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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

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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.

JULY, 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 ROQUELLE, Captain E. GRIFFITHS, is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on JUNE 29, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th JULY, at 11.30 A.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar; also to any other intermediate Port to which inducement may offer. GOODS will be received in GLASGOW up to 6 P.M. on the 28th JUNE, and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to Noon on the 5th JULY. 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 CONGO, Captain R. F. LOWEY, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th JULY, at 9.30 A.M., for Madeira, Teneriffe, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Half Jack, 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 9 A.M. on the day of sailing.

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

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

All letters must pass through the Post-office.

For further information apply in London to Messrs. MALCOLM, HUDSON, 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 steamer Volta, on May 24.
African Steamship Company's Biafra, on June 1.
African Steamship Company's Soudan, on June 1.
British and African Company's Roquette, on June 12.

DEPARTURES.

African Steamship Company's Calabar, May 30.
B. and A.S.N. Co.'s Volta, June 6.
African Steamship Company's Soudan, June 12.
British and African Steam Navigation Co.'s Loanda, June 18.
African Steamship Company's steamer Biafra will take out mail of June 23.

REJOINDER TO MR. KNATCHBULL-HUGESSEN'S REPLY TO COLONEL BERESEFORD'S QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

From the time that an Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, under the influence of misrepresentation made by the local authorities, charged the petitioners of this settlement with having made unfounded statements—a charge proved to be without foundation—succeeding Under-Secretaries have always been blundering over the affairs of the West Coast; and all is owing to the first false step, which, for some cause or other, the Colonial office would not retrace. An illustration of Colonial-office blunders may be met with in the defence set up by Mr. Under-Secretary Knatchbull-Huggessen (as copied from the *Times*) to the charge of “looseness of statement,” made against him by the Editor of the *African Times*. “It is quite true,” says Mr. Huggessen, “as stated by the *African Times*, that the sum of 5,000*l.* appeared in the Sierra Leone Estimates of the present year under the head of Colonial Steamer; so did another item immediately preceding, Grant for the Governor's salary 3,500*l.*, but these both appeared, not under the head of expenditure, but of revenue, not as sums paid from, but received by the Colonial Exchequer.” It is not quite correct, as stated by the Under-Secretary, that 3,500*l.*, the salary of the Governor, is paid from the Imperial Exchequer; for 500*l.* of the amount is paid from the revenue of this settlement, a fact which Mr. Knatchbull-Huggessen knew, or ought to have known when he made the statement. Does this establish the charge of “looseness of statement” or not? Besides, it is a notorious fact that in the Estimates which we set forth on our fourth page as published in the fourth volume of local ordinances, and by which the Editor of the *African Times* was doubtlessly governed, nothing is said of any “Grant for Governor's salary,” nor does the so-called “Colonial Steamer” come under the head of revenue, as alleged by the Under-Secretary, but rather under the head of expenditure, as affirmed by the *African Times*; so that, take the matter how you may, the Under-Secretary seems to be ignorant or ill-informed of a subject with which he pretends to deal in a manner satisfactory to himself, but not to others, and the charge of “looseness of statement” clings to him in every turn he makes in the matter. If the items have been differently arranged in the estimates of the present year—and these have not yet been published, but are kept concealed in the Colonial office and at Government House—then this is another instance of the disposition of the Government to keep the public uninformed relative to a matter of which there should be no concealment. No one can doubt, not even Mr. Knatchbull-Huggessen, that the observations made by the *African Times* had reference to preceding estimates, and not to those of 1871, which were not before the Editor, and to which he had no access. This being so, his accusation of looseness of statement against the Under-Secretary was well-directed and well-merited. It is the business of the Local Government to frame their estimates in such a way as not to mislead the public, but if they will not do this, then they must take the consequences of their own acts; and when they are assailed for their clumsy and unskillful way of doing business the Under-Secretary has no right to make an attempt at justifying them by attacking the intelligence and integrity of others. If Colonial-office authorities are unwilling to have the blunders of their underlings criticised by a free and fearless press, then let them see to it that these underlings put things in their proper place at all times, and that they refrain from misleading the public. Mr. Knatchbull-Huggessen further goes on to say that “the exercise of a little ordinary intelligence would have enabled any one to perceive that these entries related to the precise sums mentioned in our home estimates, and received from the Imperial Exchequer in aid of the colony.” We have already shown that of the 3,500*l.* said by Mr. Huggessen to be paid from the Imperial Exchequer for the Governor's salary 500*l.* is actually taken from the revenues of this settlement. We cannot see that even the greatest amount of intelligence could lead any person, other than Mr. Knatchbull-Huggessen, to perceive what is evidently not only imperceptible, but at variance with the estimates printed on our fourth page. As keen as the perception of the Under-Secretary would appear to be, he can still be imposed upon by artful subordinates.

The way to avoid unpleasant questions in the House of Commons respecting the West Coast Settlements, is to give the people a share in the management of their own concerns. But although they are qualified to participate in free institutions, so much prized by the British people, yet they are not permitted to share in that enlightened liberality which alone can prepare the way for that self-government once recommended by a House of Commons Committee; and the franchise, so greatly valued by the Englishman at home, is withheld from the British-African subject on his own soil, although said to be governed by the laws and institutions of England. The affairs of these settlements are in the utmost confusion; gross mismanagement is everywhere to

be seen. Legislation is at a standstill, and no measures have been adopted to correct the evils which, from time to time, we have pointed out in the columns of this journal. The local exchequer, emptied to keep up a pompous show, and to adorn Government House and Gardens which can yield no return, is sought to be replenished by levying a tax of 10 per cent. and more, on the destitute widow, the lame, the maimed, and the blind; and in default of payment, fourteen days' labour on the public roads or works, and, failing in this, twenty-five days' hard labour awaits them in the gaol with convicts, as witness the Rev. Mr. Tregaskis's letter on the house and land tax. Power exercised by a ruler without the aid of representative institutions is sure to be abused, and we have had painful evidence of the manner in which matters are now managed. Wisdom and humanity make it a duty on England to redress the wrongs and secure the future happiness and welfare of these settlements, and no longer permit misinformed and misguided Under-Secretaries of State to give ambiguous answers to, or evade, questions of the greatest importance to the settlements, and in which are involved the interest and safety of nearly 50,000 human beings under British rule.—*West African Liberator*.

GOOD DONE AND TO BE DONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

West Coast of Africa, New Year's-day, 1871.

