit to follow up this vindication of the claim of the Gambia people to remain British subjects, by exposing the utterly defenceless state in which the settlement was placed by the Governor-in-Chief, in not only removing the whole of the troops (an Imperial policy for which we presume he is not responsible), but also all available arms, ammunition, and means of defence, without which no native corps could be efficiently organised to take the place of the troops thus withdrawn. The unnecessarily expensive administration which the Imperial Government seems determined to maintain at the Gambia, notwithstanding all the remonstrances which have been addressed to the Colonial-office on the subject, will also surely be denounced by the honourable Member, since it must be indisputable that the settlement, having to provide defence at its own cost (even in such a matter as coals to any one of Her Majesty's gunboats which may make a two or three days' trip up the river, to show that the British Government has not altogether abandoned the country), is entitled to claim from the Imperial Government an economical reform, which shall by a retrenchment of useless civil expenditure, leave ample resources in the annual revenue for the public defence, without the imposition of any new burthen on an already over-taxed people and commerce. He will, moreover, we think, do well to call in question the revived Imperial policy of centralisation, by a Governor-in-Chief residing at Sierra Leone; a policy denounced by all the settlements as proved by experience to be injurious, instead of beneficial to them, and denounced also by Sierra Leone itself, which puts forth no claims to supremacy beyond that of intelligence, as being burthensome to its finances, and in many other ways opposed to its interests. The Imperial Government, having declined or neglected to perfect any appeal machinery or tribunal, as we most earnestly urged upon them to do, by the appointment of a third judge of the Supreme Court—arranging the periodical visits of a judge on circuit at the other settlements, and assigning a payment from the revenues of the other settlements for the increased salary of judges and Queen's Advocate, so that a uniform system of administration of justice might be established, and a proper Court of Appeal constituted without any increase of burthen on Sierra Leone; the Imperial Government, we say, having declined or neglected to do this, which seems to us to be the natural sequence of the abolition of Local Supreme Courts, and making the Sierra Leone Supreme Court a Court of Appeal, we cannot see any justification for the continued infliction upon Sierra Leone of the salary of an additional

judge; and we therefore hope the honourable Member will impress upon Her Majesty's Government, and lead the House of Commons with him in so just a recommendation, the necessity of transferring Mr. Justice Huggins to some one of the West India colonies, leaving Mr. Justice French in sole charge of the administration of justice in Sierra Leone. Either there should be a properly-constituted Court of Appeal at Sierra Leone, or the administration of justice at the several settlements should be re-organised as before 1865. But whether Her Majesty's Government will make so just and desirable a change or not, the honourable Member cannot find any difficulty in establishing, beyond dispute, that the official services of Mr. Justice Huggins and Mr. Montagu should be transferred to some possession of the British Crown more fitted to appreciate their merits than is any one of the settlements on the West Coast. The British Government is supposed to be educating the West African people, in civilisation and free institutions and government: Mr. Justice Huggins—by his conspiracy against the people for depriving them of trial by jury, to which they were and are so justly attached, and by his barbarously illegal sentences, some seven of which (involving alone 1,000 lashes with the cat and many years of penal servitude) even the Colonial-office, with all its pertinacity in supporting its officials, *whether good or bad*, was compelled to declare against—and Mr. Montagu—the dismissed Tasmanian judge—by acts and conduct which it is not necessary for us again to specify, have rendered themselves for ever obnoxious and odious to the people of Sierra Leone; and it is surely unworthy of such a Government as that of Great Britain, to force justly obnoxious officials down the throats of its subjects in any one of its dependencies, while it possesses so many to which their services can be transferred, and in which they may regain for themselves a reputation they have irrevocably lost in the past scenes of their official labours. A vindication of the just claim of Sierra Leone, with a population of 40,000, and a revenue of above 70,000*l.* a-year, to the presence of some members of its own election in the Legislative Council, now composed of officials and nominees, must necessarily stand prominently forward in the honourable Member's remarks, especially now that the colony or settlement has been authorised by the Imperial Government to contract a loan upon the security of a yearly surplus revenue of the settlement applicable to the payment of interest and support of sinking fund. Past experience has not been in favour of a conviction that resources at command of a Sierra Leone Administrator and official staff, will be purely, legitimately, and economically expended. The revenues of the West African Settlements have been, by local officials, regarded as a heaven-appointed official prey; and, unhappily, the Colonial-office, in its superb red-tapism and sense of irresponsible dignity, has, by its commissions and its omissions, confirmed its unworthy favourites in their depredatory ideas. We do not intend for a moment to insinuate that Sir Arthur Kennedy would misapply any such funds, although the official favour he has of late chosen to bestow upon such men as Mr. Montagu entirely destroys our past confidence. We never insinuate; we always state clearly what we think and mean. But the future well-being of the Sierra Leone Settlement depends so much upon the public revenue and proceeds of loans being economically expended on legitimate and well-considered objects only, that the infusion of a watchful popular element into the now exclusively official and nominee Assembly becomes a matter of immediate and urgent necessity. Nor is this the only reason why such a popular element should be introduced. Those subordinate European officials who do not confine themselves within any limits in their expression of contempt for the people among whom they dwell, and by whom they are paid and fed, because they choose to consider them an inferior race, would be kept in check by the presence of some of that race admitted by election into the Legislative Council which sanctions the annual expenditure; and no impost so shamefully oppressive to the poor as the present house-tax could be maintained with a Council thus popularly reinforced. Not only are the people