Sir,—I wish you the compliments of the season, with many happy returns of the same, for the much good you have done for the benefit of Africa and the Africans. Through your valuable exertions the West Coast of Africa has been regenerated and improved; within the last few years many of the dirty old Government stables have been cleansed. We, the poor horses, through your esteemed paper, are now being properly foddered and carried down; we have not very many faults to find now with our Governmental grooms. Behold the Gambia, once an obscure place, and its inhabitants horsewhipped, kicked about, oppressed, and murdered on the treadmills and by shot-drills, now taking a high standing in the Parliamentary debates of Great Britain—such ill-treatment and horsewhipping as was committed on Harry Finden by Drs. Oaks and Elliott, whose brutal conduct was winked at by the “Horse Guards,” though you brought it vividly before their eyes. Secondly, the carelessness and stinginess of Admiral Patey, in not taking precautionary measures to stop the ravages of the “cholera,” his unpardonable conduct in hugging the revenues of the Gambia, and allowing its inhabitants to perish in the “cholera coal-pit,” rather than spend a little of that money to give timely succour, and save many valuable lives. I need not say that his conduct was also winked at by the “Colonial office,” and that office, instead of punishing the delinquent, sent him to the “Island of Incurables,” as you termed it, with a better salary. Thirdly, and lastly, about the Gambia, I would speak of that “monstrous iniquity,” the Gambia cession, with its people, to Roman Catholic France. The idea of Great Britain, a Protestant nation, giving away one of her colonies to a Roman Catholic country—a colony that was never bought by England, belonged to the natives, but only settled by British subjects and governed by English laws! The idea is enough for us Africans, and had it not been for your paper, the matter would have been hushed up, the Gambia would have been transferred to France, Parliament would have known nothing about it, and the poor inhabitants of the Gambia would have been, ere now, groaning under a foreign yoke. Did the Parliament of 1865 suggest the transfer of her West African colonies, or did she suggest that we should be made self-governing? I beg to thank you for your most noble exertions, and beg to couple your name with those of the Duke of Manchester and Sir John Hay—his Grace for bringing the matter before the House of Lords, and the honourable baronet for bringing the same before the House of Commons. I sincerely return my heartfelt thanks to Mr. B. Cochrane, Lord Sandon, Mr. Eastwick, Mr. T. Hughes, Mr. Heygate, and Sir James Elphinstone for their noble speeches in the House of Commons against the cession of the Gambia. I heartily congratulate Mr. Macfie for his prophetic hope that “Great Britain should keep the Gambia Settlement for ever;” and I must not forget our military friend, Colonel Sykes, who, like an English bull-dog, quietly advised the Colonial office from coming into collision with the British House of Commons.

Sierra Leone, now the metropolis of the West Coast of Africa, has sent one bishop to the Niger; she is continually supplying missionaries to her benighted brethren in other parts of Africa, as also military and colonial surgeons, besides chaplains and other Government officials to fill the public offices of the Gambia, Cape Coast, Accra, and Lagos. We now require legal men, of African origin, to fill the offices of chief justices, judges, chief magistrates, Queen's advocates, as also civil engineers and surveyors. I well remembered this day that, some years ago, at a missionary meeting at Christ Church, Pademba-road, when his

Excellency Governor Blackall was in the chair, the Rev. J. G. Macauley, now of the Sierra Leone native pastorate, officiating at the village of Wellington, in his speech at the above meeting, whilst reviewing the progress of the colony for twenty years back, up to the period he was speaking, he said that as the colony had made such an extraordinary progress within that time, who knows that within a few years we may have an African bishop. His Excellency Governor Blackall rose up and replied that it was impossible to have an African bishop, as the responsibilities were too much for a black man. Six months after this, however, Dr. Crowther was consecrated Bishop of the Niger, during the Administration of the very Governor Blackall. Before your paper made its appearance, these highly-educated and now competent young men were living in mysterious obscurity in Sierra Leone, and the offices they now occupy were filled by Europeans. Thanks to you, Sir, and the Parliamentary Committee of 1865, we are now progressing towards self-government. Education is making rapid strides in Sierra Leone. Your indefatigable exertions and cries for redress have nearly rid Sierra Leone of the “Blackall-Huggins clique.” Although I am sorry to say that that clique, before its dismemberment, succeeded in depriving us of trial by jury in civil causes, yet your timely interference prevented them from doing more mischief. Sierra Leone, as the metropolis of the West Coast of Africa, requires further improvements. Will you kindly advocate the necessity of carrying out those improvements? Immigration is very much required in the colony; we want immigrants from the Brazils, British America, Cuba, the United States, and the West Indies, as we have millions of acres of land which could be put under agriculture for the growing of cotton, sugar-cane, and coffee, &c., besides magnificent rivers and streams for supplying ample water for hydraulic purposes. The population is about 45,000, and I should be glad if, through your valuable paper, we could see it increase, within a few years, to 100,000: then its revenue will be treble what it is now.

Why should not Freetown receive a “royal charter” and become a corporate city, having its mayor and town council, besides other municipal privileges? We should also like to see a House of Assembly, whose members should represent the numerous villages besides Freetown. We are paying heavy but necessary taxes, and why should not the privileges be granted to us? I need not say that your paper has improved the West Coast of Africa, both morally and intellectually. Many Africans have been instigated to read by your paper, and those Europeans who once hated your paper, now hail it and read it with great delight. But I cannot understand the peculiar policy of the Colonial office in winking at the evil deeds of so many of its West Coast officials, and wish they would constantly recall those beautiful words uttered by Lord Carnarvon whilst in office—to wit, “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;” for since these most excellent words were uttered by Lord Carnarvon and recorded in your paper, there has never been any redress given to us Africans, though petitions upon petitions have been sent to the Colonial office; and, like master like servants, the officials on the Coast follow the policy of the Colonial office, *vide* the cases of Fyfe v. Huggins, Findley v. White, Shepherd v. Goldsworthy, Rainy v. Bravo, Lefevre v. Edwards, and Baker v. Stott. Your paper brought all these to light. Long live the *African Times*, and long live its God-sent editor! is the ardent wish and prayer of yours,

AN AFRICAN OF THE AFRICANS.

P.S.—I take this opportunity also to urge upon every minister in Sierra Leone, especially those connected with the native pastorate, the necessity of procuring subscribers to this most valuable journal; also all African gentlemen at the Gambia, Cape Coast, Accra, Lagos, Fernando Po, and elsewhere, to use their endeavours in obtaining pecuniary aid to support the *African Times*. May its subscribers be paying subscribers, and may the number double that of the past year!

AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The half-yearly report of the African Steam Ship Company has been issued, in anticipation of the meeting to be held on the 14th inst. The balance to the credit of revenue account is 5,974*l.*, out of which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 8s. per share for the six months on the shares on which 10*l.* each had been paid prior to the late call being made, and interest at the same rate on the amount of the call, from the date of its payment to the close of the half year. The amount left to be carried forward is 272*l.* An application to the Government for a supplementary charter to enable the directors to issue debentures to the extent of one third of the subscribed capital of the undertaking will be granted.

P.S.—The meeting was held on the 14th, as above announced, when the directors' report was approved and the 8s. per share voted as usual.

PRESENT RATE OF DUTIES ON IMPORTS INTO LIBERIA.

Tobacco, 5 cents. per lb.; guns, 50 cents. each; powder, 4 cents. per lb.; brass kettles, brass pans, and neptunes, 5 cents. per lb.; broadcloth and kersemere, 40 cents. per yard; broadcloth made up in suits, \$3 a suit, or \$1 50 cents. cost, \$1 for trousers, 50 cents. for vest; silk, 25 cents. per yard; Romal handkerchiefs, 10 cents. each piece; Madras handkerchiefs, 20 cents. each piece; flour, \$1 50 cents. per barrel; pork, \$3 per barrel, prime; mess pork, \$3 75 cents.; hams, shoulders, and bacon, 3 cents. per lb.; iron bars, 1 cent. per lb.; cutlasses, 40 cents. per doz.; hatchets, 40 cents. per doz.; rum or gin, 37½ cents. per gallon; blue baft, \$1 each piece; satin stripes, 90 cents. each piece; pipes in boxes, 15 cents.; basins, 75 cents. per doz.; pitchers, 30 cents. per doz.; mugs and bowls, 15 cents. per doz.; candles, 50 cents. per lb.; other goods are 15 cents. or a dollar. Before this extortionate increase of duties the duties were 15 cents. on a dollar ad valorem on all goods. This also was too exorbitant. Four per cent. is quite enough for any duty; but the Liberians have an idea that, however high they raise the duties, foreigners cannot do without coming to Liberia. They think that every nation must necessarily trade with Liberia, notwithstanding the exorbitant duties.

COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN LIBERIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Since County, Liberia, April 2nd, 1871.

Sir,—The way money is used in our Government is what helps to ruin the country. This is our system. In all the counties, the collector of custom is a man to whom the duties are paid, and our law say “the duties are to be paid partly in currency and partly in specie.” The former is useless, the latter the Government does not put into circulation, because they have not got it. The collector as aforesaid collects these duties; and before he takes them to the treasurer he pays himself, taking good care to keep the specie, or most part of it. He takes the balance to the treasurer, who also pays himself, also taking care to secure the specie. The collector says to the treasurer, “I have paid myself; I am no fool.” “No, indeed,” says the treasurer, “you are right; I am going to help myself as well.” The public don't know what amount the collector takes to the treasurer, nor what amount the collector and treasurer take for their salary, which is a percentage. The public are ignorant, totally ignorant, of what they are doing; only whenever the treasurer chooses to announce that money is in the treasury, and will be paid out on such a day, then the people flock at the treasurer's house, for in his house he keeps the Government money, as the Government affords him no other. He issues out money to his friends, and those he may have had a quarrel with, or whom he dislikes, he refuses to pay, though they all bring the treasurer orders signed by the superintendent and are persons the Government owes the money to. The collector signs no voucher, nor the treasurer, to anybody for their salaries, to show wherein they had received their wages. The collector takes the duties to the treasurer, merely saying, “I have kept back my pay, and this is all left.” The treasurer never strictly inquires, “What did you receive from such a captain or merchant?” but takes just what the collector brings him, and it may likely be that a collector divides the duties, keeping back a part, and then taking his pay from the half which he brings the treasurer. The only time the treasurer feels dissatisfied is when the collector is too much of a sharper, and keeps back all the specie for duties paid; then the treasurer grumbles and shakes his head, and says “This fellow is taking up all the money.” He grumbles, not from the love he has for the country, the people, or the Government, but because he had not a share in all the specie the collector keeps back. Another system in Liberia is this; if a person steals, commits forgery, fraud, or embezzlement, he or she is indicted by the grand jurors, brought up criminally before a quarterly court, and if guilty is fined a certain amount of money which, is paid in treasury orders. Do criminals pay fines in other countries, Mr. Editor? I suppose this is done because we have no prisons. Again, when prisoners are sentenced to imprisonment, the Government sells the prisoner's time to any one. Some one comes up and buys the prisoner's time, and pays the Government in treasury orders according to the amount the Government charges; the prisoner is taken by the person to his or her residence; the prisoner walks at large, only attending to the work the person by whom he or she was bought may give him or her to do. This is done because the Government is not able to support prisoners in gaol. Our magistrates get no pay, only the costs go to them, and the constables who serve the writ or summons. The Government gives the magistrates no stationery, so that whenever cases come before them, they are obliged to hunt up old books, to tear the fly-sheet out to write their judgment upon, and often the magistrates are obliged to run from neighbour to neighbour begging for a piece of paper, leaving the prisoner

with a constable sitting down in his house; for magistrates judge matters in their own houses, there being no court-room for them, and the magistrates have often torn fly-sheets out of the Bible and Testament to write their judgment upon.

Starvation is severe, rice is sold when it can be got at 50 cents per quart, the duties are extortionate; the Government oppresses us down next to servitude, and makes us live in wretchedness, misery, and nakedness. Green pampas and Magoo plums boiled in water are chiefly our food, yet we make the civilised world to believe that Liberia is progressing. Except we mean progressing in iniquity, poverty, nakedness, and starvation, it is false.—Yours, Mr. Editor, A LIBERIAN.

P.S.—The manufacturers of blue bafts and satin stripes, who buy their own cotton and employ hands to spin it, sell them at 75 cents a piece after going through all the expenses; and here our Government charges 90 cents on satin stripes, \$1 on blue baft a piece, duties only to land them on our shores. Does this sound sensible? Absurd, ridiculous, and shameful to take such advantage? If we charge a dollar for duties for a piece of cloth, what should not the manufacturer charge? The same in cut-lases. The manufacturer sells them about a dollar a dozen, and the Government charges a dollar a dozen again merely to land them. Don't you see the rogues in the matter, the oppression and advantage, as if to say to foreigners, "We don't want you to come in, we don't want our country to rise; but if you foreigners will come, we will make you pay for it." Who cannot see the rascality mixed up with dodge in our legislators? They have refused, I believe, to take loans when it was offered to them, now we want a loan we can't get it; and here we are going downward, downward, downward every day. Some of our ex-presidents have not received their salaries for the time they served as presidents. Our judges, superintendents, ex-judges, ex-superintendents, court constables, jurymen have not received a single cent for two and three years. Now what has become of the duties paid? Don't it plainly show, Mr. Editor, that some one or other eats up the revenue, and no one has the courage to bring them to account? ONE IN MISERY.

MONROVIA.

December, 1870.