of Sierra Leone entitled both by reason and justice to such a modification in their favour of the institution under which they live, but that modification would be entirely in the spirit of the recommendation of the last Parliamentary Committee, that "the people of the West Coast Settlements should be prepared as soon as possible for self-government." How can they be prepared for self-government without municipal institutions or any participation in the facts of their local government? We cannot help feeling that the general battle for West Coast rights and privileges must range about Sierra Leone, the oldest and most advanced of the settlements. Therefore it is that we have insisted so much upon Sierra Leone requirements—upon what Sierra Leone is entitled to demand; upon what is justly due to her; upon what is indispensable to her safe and steady advancement. How can it for one moment be expected that officials, whose sole interest in her is to receive annually during their employment there a certain certain sum out of her revenues, will devote themselves to her interests as the taxpayers themselves would do—the people who will bequeath to it its future population, and the germ of its future wealth? The Sherbro' boundary ought to be defined; the conflicting statements made in court during the trial of Whobay, where a man's life was at stake, were disgraceful to British officials, and really dishonourable to Great Britain herself. The Gold Coast, as regards religion—that is, Christianity—and education, has been so almost exclusively in the hands of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, whose labours there have been blessed with much success, that, although the missionaries of that body wisely abstain from any interference with local secular concerns and matters of government, they can scarcely have failed to impart to the parent society a knowledge of the administrative wants of countries destined, we believe, to much future celebrity and prosperity, as possessing perhaps the richest gold deposits in the world. As we have of late dwelt so much upon the necessity of roads, not one of which, to the disgrace of British administration, yet exist; as we called upon Her Majesty's Government in our last month's number to interfere for the prevention of murders in her prisons, and for the enforcement of at least the observance of public decency in the towns, and of such sanitary measures as may avert an impending pestilence—we abstain from dwelling at this time on such topics as their exceeding gravity demands. But there is one thing we cannot abstain from urging, as it is one upon which we have frequently insisted as indispensable to the progress of civilisation and wealth throughout those countries. They, too, according to the Parliamentary recommendation, are to be prepared as quickly as possible for self-government. The only way by which they can be so prepared is by associating the principal kings and chiefs with the British authorities in the legislation and administration. The Fantee Confederation, whose action, independent of and in some measure in opposition to the British local authorities, has so effectually interfered as to arrest the threatening evils of the Dutch-Elmina-Ashanti Alliance, as to force upon the Dutch Government the question of cession to England of the points on the Coast which they occupy, shows the practicability of uniting the kings and chiefs, in conjunction with the educated element, in a species of parliament, by which their earnest co-operation in the formation of roads, and the correction of old abuses, which impede the spread of civilisation, and the material development of their several countries and districts might be obtained. It cannot be denied, even by the stoutest upholder of official uselessness and inertia on the Coast, that a new impulse to official exertion has become necessary; Sardanapalian enjoyments upon a dunghill should be no longer tolerated. There is a great future—a future, too, of rapid progress—before these Gold Coast Settlements, with their navigable River Volta, if proper measures be adopted; while they must remain an official shame and reproach to Great Britain if the rapidly-increased revenue is only to serve as heretofore, to feed the greedy mass of lazy officials, and be dissipated in spasmodic efforts to enforce capricious authority. Nor