President Royce has returned from America. Secretary Johnson, who accompanied his excellency the President on his visits to England and America, returned some months before the President. He circulated many reports against the President's character, both private and public, exposed all the confidence the President had entrusted in him; he exposed all his acts and doings, lectured publicly against him, called him all kinds of ill names, and got up the public voice against the President.

There also has been for a long time a great division amongst the black population and mulattoes, or half caste. The mulattoes look down on the blacks as inferior, and claim the right to govern, and want to have always a mulatto or half-caste as President. The blacks prove that they are equal, and in many cases superior to the mulattoes. The blacks allude to the best president the Republic ever had, who was a black gentleman, the late President Benson. Matters stand in a very serious condition. Here the whole country is in great uproar. God only knows what the result will be. The Legislature is about to meet. Every man seems to have the law in his own hands. Great dissatisfaction is also shown towards the President by the Legislature and the public, because he did not succeed in obtaining the loan which he went for. It is universally believed that at whatever time Liberia should require a loan, the whole civilised world would be too glad and rush to her, and on any condition whatever, and the President returning without it quite disappointed their notions.

January 1871.

Legislature has met. There is a great stir here, which may end very seriously. The Legislature is getting up impeachments against the Vice-President, Dr. Smith, and against General Lewis, the Secretary of State, and editor of the Government paper called the *Liberia Register*. It is said the Legislature is watching the President to get a clue on him to impeach him. Also the President has delivered his "message," but it was said in both houses by some of the legislators that the President's "message" should not be printed nor published. They alleged that the President's "message" was a disgrace to Liberia, and it was also thought to put a penalty on any one who may publish the President's "message," but after due consideration they allowed it to be printed and published.

Thus it is with our little republic. Such a dislike is shown to each other, particularly to those in authority, that every man seems to envy the place of another, and anything that can be done to bring the administration under which they serve into ridicule they will not hesitate to do it; and when one president commences a foundation and goes out of office, his successor drags

down and destroys, with revenge, anger, and hatred, all that his predecessor had done, and commences a new foundation, and before he is able to carry out his new policy he goes out of office, and his successor also destroys his work with wrath and indignation, and commences a new foundation of his own. Thus you see that there is no progress made in Liberia. This is one of the many hindrances to the advancement and progress of Liberia.

HOUSE AND TRADING ESTABLISHMENT DESTROYED BY H.M. GUNBOAT PERT.

Extract from Account of Sir A. Kennedy's Tour Down the Coast in his Yacht.

"Sir Arthur Kennedy resolved that there should be peace between the Accras, Addas, and Awoonahs.* On his way to Lagos he sent Mr. Robert Bannerman, of Accra, with Mr. Lawson, his interpreter, on shore at Jella Coffee, that they might talk over matters with the chiefs and headmen among the Addas and Awoonahs. They were to tell the Awoonah chiefs that he must have Geraldo (Mr. Geraldo de Lima), or that he must be sent out of their country, as he was the mischief-maker, the disturber of the peace, and the immediate cause of all the troubles. On Sir Arthur's return, he sent, through the headmen of Jella Coffee, for Geraldo to come on board his yacht, promising that he should be allowed to return on shore again. But Geraldo, instead of going on board the Governor-in-Chief's yacht, withdrew, removing his merchandise to the other side of the lagoon, to a place called Anyako, a station of the Bremen Mission. Sir Arthur conferred with the kings and chiefs on board the yacht, and they agreed to send delegates to Accra and Adda to come to proper terms and be friends again. These delegates Sir Arthur brought up to Accra, and a peace, a substantial peace, has been made.

"The negotiations for peace having made such satisfactory progress, the Governor-in-Chief was determined to punish Geraldo. He gave sufficient notice to all persons in or near the premises of Geraldo to make themselves scarce, and he ordered the *Pert*, Her Majesty's gunboat, to send round shot (not shell) through the house, as a hint for his future good behaviour."

THE LAST DAYS OF THE PARIS COMMUNE.

PARIS, May 21.—At a quarter past six this evening the Versailles troops forced an entrance into the city through the Porte de la Muette, after having previously been repulsed.

Midnight.—The gate of St. Cloud was captured at eight o'clock this evening by General Douai, followed by the divisions of General Ladmirault and Clinchamps. The Prussians are carrying out a movement with the object of effecting the isolation of Paris. The concert announced to take place on the Place de la Concorde this afternoon was removed to the garden of the Tuileries, owing to the increased proximity of the shells. I went thither at three o'clock. About 10,000 persons attended. The price of admission was half a franc for the commoners, and a franc for the uncommoners. The music consisted of two or three hundred brass instruments. The "Chant du Départ" and the "Marseillaise" were the chief morceaux de résistance, and were applauded to repetition. Between the morceaux, the audience amused themselves by glancing up the deserted Champs Elysées, where from time to time a shell burst, throwing up the dust in dense clouds. There were 10,000 persons quietly listening to a concert, while their countrymen were being killed almost in sight. Such is Paris of to-day! A scene took place yesterday at the magnificent new Church of the Trinity, at the end of the Chaussée d'Antin, on the Boulevards, which is worth describing by itself. After stripping the building of all the valuables and decorations, which were systematically carried off in three furniture waggons, to be sold, I presume, the Federal guards brought out the marble statue of the Virgin, a gem of art, blacked its eyes with charcoal, made a hole in its mouth, into which they stuck a dirty short pipe, and finally dressed up the statue in the costume of a *cantinière*, who disrobed herself on purpose. They wound up this exploit by dancing a kind of *carmagnole* round the statue and drinking obscene toasts.

VERSAILLES, May 22, 4.45 a.m.—One half of the army is already within Paris. "We have possession of the gates of St. Cloud, Passy, and Auteuil, and have made ourselves masters of the Trocadero.—Thiers."

VERSAILLES, 8.15 a.m.—The Government troops are now at the Arc de Triomphe. Cannon are being fired on the Champs Elysées. At two o'clock this morning 15,000 or 16,000 men of General Cissey's Division began to enter by the gates of Vaugrard and Montrouge. Other troops are to follow by the Auteuil and La Muette gates, both of which have been captured, with 700 prisoners.

* It has been a disgrace to both the Cape Coast Administrator and the Administrator-in-Chief (especially the latter), that these troubles were not settled some years ago.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

May 19 to 26.

Cotton.—Fluctuating—closes rather firm, 5½d. to 6½d. per lb. Ground-nuts.—3,300 mats, at 18½. 5s. to 18½. 7s. 6d. per ton. Palm-kernels.—200 bags and 116 tons, at 13½. 15s. to 13½. 17s. 6d. per ton. Palm-oil steady, with a good demand, and the sales are 1,360 tons, including Irregular at 28½. 10s. to 31½., Opobo at 32½. 5s., Benin at 32½. 10s. to 32½. 15s., Bonny at 32½. 10s. to 33½., Cameroons at 32½. 10s., Old Calabar at 33½. 15s., Lagos at 34½. 15s., New Calabar at 37½., and Brass at 37½. 15s. to 38½., per ton.

May 26 to June 3.

The cotton market closed firmly on Saturday, and re-opened on Wednesday, after the holidays, with animation, the business being very large, particularly for arrival, at advanced rates, quotations generally showing an advance of ¼d. to ½d. per lb. The week's sales amounted to 97,000 bales; African unchanged, 5½d. to 6½d.

Palm-kernels.—335 bags, at 13½. 15s. to 14½. 2s. 6d. per ton. Palm-oil.—Late arrivals having been mostly cleared from the quay, the transactions are only about 750 tons, including Opobo, to arrive, at 32½. 10s.; and on the spot, Bonny at 32½. 15s., Old Calabar at 33½. 15s., Lagos at 34½. 15s., and Irregular at 28½. to 32½. per ton.

Note.—The palm-oil quotations are always for casks over 12 cwt. each. Smaller casks and barrels sell at from 1½. to 1½. 10s. lower rate.

June 3 to June 10.

Benni-seed.—Small sales at 58s. 6d. per quarter. Palm-kernels.—51 bags and 105 tons, at 13½. 5s. to 13½. 17s. 6d. per ton.

Ground-nuts.—130 tons Sierra Leone, to arrive in London, at 18½. 5s. for decorticated, and 12½. per ton for undecorticated, ex quay.

Palm-oil in good demand, and 1,050 tons sold; Irregular at 27½. 10s. to 32½., Accra at 32½. 10s., Bonny at 32½. 10s. to 33½., Benin at 32½. 15s. to 33½., Old Calabar at 33½. 10s. to 33½. 15s., Lagos at 34½. 7s. 6d. to 34½. 15s., New Calabar at 37½. 5s., Congo at 37½. 12s. 6d., and Brass at 37½. 15s. per ton.

Cotton has been in unusually extensive demand this week from the trade as well as for export and on speculation, and prices of all descriptions have advanced about ¼d. per lb. Yesterday the market closed rather quietly, and to-day has been without animation. African as before, 5½d. to 6½d.

Adansonia fibre, 86 bales, at 15½. per ton.

June 12 to June 17.

Palm-oil continues steady, and the sales are 420 tons: Irregular at 28½. to 31½., Benin at 32½. 15s., Bonny at 32½. 15s. to 33½., Old Calabar at 33½. 10s. to 33½. 15s., Lagos at 34½. 7s. 6d. to 34½. 10s., and New Calabar at 37½. 5s. to 37½. 10s. per ton.

Benni-seed.—120 bags, at 56s. to 61s. 6d. per quarter. Ground-nuts.—80 tons to arrive, at 18½. 5s. for decorticated, and 12½. per ton for undecorticated, in bulk, ex ship.

Palm-kernels.—13 tons at 13½. 15s. per ton. Cotton.—African, 5½d. to 6½d.

Cotton continues in very active demand for consumption as well as for export and speculation, and prices have gradually hardened, quotations of all descriptions showing a further advance. Week's sale, 153,000 bales.

FROM THE "GAZETTE" OF MAY 23.

Downing-street, May 22.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint J. Thomas Fitzgerald Callaghan, Esq., to be Administrator of the Government of the Settlement on the Gambia, on the western coast of Africa.

Downing-street, June 16.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint George Philippo, Esq., to be a puisne judge of the colony of British Guiana.

MARRIAGE.

PRINCE—FYFE.—At Fernando Po, on the 5th April, 1871, by the Rev. R. W. Barnett, Primitive Methodist Missionary, T. R. Prince to Elizabeth, relict of the late Stephen Fyfe, Esq., of Antigua, West Indies.

DEATH.

CHAMEROVZOW.—With very deep sorrow, and warmest sympathy with the bereaved father, we record the death on Saturday, June 17, of Annie, only and beloved and talented daughter of L. A. Chamerozvow, Esq. (during many years Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society of London), in the twenty-second year of her age. Friends will please accept this intimation.

The African Times.

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The African Times.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1871.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "AFRICAN TIMES."

D. W. Lumpkin, 10s.; Quilter, 10s.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

ALL now seems quiet in Paris. In our last we announced the entry of the French Government troops within the enceinte of that city. Our news was then up to Sunday night. The combat raged more or less during the whole of that week; deplorable atrocities were committed by both sides during this cruel conflict of French with French; and the defeated Communists avenged themselves in their death struggle by firing and destroying several of the finest edifices of the capital. The Tuileries and the Hotel de Ville, with several others, and many private houses, are now only ruins. When alluding above to the conflict, we were about to write Frenchmen with Frenchmen, but were compelled to alter this, for, alas! many women fought in the Communist ranks, and hundreds of women have been pitilessly shot, even in cold blood, by the Government troops, while hundreds upon hundreds more are among the hordes of prisoners destined by the Government to the fever-killing swamps of Cayenne and to the yet more distant New Caledonia. We will not dwell further on these sad events—these so far final results of the late Franco-Prussian war. Many of the Prussian troops have now withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Paris, and M. Thiers and his Government are hoping soon to raise sufficient money to pay the further sums requisite for obtaining the departure of the residue. The Assembly at Versailles has annulled the decrees of exile against the members of the Bourbon family, and the Duc d'Aumale, Prince de Joinville, and others, have returned from their long expatriation. It is yet quite uncertain what form of Government will be established—if any can be really established—in France; whether the Republic will be for some time maintained, or whether Monarchy is to displace it—and if the latter, by whom that monarchy is to be represented, as King. The Legitimists, with the Priest party, are making great efforts to introduce Henry V., the son of the late Duchesse de Berri—the real and only representative of the Elder Branch of the Bourbons. Be the Government what it may, we hope (rather than expect) to see France absorbed in the gainful pursuits of industry, instead of yielding herself a prey to the destructive ones of war or civil strife. The Emperor of Germany, in addressing his troops on occasion of the triumphal entry into Berlin on Friday, the 16th instant, said he hoped for Germany a long and prosperous peace. Peace is now the word on the lips everywhere; and yet men's minds are disturbed by vague apprehensions of coming evils. May all such apprehensions prove to have been without any just cause!

THE GAMBIA CORRESPONDENCE.