is it likely that the youngest of our West Coast settlements—Lagos, the former depot of a most cruel slave-trade which depopulated the Egba and Yoruba Countries will be overlooked. Although giving less cause for complaint than any other of the settlements, there is yet much requiring amendment. An energetic executive has wrought wonders in this formerly pestiferous sandbank at the mouth of the Ogun, while the great agricultural resources of the bordering interior countries, peopled by the most energetic and laborious of the African races, have raised this their seaport to an eminence surpassing all expectations entertained when it was united to the British possessions. But an increasingly wealthy mercantile community, imbued with ideas of British popular rights and liberties, must be expected to vindicate its right to a share in the management of the revenues levied by imports on their trade; and we do not hesitate to contend that the time has come when arbitrary government should be tempered by a wise admixture of elected with official members of the Legislative Council. The mercantile body there, both native and European, are wealthy enough and wise enough to justify and demand their being called upon to take part in the management of the very ample revenues which the authorities of this young settlement now have annually at their disposal. Our sketch is necessarily too brief and too hasty a one to allow of our even touching upon other points of interest to the advancing population of the West Coast, with one only exception. Many of the other points we should like to have noticed, such for instance as adequate medical supervision in settlements where, as at the Gambia, the military have been withdrawn, and the army surgeons of course withdrawn with them—mere points of detail, although important. But the one we have reserved for final notice is one of principle; one in which the governing principle of free British institutions has been unjustifiably violated, to the manifest injury and wrong of the people, as now sufficiently proved by painful experience need we say, that the restoration of the right of trial by jury in civil as well as in criminal cases is the all-important point on which we hope and believe the honourable Member will insist. As we have before stated, there never was any such proof given of evils arising from the exercise by the people during sixty years, in times of comparative ignorance, of their privilege of trial by jury in civil causes. The only example, so far as we can recollect at this moment, really adduced before the Parliamentary Committee was that of the European official Marston, who had 50*l.* damages awarded against him by a jury for cruelly whipping a native—an amount of penalty which Major Ord vehemently denounced, as proving the unfitness of the people for the exercise of their long possessed right—as oppressively large for the injury inflicted—an opinion in which, however, he was not supported by the right honourable Member of the House of Commons now at the head of the Education Board. The vacillations in the judicial mind—the uncertainty and delay experienced in Mr. Chief Justice French's Court, the Supreme Court, have caused much greater evil than any excessive damages by a jury could possibly have inflicted on the administration of justice. We cannot revert here to the frequent exposés we have made on this most important subject—exposés which gave, at least, cause for suspicion that Mr. Chief Justice French, however desirous of doing right, could not withdraw himself from the pernicious official influence in the settlement whenever the cause before his tribunal was one in which a European official and a native were in legal antagonism. We shall confine ourselves to one which comes again before our readers in our present number—that of *Lewis v. Justice Huggins*. The trial in this cause concluded on the 10th of February, 1870. And how long had this poor African widow, right or wrong in her suit, to wait for Mr. Chief Justice French's judgment? A jury in this cause would have been harangued by the judge bringing in review before them the principal points to which their attention should be directed, and they would have been required then and there to give their verdict. But, there being now no jury, and the judgment resting entirely

with Mr. Chief Justice French, he at the conclusion of the trial on that 10th of February adjourned the court for consideration and judgment; and this widow plaintiff was kept waiting for judgment—how long a time?—one week? two? a month? six months?—no—from the 10th of February, 1870, until the 9th of March, 1871—*precisely thirteen months!* Can this be called administration of justice? Can this be defended as a system preferable to trial by jury? The reply is certain from every unprejudiced man: such a system is a gross denial of justice; and should at once be put an end to, and trial by jury restored!

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

FROM our notice last month our readers will no doubt have expected that long ere this Paris would have been entered by the large army collected by M. Thiers. The Germans, with whom the definitive treaty of peace has been signed at Frankfurt, embodying, with very slight modification, the terms of the preliminary arrangements, have permitted the Thiers Government to increase its force before Paris to 150,000 men, under the chief command of Marshal M'Mahon, the general who commanded at the disastrous battle of Sedan, at the close of August, 1870, when the Emperor Napoleon III. surrendered himself prisoner to the now Emperor of Germany. But although there has been continuous fighting between Marshal M'Mahon's troops and the army of the citizens of Paris, and although the latter have been driven by the power of a tremendous artillery from some of the half-ruined forts they occupied south of Paris—and although for some days past the attacking troops have been within a "few hundred paces of the enceinte," they have not yet, up to the hour of our latest advices, hazarded the assault. The preparations for defence within Paris are of a very formidable kind, and we are still forced to anticipate that there must be considerable slaughter and destruction incurred in overcoming them. In their now hatred of that Bonapartism which they so long worshipped, the people of Paris, under their Communal Government, have cast down and destroyed the column in the Place Vendôme, which was raised by Napoleon I. in commemoration of the European victories of the French armies under his command; and although great discord has prevailed in their government, and their military commanders have been in perpetual change, they have not yet given any sign of a desire to avoid that deplorable conflict which is about to be forced upon them by the army of M'Mahon. God grant that in our next we may be able to record that the end of all these troubles has arrived, without that awful sacrifice of life with which, we have too much reason to fear, it will be attended.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

While going to press the following has arrived:—
VERSAILLES, May 22, 9 A.M.—The army of Gen. Cussy entered Paris this morning by the southern gates. Altogether about 80,000 troops have already entered the city, and penetrated as far as the Arc de Triomphe, the Trocadero, the Avenue Urich, and the left side of the military school. A lively cannonade is heard this morning, doubtless directed against the barricades near the Arc de Triomphe. Last night the troops captured the Chateau Muette at Passy, taking 600 prisoners. Four hundred prisoners arrived this morning at Versailles, amongst whom is Assy.
St. Denis, May 22, Morning.—Paris is now completely isolated by the Prussians. No news has been received here since midnight. The consternation of the population at St. Denis is extreme.

WE are requested to state that the Sierra Leone Government Six per Cent. Loan, for which subscriptions were invited by the Crown Agents for the Colonies on the 17th inst., has been all disposed of.

Major Joseph T. Brownell, formerly of the Gold Coast Corps, and lately Commissioner for obtaining the release of prisoners in Ashanti, has been appointed Civil Commandant of Anamaboe.

GOLD COAST.—The negroes of Guinea have sent a petition to the King of Holland against their transfer to the Government of Great Britain, and offer to pay the same sum to remain under Dutch rule.—*Brussels Telegram.*

GOLD COAST—EASTERN DISTRICTS.

ACCRA.

We have been glad to learn that something has been done this year to remedy the disorders which have prevailed in those parts of the Eastern Districts that feed the commerce of Accra. These disorders had existed since the Awoonah expedition of 1866. Gangs of plunderers and panyarers infested the paths of the interior. In February eight policemen armed with breech-loaders, twenty-five men of the 2nd West India Regiment, under Lieutenant Jackson, and thirty Accra Volunteers, under Mr. Edmund Bannerman, left Accra to perform their duty; under command of Captain Lees, the Civil Commandant at Shai, a great oil country, they disarmed and arrested a band of Akim robbers and panyarers, eighty-seven in number (including three chiefs), as well as other highwaymen who had for years infested those parts. Thence they went on to Crobo, clearing the country of similar vagabonds, and finally to Akrapong, in which is the chief establishment of the Basle missionaries. A great boast and show of resistance was there made to the apprehension of offenders, and the leaders of the expedition had need of all their coolness and tact to bring themselves successfully and safely through without bloodshed on either side. The description we have received is graphic, and highly creditable to Captain Lees, Lieutenant Jackson, and Edmund Bannerman, and all concerned, and we regret we have not room for the details. The party returned to Accra after three weeks' absence, having sent or brought down to Accra about 150 prisoners, including robbers, highwaymen, dead body-carriers, and other misdoers, who had defied the authorities for five long years to the great injury of trade with the interior. The Crobo chiefs have, it seems, since written to the Civil Commandant to thank the Governor for what the expedition performed, saying that "now women and children can go to and fro, unmolested, between Crobo and Accra, whereas for six years previously, even men were obliged to go in troops and armed, to defend themselves against highwaymen and panyarers." We have, we think, good reason to hope that one of the causes that have so much warred of late years against a good and profitable trade at Accra, has been effectually removed.