We have now lying before us the official correspondence relative to the proposed Gambia Cession, which has been printed for the House of Commons, upon the motion of Sir John Hay. It has not been often that official papers have produced so painful an impression on our mind. It was our intention to give extracts from them this month, and in especial from Sir Arthur Kennedy's letters, which we fear we cannot characterise as they deserve without using some very uncomplimentary expressions. The debate in the House of Commons on the 9th inst., when Mr. M'Arthur brought the conduct of affairs in the West African Settlements under the notice

of the House, with the observations we have felt it our duty to make thereon, must necessarily occupy so large a portion of our June number, that we are compelled to postpone until next month our extracts and observations. We shall, therefore, merely say at present that there was an evident fixed and settled purpose in Sir Arthur Kennedy's mind to get rid of the Gambia; and that the merchants and people of that settlement do not owe any thanks to him for being at this time under British rule.

LIBERIA.

It was not our intention to publish the letters and documents relative to the state of Liberia and the conduct of affairs there which appear in our present number without some accompanying editorial remarks on the condition and prospects of that country, in the progress and prosperity of which we feel a deep interest. The demands on our space, through Mr. McArthur's notice of West African affairs in the House of Commons, have, however, interfered with our intentions, and compel us to defer our observations until next month, when we may possibly be able to report what action has been taken by the Governor-General of the British West Coast Settlements in the matter of the claims of British subjects, which we understand have arisen out of the proceedings of the Liberian troops in Prince Manna's Country.

AN ACT OF WANTON DESTRUCTION; AND CLAIMS ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR DAMAGES.

THE letters which reached us by the British and African Steam Navigation Company's ship Roquette, on the 13th instant, furnished details of the proceedings of the Governor-in-Chief of the West Coast Settlements during his visit to the Leeward Coast. In page 136 we give an extract from one of these, relative to measures adopted for terminating the disputes and hostilities between the Addas and Awoonahs. Sir Arthur Kennedy, it seems, sent a message to one Geraldo de Lima, formerly connected with the slave-trade, but for some years past engaged in legitimate commerce in the Awoonah Country, that he desired to see him on board his yacht, accompanied by an assurance that he should be returned safely on shore. Mr. Geraldo de Lima, it seems, would not trust Sir Arthur, and neglected to render himself on board the Governor's yacht. This did not impede Sir Arthur in effecting (so it is said) his proposed work of reconciliation between the Addas and Awoonahs. No coercive measures of any kind were therefore necessary; and where violence is unnecessary, it is unjustifiable, and indeed criminal. Sir Arthur Kennedy did not, however, think thus; and, in what appears to us to be the very wantonness of brutal force, orders the commander of H.M. gunboat Pert to batter down Mr. Geraldo de Lima's house and establishment on the Awoonah shore—a house and establishment used for purposes of legitimate trade, and which had cost this Mr. Geraldo de Lima several thousand pounds. The shameful order was but too faithfully executed, and the house, &c., became a heap of ruins. For this Mr. Geraldo de Lima has begged of us to obtain for him damages and compensation from Her Majesty's Government; a request with which we have no difficulty in complying, because, having had all the circumstances of the Adda and Awoonah disputes, with their sad results, continually before us, we do not believe that there were any grounds whatever that could even excuse, much less justify, Sir Arthur Kennedy in this disgraceful employment of a British ship of war in the wanton destruction of the property of a man who is not a British subject, not a native authority, and not amenable to British justice, as was evident by the offer on Sir A. Kennedy's part of a safe-conduct to and from his yacht. In our eyes Sir Arthur Kennedy has been guilty of act of gross vandalism and dishonouring employment of the naval force of this country, for which a just Government like that of Great Britain, whose servant he is, and who is responsible for his official misdeeds, cannot refuse to atone.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE ON JUNE 9.

WE are not about to imitate the celebrated author of that incomparable little work "Rasselas," and write an essay on "the vanity of human expectations." We have had too much experience in Parliamentary Debates to allow of our forming too high an estimate of what could be achieved by Mr. McArthur's notice. We did not for one moment expect that the Under-Secretary of State would, in reply to the charges brought forward of misgovernment, maladministration, injustice, and wrong, rise up and say—"All these things are true—we are under great obligations to you for having brought them before us, and you shall see an immediate change!" Such a course would be contrary to all precedent. Governments may set about the removal of abuses and corrections of injustice and oppressive wrongs by their colonial subordinates when these have been forced on their attention; but they will almost invariably begin by defending those very officials and things, which are already doomed in their mental convictions and purposes. Our friends must not, therefore, fall into the error of supposing that because Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen defended the West Coast officials, and tried to maintain that whatever is best, under our best of all possible Colonial-office systems, therefore there will not be any remedy applied to those grievances, evils, and neglects of which we have complained on behalf of the West African native people. It would be a great mistake to receive too literally the statements made in such speeches as that of the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. The people of Cape Coast Town must not hug and glory in the abominable filth of the place in which they live, and which they allow to be constantly defiled, by taking it as an incontrovertible truth that the filthy prison cell in which Mr. Lovell was for a short time confined is really as clean as Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's drawing-rooms. We can assure them that they would form a very false idea of the drawing-room of a rich English Under-Secretary of State, a man of refined taste and habits, by taking this loose official statement thus made in the House of Commons to be strictly true. And it is just the same as regards the administration of justice on the West Coast, and other matters brought under the notice of the House by Mr. McArthur and Mr. Fowler, and *satisfactorily disposed of* by the Hon. Under-Secretary. With all deference and respect, and we really feel great respect for Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, we are justified in assuring our readers that there could not have been in his mind a greater sense of truth when defending and praising Mr. Justice Huggins, than there was when shedding lustre on the stinking Cape Coast prisons by asserting their purity to be equal to that of his own drawing-room. Both the one and the other were figures of speech, and that is all. Had the debate been one in a crowded and interested House, keenly watched by political adversaries ready to thrust their sword or spear in reply at every loose joint in the official armour, the Hon. Under-Secretary would have been more cautious in his statements; but in a House so thinly attended that two efforts had been already made to strangle the discussion by a count-out, there was a clear field for official flourish, of which he took advantage to elevate his "Aunt Sally" with assumed impunity, in the full certainty that there were not any Opposition sticks ready to be launched against her false and impure visage. Could he not also fully count upon that wooden-headed ex-official, Sir Charles Adderley's, support of the perfect creature he had raised before the eyes of the House?—Sir Charles Adderley, always ready to hurl his feather-weight missiles against the West African Settlements and their native population. We always look upon it as a strong argument against our institutions, that it has been possible for a man so incapable as Sir Charles Adderley to hold in one of our past administrations the responsible office of Secretary of State for the Colonies. We hope we shall never see the repetition of such a disgrace. Sir Charles says that the charges brought forward of maladministration of justice have been disposed of as far as was possible; that they were *ex parte* statements brought forward in such a manner that no one could answer them; and that it is not right to make *ex parte* statements against the ad-