CAMEROONS.

The Rev. A. Saker has been busily engaged during the year in carrying to a conclusion at the press his version of the Old Testament Scriptures, and he has revived the meetings at John A'Kwa's town, from which place, some time ago, Mr. Fuller was driven by the plundering habits of the people. Death has borne away from their labours three missionaries labouring on the River Calabar; but our brethren have been spared, although constantly exposed to the fatal miasma of the swamps, which they not unfrequently traverse, as well as to the deadly passions of the barbarians around them. On several occasions they have been the instruments of making peace between contending tribes, or between the native traders and the merchants who purchase their produce. But they have sometimes been constrained to be unwilling witnesses of the atrocious cruelties that a pagan people can inflict on those who are hostile to them. Amid these dark scenes there are some bright spots, where the missionaries have obtained a footing. Recalling the past and comparing the present with it, the missionaries rejoice over many persons rescued from the power of Satan, and a general improvement in the character of the tribes more especially under their instruction. Many of the people exhibit great anxiety to place their children under the care of the missionaries. These children are trained in habits of industry as well as in the simpler elements of knowledge, and in numerous cases they become truly converted to God, and examples to their pagan countrymen of the Christian life.—*From Report of Baptist Missionary Society.*

NEW CALABAR.

March 20.

All the war canoes are mustering at Calabar Town preparatory to another raid into Ekreeka. The King and chiefs propose that by a series of raids they will force the Ekreekas to "chop juju" (i.e., make a treaty of peace) with them, on the Bismarckian principle—thrust them first, and make friends after. The war canoes, crowded with men from the towns in the lower part of the river, are just passing up on their way to Calabar Town, displaying all the pomp of barbaric warfare—flags of all sorts, colours, and sizes streaming from their flagstaves, flags of all sorts, native drums beating, and each canoe carrying a long six-pounder in the bows and a four-pounder gun in the stern. It was well the "palaver" with Bonny was settled, otherwise the Calabar men would have united with Ja-Ja and attacked Bonny on two sides at once, and I fear between the two Bonny would have been crushed, for their friends (?) the Ekreekas are getting tired of the alliance, there being nothing to gain by it;

and there is not the slightest doubt that had war broken out between Bonny and New Calabar, Ja-Ja would have acted in conjunction with New Calabar, and with him would have been his allies, the Kings of Andony and Umballa. Such a powerful combination would completely overpower all the force Bonny could place in the field, even with the assistance of Ekreeka, which is now more than doubtful. So Bonny would be in a "tight place"—as it is, if the war fever spreads, we are likely to have a lively time of it.

INSUFFICIENT PAYMENT OF NATIVE MISSIONARIES—IS IT RIGHT OR IS IT WRONG?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, April 20, 1871.

Sir,—I am not a member of any particular Protestant persuasion or sect, being neither of the Established Church, Methodist, Baptist, &c., but more inclined to the former than any other; nevertheless, I trust I have that due respect for any one that is truly religious—and I am sure I am always happy to hear of the well-doing of any one connected with the missionaries, particularly those of my own colour—but venture to say that I am afraid a certain want of liberality, or whatever you may term it, acts as a great check to the development of mission labour on certain parts of the West Coast of Africa, particularly in the Niger mission, than what was intended and hoped for by our friends in England, and which has been the cause of my addressing this letter, asking the above question—viz., "Is it right, or is it wrong?"

Now, one of the reasons of my asking you this question, Sir, is on account of the clergymen connected with the Niger Mission, four or five of whom were ordained here a month ago, preparatory to their going up the Niger this coming season. These persons, with the exception of one or two, are young men from about twenty-two to, perhaps, a little over thirty, all married, and some with increasing families, or in fair way of having such. Most, if not all of them, are receiving a salary of only 30*l.* per year, out of which they have to pay their passages to the different places to which they may be appointed, as well as for their wives, children, &c., from Sierra Leone to Lagos, and from hence to the place to which they may be appointed—say, for instance, to Onitsha, or Lokoja, on the River Niger—such passages, freight, &c., being paid by the Bishop of the Niger, and afterwards to be deducted from their salary by monthly instalments of 1*l.* per month; and when they wish to return home, or their time has expired, the same rate of expenses has to be undergone by the party, whoever he may be.

Now, one person's passage from here (Lagos) to Onitsha or Lokoja, with his baggage, &c., will not cost him less than from 7*l.* to 10*l.* at the very least. Well, we will say it will cost a married man, at the lowest figure, 20*l.*, and I very much doubt if not more, according to the rate I once paid for a friend; and when he or they arrive at their destination allotted, various little expenses must be incurred before getting, as one would say, settled down, which tell very materially upon the 1*l.* 10*s.* per month remaining. And you will always find that the natives, as well here as everywhere else, take every possible advantage of a stranger; so that at the end of one year, invariably the poor clergyman, schoolmaster, or what not is well in debt, let him do his best, with the assistance of his wife. There is no provision made for clothing, &c., it seems, by the Niger Mission, either for husband, wife, or child; but they must keep themselves respectable, as missionaries ought to do! Is that right?

Again, these young men, as they succeed in getting appointed to the mission, either as clergyman, catechist, schoolmaster (sometimes one person has to perform the whole of the duties), are strongly persuaded—in fact, in an indirect way, forced—to marry before leaving Sierra Leone; and the reason given is that it will tend more to support their morals and command respect. And so actually some of them are obliged to go amongst their friends and match-makers to hunt up a wife for them; and some of them, in fact the majority of them, have been married within three months after the first interview—for courtship it cannot be called. The young men just from Sierra Leone, that were ordained on Sunday, the 11th March, were some of them married within a few weeks or days before leaving, in one or two instances to mere girls not more than about fifteen to sixteen years of age, and all their wives are now in a delicate or promising state. Charming prospect upon thirty shillings per month! Again, I ask, Sir, is it right or is it wrong?

Every one that has been out here knows what sort of a place Africa is for cheapness for any sort of decent living. Up the Niger, I must admit, is far the cheapest place at present for food, both in quality and quantity, as far as native diet is concerned; but the saving in that respect is far more than counterbalanced in expenses for clothing and other necessary articles. Then, it can be no wonder, as soon as any one of the steamers arrives at

any of the stations, to see the missionaries flocking on board begging for little necessities for their wives and selves, which, poor people, they are willing enough to buy, but have not the means of buying; in fact, they are often obliged to beg from the very natives, and any one knowing the pay of these poor missionary people would really pity them. Some of them, I am well assured, would, from real despair, leave the mission work tomorrow, if they could get through their debts or obtain other situations; in fact, some I know of have given it up, some have behaved purposely so as to be dismissed, finding no other way of getting away. I have no relative whatever connected with the mission, nor have I any ambition to have; but, at the same time, I think "that every labourer is worthy of his hire," and although the mission work is certainly a noble work, and whoever engages himself as a minister of the Gospel is expected to put up with all sorts of difficulties, but very few men now-a-days can be found to struggle long under a hungry stomach, with a complaining wife and crying children. Hoping that some kind friends will see this and be persuaded to put the poor clergymen in a better pecuniary position, thereby rendering them more free from temptation and all the accompanying evils of poverty, as well as cause those for whose enlightenment they are sent to look upon them with more respect and confidence, I remain, your obedient servant,

L. O.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

SALES AND PRICES DURING THE WEEK FROM 12TH TO 19TH MAY, 1871.

PALE OIL has been in continued good demand, and prices are rather in sellers' favour; the sales are 1,200 tons, including Opobo at 32*l.*, Bonny at 32*l.* 10*s.* at 32*l.* 15*s.*, Old Calabar at 33*l.* 15*s.* on the spot, and 34*l.* to arrive; New Calabar 36*l.* 15*s.* on the spot, and 37*l.* 10*s.* to arrive; Brass at 37*l.* 10*s.* at 37*l.* 15*s.* on the spot, and 38*l.* to arrive; Lagos at 34*l.* 5*s.* at 34*l.* 15*s.*, closing at the latter price; Benin at 32*l.* 10*s.* at 32*l.* 15*s.*; Cameroons at 32*l.* 10*s.*, and Irregular at 28*l.* at 31*l.* per ton.