ministration of justice when they are very probably unfounded and exaggerated. "A Daniel come to judgment! a very Daniel! O! wise, wise man, how do I honour thee!" No—Sir Charles Adderley—the charges brought forward of maladministration of justice are facts, indisputable facts put in evidence—facts that you may very well say "No one could answer," because they are as true as they are damning! and although it may still suit the purpose of the Colonial-office to ignore them, or to pooh-pooh them, will ere long be admitted to have been free from falsehood or exaggeration. And if no *ex parte* statements are to be ever brought forward; if a judge guilty of moral, which is as bad in its way as pecuniary bribery; if an administrator or a colonial surgeon, morally if not legally, guilty of murder, is never to be accused *ex parte*, we should like to know of this ex-official Daniel in which way his delinquencies or guiltiness is ever to be exposed? But enough of Sir Charles Adderley. We were glad to find Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen admitting that the occupation of the West Coast Settlements by Great Britain is a moral obligation, for if it has once been a moral obligation it is so still; and moral obligations are among the obligations most sacredly binding, whether on individuals or on communities. There is as much a moral obligation on our part to retain the Gambia, as there was in time past to occupy it. The moral obligation is continuous, and a breach of it would be a national disgrace. We can afford, however, to leave for a time this question of the projected Gambia cession, although we do not feel so satisfied as some of our friends profess to feel by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's assurance "that it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to propose any renewal of the negotiations for the transfer of the Gambia to France." We should have liked also to hear that Her Majesty's Government would not entertain the question of such cession, if it were to be again mooted by France or by any other power. Meanwhile, however, rockets and ammunition have been sent to the Gambia, "to put the batteries in an efficient state." The efforts to this end made by Mr. Quin, Mr. Brown, and the *African Times* have thus borne fruit. Not one word was said about the demanded reduction in the excessive official expenditure and waste of revenue on the Government House, and giving the taxpayers some control over the estimates, so that they might have a gunboat of their own for their protection and the security of the river trade. The conquest of these justly-demanded reforms has yet to be achieved. Passing by the prison as clean as Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's drawing-room, we come to the matter of petitions. It is said "the memorials had not a due effect on the Colonial-office, because, on investigation, their allegations were not found to be supported by facts." We beg leave to dissent altogether from the position thus assumed. The allegations said "not found to be supported by facts" have been allegations of facts in support of which evidence was tendered. Our complaint, and the complaint of the Sierra Leone memorialists, is that the Colonial-office would not hear evidence in confirmation of the exposed facts, but chose to assume, at the dicta of interested officials, that there were not any such facts. Our readers will remember that Mr. Monsell gave a pledge that the allegations against Mr. Huggins should be fully inquired into when Sir A. Kennedy came to England. In the following session, Mr. Monsell, when pressed, said Sir Arthur had declared Mr. Huggins not to be in the wrong. Would such a reply as this be satisfactory to any other than an official mind? We think not. We understood by Mr. Monsell's promise that the charges should be submitted to Sir A. Kennedy—and we expected from him a report showing in what the allegations were unfounded, or admitting that they were well founded. Nor can we agree with the Under-Secretary of State that the house-tax is satisfactory, while its glaring inequality and its oppressive character have been so fully established by evidence. Then we come to the magisterial domination in the other settlements, and the Court of Appeal at Sierra Leone. The evils of the former were not in any way grappled with, and as to the latter, we would ask once more, how can a court of appeal be satisfactorily formed of two judges? We can understand an appeal to *one* or to

three, but an appeal to *two* must ever seem to us absurd. And we shall never cease to maintain that there was no sufficient evidence given before the Select Committee of the House of Commons to justify the abolition of trial by jury in civil causes, the settlement having enjoyed this British privilege from its earliest infancy until 1866—a period of seventy or eighty years. No, the abolition was called for by the corrupt official staff then at Sierra Leone, and but too many of whom are still there, and, what is worse, have finally been taken under Sir A. Kennedy's protection, though he at first seemed to keep himself separate from that pitch which, in his case, alas, as in others, has proved that it defileth! Sir Benjamin Pine deposed that he never saw any just reason to complain of the decisions of juries—nor was one protest ever heard from Judge Carr during his twenty-five years of office, but only when Major Blackall's support at the Colonial-office in the matter of his pension was of so much importance to him, as to make it his interest to look at this abolition of jury question through the spectacles of Major Blackall, Mr. Huggins, Marston, Montague, and Pike. As regards Mr. Huggins, we say again and again that the statements which have been made were correct. It does not appear in our report of the debate, but Mr. Hugessen cited the allegation of Mr. Huggins not having been called to the bar as one of the allegations disproved, in proof of the little respect due to the others. We cannot allow this to pass unnoticed. As we showed at the time, the statement that Mr. Huggins had not been called to the bar was substantially correct; because he could not have acted as a barrister in England, not being on the register, through non-payment of the legal fees, fees which, as they had been left unpaid for years, although at Sierra Leone he had been enjoying a good professional income, probably never would have been paid, but for the necessity under which he was placed of disproving the allegation in question. The Colonial-office has itself condemned *seven* of Mr. Huggins' cruel, barbarous sentences as illegal. Those prisoners who were still in custody obtained, we are told, a mitigation of their sentences. Was the dead man restored to life? Were the cruel whippings that had been illegally inflicted in any way compensated for? Nothing of the kind; and Mr. Huggins remained, and it seems is to remain yet for a time, Judge in Sierra Leone. Are we not right in describing this as a deliberate outrage to the people of the settlement—an outrage that could not be committed with impunity in any country where the people were white instead of black? And are we not right in demanding, with the people of Sierra Leone, that Mr. Justice Huggins be transferred to some other British colonial court? Yet Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen did not leave us and our Sierra Leone friends without one crumb of comfort in judicial matters. With reference to Mr. Montagu and his possible appointment as Queen's Advocate, the hon. Under-Secretary of State assured the House that while the Government did not think it right to limit or fetter Sir Arthur Kennedy as regards *acting* appointments, they were so satisfied of the great impropriety there would be in appointing Mr. Montagu to be Queen's Advocate, or to any other such office, that he never would be so appointed. We could not desire or ask for a more ample and decisive justification of the objections we have taken to Sir Arthur Kennedy's past appointment of Mr. Montagu as Crown Prosecutor and Acting Queen's Advocate, appointments which, coupled with his unjustifiable approval of Mr. Huggins, could not do other than dismount Sir Arthur from the position he had previously occupied in our esteem; because he could not plead ignorance of those things which disqualified Mr. Montagu for such appointments at the hands of any respectable Government or Governor. Mr. Hugessen was sorry to hear it said that any one in a responsible position was hostile to the native races, because that was a mistaken idea. We think the hon. Under-Secretary of State has not fully comprehended what is alleged against those in responsible positions (Europeans) with regard to the native races. We will endeavour to set him right. It is not hostility to the native races of which they are accused.