COTTON has been in increased demand this week, and the market has been strong, with an advance in most descriptions, though closing with less animation at 54*d.* to 64*d.* for African.

GROUND NUTS.—300 bags African decorticated at 18*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

PALE-NUT KERNELS.—770 bags at 13*l.* 15*s.* at 14*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

CASOR BEANS.—541 bags at 11*l.* per ton.

GUINEA GRAINS.—197 bags, at 18*s.* per cwt.

BENNI SEED.—140 bags, at 59*s.* 6*d.* per quarter of 384*lb.*

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, TUESDAY, APRIL 23.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Mr. M'Arthur, for the 23rd May, to call attention to the affairs of the British Settlements on the West Coast of Africa.

MAY 4.

THE GAMBIA.

Sir H. Verney inquired whether there was any truth in the report that the Government had in contemplation to make over the colony of the River Gambia to the French.

Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen referred the hon. gentleman to the papers already presented on the subject, and added that the negotiations were suspended upon the commencement of the war on the Continent, and there was no present probability of their being resumed. (Hear.)

HOUSE OF LORDS, MONDAY, MAY 8.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.

Earl Granville said their lordships would be glad to hear that intelligence had been received at the Foreign-office confirming the safety of Dr. Livingstone. Supplies had been sent to him, and, in the meantime, he had been relieved by the Arabs. (Cheers.)

OFFICIAL.

Mr. Thomas F. Callaghan, formerly Governor of Labuan, has been appointed Administrator of the Gambia Settlement.

JOHN HAMPDEN'S ADVERTISEMENT AS TO THE EARTH NOT BEING A GLOBE, AND OUR LEADER ON THE SUBJECT IN THE "AFRICAN TIMES" OF APRIL 24, 1871.

As our notice of this all-important subject of the globular or plane formation of this earth, has led to inquiry as to how it is possible that the celestial phenomena of which we are cognizant can be reconciled with this earth being a plane, as John Hampden, following the teachings of the Bible, asserts that it is, and not a globe among globes, as Galileo, Copernicus, and Newton have made it; we think ourselves fortunate in having, in the course of our late readings, met with the following in a recent

work of one of our great astronomical authorities, Sir David Brewster, entitled "The Martyrs of Science."

In his notice of the celebrated "Tycho Brahe" he says: "It was, perhaps, owing more to his veneration for the Scriptures than to the vanity of giving his name to a new system, that he rejected the Copernican hypothesis. Hence he was led to propose another system, called the 'Tychoonic,' in which the earth is stationary in the centre of the universe, while the sun, with all the other planets revolving round him, performs his daily revolution about the earth. This arrangement of the planets afforded sufficient explanation of the various phenomena of the heavens; and as it was consistent with the language of Scripture, and conformable to the indication of the senses, it found many supporters, notwithstanding the physical absurdity of making the whole system revolve round one of the smallest of the planets!"

We must confess that we were not prepared to see such a statement by such a man. Really, if there be no better argument in favour of the Newtonian theory, in which we and our fellow millions in England and elsewhere have been brought up, than that it is a physical absurdity, in the eyes of so-called men of science, that "the whole system should revolve about one of the smallest of the planets," as Scripture states that it does, and as our senses, apart from scientific theories, tell us that it does, we may well begin to doubt, with John Hampden, whether, in assenting to the Newtonian theory hitherto, we have not been led away from Divine truth into the worship of human error. But, while on this subject, we cannot refrain from inserting another extract from the same work of Sir David Brewster's, which perfectly accords with our own views as to the tone and temper in which what may be called respectable established error should be attacked by those who seek to destroy and remove it, and elevate what they have themselves become convinced is truth, into the place it unworthily occupied. It occurs in Sir David's notice of "Galileo," and is as follows:—

"The ardour of Galileo's mind, the keenness of his temper, his clear perception of truth, and his inextinguishable love of it, combined to exasperate and prolong the hostility of his enemies. When arguments failed to enlighten their judgment, and reason to dispel their prejudices, he wielded against them the powerful weapons of ridicule and sarcasm; and in this unrelenting warfare he seemed to have forgotten that Providence had withheld from his enemies the intellectual gifts which he had as liberally received. He who is allowed to take the start of his species, and to penetrate the veil which conceals from common minds the mysteries of nature, must not expect the world will be patiently dragged at the chariot-wheels of his philosophy. Mind has its inertia as well as matter; and its progress to truth can only be insured by the gradual and patient removal of the difficulties which embarrass it."—C. iv. p. 46.

He proceeds to say that the boldness and recklessness of Galileo only served to alienate his enemies from the truth—that errors thus assailed become embalmed in the "virulence of the passions," &c.—Ed. A.T.

PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Some of our friends who think it an easy matter to work the Parliamentary machine for the cure of admitted evils, may read with profit the following from one of our daily papers:—

"Rumble, 'rumble'—the wheels of Parliament turn very slowly—what is picking oakum compared to the work of the Speaker, who, if sleep were not permitted, could find no compensation in the high estate of his position? Men who regard the sore need for social legislation are disheartened. The member who should rejoice in last evening's talk, and adjournment for another talk, on Westmeath, is Mr. John Martin, the 'Nationalist' member for Meath, whose wideawake hat is such a trouble to the fops of the House; yet perhaps he would rather do battle for 'repeal' than see it growing in favour by a negative process—by sheer desperation of Parliament at the days and days which are devoted to discussions as to 'how not to do it' in Ireland. Look at 'our failures' of this Session; already a high heap! Perhaps the University Tests Bill will be added to the number. Mr. Bruce has not a notion when he shall bring on all that is left of the Licensing Bill. Mr. Gladstone means to pass the Ballot Bill—of that we have no doubt. But the floor of the House is already paved with his good intentions, which will rise no more this Session. Let us boldly confess that as a legislative machine our free Parliament is very imperfect—not in character, not in reputation, not in eloquence, but in regard to the wants of the people as to legislation. For example, there are at least twenty measures of law reform as to the need for which there is no party question; we have a Supreme Court of Appeal composed of 473 judges,* who sit only for five months in the year—as if Justice tied up her balances from the commencement of the shooting to the close of the hunting season. Into the same five

* The House of Peers.

months the Commons are compelled to crowd their work. Manfully they strive to do it, sitting from noon to cock-crow. It kills them, three or four in a Session, but even with this sacrifice of comfort, health, and life, they win little or no success. The matter is important. Delay in much-needed legislation is dangerous. And it would be a shame if 'the mother of free Parliaments' should cease to be regarded as the best model of a legislative assembly."

THE DIAMOND FIELDS AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, AFRICA.—Several valuable parcels of diamonds have been brought into the colony recently from the diamond fields. Mr. Cole, we believe, is entrusted with a very fine lot. Mr. Glanville brought down with him to Graham's Town the finds of Mr. James Wood's party, including two fine gems weighing each about 20 carats, and also those belonging to the *Diamond News* party. Mr. James Roberts has also arrived at Graham's Town with the finds of his party, a large one of 33 carats amongst the rest. Mr. James Wilson, who arrived at Richmond last week, brought with him 15 diamonds weighing 31 carats. Mr. J. Myburgh, of the Paarl, passed through Beaufort, from the fields, during last week, with seven diamonds in his possession, among which was a 15-carat gem, for which, it is said, 1,200*l.* was offered, but refused. From Queen's Town we learn, by the *Free Press*, that Mr. Nicholls has in his possession 270 diamonds varying in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 carats, and valued at 3,000*l.* It is mentioned that Mr. Nicholls has forwarded to England during the last eight months diamonds valued at 8,000*l.* Mr. J. H. Parker, of Queen's Town, has received a fine diamond of 22 carats from the Scott and Kay party, for which, it is said, 1,000*l.* was refused on the fields. A splendid gem of 107 $\frac{1}{2}$ carats has been found at Diamondia. Finds at the same place during the week include one of 7, 13, 16, 20, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ carats. Report says that the "Star of Beaufort West" diamond, weighing 88 carats, found at Pniel by the Wheeler party, and sent to England through the Standard Bank, has been valued by the brokers at 10,000*l.*—*Cape Standard*, March 18.

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. notic. 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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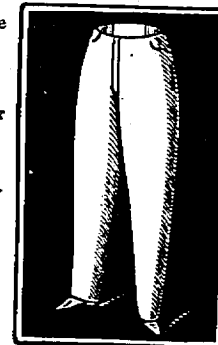
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