What they are accused of is of holding them in contempt and expressing that contempt, except where they happen to be objects of their lust; that they look upon them—and show continually that they look upon them—as only fit to be beasts of burthen, or to minister to their lascivious desires; as creatures to be beaten or used in any way that the privileged British official may think fit. Is it any wonder that the continued presence of such men among them becomes odious to the whole people, except those on whom for the time being they are lavishing their lustful favours; and can they be expected to feel continuous regard even for a governor who makes himself *particeps criminis* by his patronage of officials who prove by their conduct that they regard all natives as fit only to be chastised or to be debauched? We cannot any longer admit the official plea that in consequence of the climate and the low salaries it is impossible to induce first-rate men to settle there. We do not know about first-rate men—first-rate men are, alas, very rare in official employment, even where the climate is good and the pay not to be complained of—but we do say that there is not now anything in the West African Settlements to prevent good, sensible, able, and honest men taking office there. Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, Lagos can all afford to pay for really good men as governors, and really good men as governors will soon have really good men under them. Even the Gambia could better afford to pay 2,000*l.* a-year to a good man than 1,200*l.* a-year to such trash as she has lately had palmed upon her. Years and years ago we wrote, “reduce the number of officials by consolidating offices, and make the pay what it ought to be for good men; pay the officials well, and then exact rigorously from them a righteous and active performance of their duties.” But even with the present scale of pay good men as administrators have been found, and others that we have known of were to be found, if the Government had chosen to employ them, instead of appointing the favourites of persons who might happen to have influence with the permanent staff in Downing-street or the Secretary of State for the time being. Apropos of this we have been truly gratified to learn that an addition of 400*l.* per annum has been made to the salary of the Administrator of Lagos. Though rather despotic in his tendencies, and not at all likely to advocate the admission of popularly-elected educated Africans to legislative functions, he has fairly earned this reward by his general conduct of the administration since the cessation of troubles with the interior. He certainly would not have allowed Cape Coast, had he been there, to remain the odious, pestilential dunghill it has been and is under Mr. Ussher. We are entitled to write bitterly of this. Our dear lost friend, Mrs. Moseley, complained painfully of the abominable stenches wafted perpetually into her rooms when open for the admission of air. She complained to Mr. Ussher, but without any effect. Is it any wonder she died while inhaling such pestilential atmosphere? Our only wonder is that any one who breathes it can long continue to live in it. It is no contradiction of our statements on this head that, according to the Under-Secretary of State, no complaints as to sanitary condition have reached the Colonial-office. Official complaint we suppose was meant, because, as the *African Times* is read at the Colonial-office, complaints must have reached it—while as regards the lack of official ones, it is not likely the Coast officials will complain to the Office of evils which it ought to be looked upon as an important part of their duty to redress. It is at least gratifying to learn that the shaving of Marie Susanna's head, by order of Mr. Jackson, in Bathurst Gaol, is being inquired into, though it seems to our unofficial mind that as the inculpated magistrate, Mr. Jackson, is now, and has been for some time, in England, the truth or falsehood of the accusation might have been inquired of from Mr. Jackson himself. Red tape, however, is a glorious material for screening culpable officials. We hope the murder by flogging and shot-drill case at Cape Coast is equally undergoing investigation, as we suppose Mr. Jones, the colonial surgeon—the individual chiefly implicated—is also in this country. “Many complaints,” we are told, “are found, upon examination, to be

by no means of the importance that was attributed to them.” This depends greatly upon the standard by which they are examined. If the standard be that the official is of more importance than the people, which seems to be that generally employed in Downing-street, the result will not of course be the same as by our standard; that the people are of more importance than the officials. Still it is gratifying to learn that the Colonial-office will always be ready to give prompt attention to any communication. We confess we have not as a general rule found it so up to the time at which Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen took the office he so worthily, and, we are inclined to believe, so hopefully for the West Coast Settlements now holds; and are glad to hear that something more may be expected from a complaint than a mere dry official acknowledgment of its having been received. That the West Coast Settlements are advancing in trade and wealth is happily incontestable; that they will continue to advance in these important matters is equally so; but the ratio of that advance may be impeded by misgovernment or neglectful government; and it may be stimulated and helped by proper measures of administration. To obtain the latter is one of our chief and great ends and aims. The real value and importance of the West African Settlements has been, and, alas! in some great degree still is generally unknown and unconceived in Great Britain; but if we can only stir the official mind to the wise and hearty employment of those means, the introduction of those accessories by which alone production and commerce can be stimulated and developed, that ignorance will soon become a thing of the past. Let this career be earnestly entered upon, and we may well afford to smile at Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's sly fling at us in his almost closing words: “If colonial officials are sometimes in error, newspaper editors are also occasionally mistaken.” Although we may not see very important results immediately flowing from this debate in the House of Commons, it cannot fail to be productive of good; and we feel happy in offering our cordial thanks to all who have helped us in the important Gambia question, as well as on this last occasion. One of our correspondents, whose letter has been some months on its way to us, gives many of the names of those whom the African educated men will delight to honour as regards the Gambia campaign; and we feel it our duty to add to the list yet one other—that of a gentleman not an M.P., but who has laboured assiduously in the Parliamentary field in defence of the Gambia—laboured, like ourself, solely on public grounds, and in affection for the African race. Let them add C. W. Eddy to the list on their tablets of honour. A few words more, and we have done. We have given continual publicity to words of Lord Carnarvon, of the unfruitful nature of which many of our correspondents complain when they send us notice of their grievances; and we shall close this article by others of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, which we will venture to hope are something more than a set phrase: “If any error can be pointed out in her (Great Britain's) present administration (of the colonies), or any blot in her system, the Government will be most anxious to repair the one and wipe out the other with the least possible delay.” We at least shall not forget this!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, JUNE 2.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Mr. McArthur gave notice that on Friday, the 28th inst., on the motion for going into committee of Supply, he would call the attention of the House to the state of affairs on the West Coast of Africa, with especial reference to the administration of justice and the necessity of reforming the same; of establishing some form of local and municipal self-government, and of revising the system of taxation; further, to urge the importance of relieving the minds of British subjects at the Gambia from the apprehension of their transference to a foreign power.

Mr. C. Gilpin gave notice that on Friday, the 28th inst., on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, he would call the attention of the House to the Slave-trade Papers recently laid on the Table, and move an address to the Queen on the increased and increasing traffic in slaves on the east coast of Africa.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 5, 1871. EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

In answer to Mr. Kinnaird,

Lord Enfield stated that negotiations had been entered into by the Government with the Sultan of Zanzibar for the suppression of the East African slave trade. There would be no objection to laying the correspondence before Parliament, except that portion of it which was departmental.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 9, 1871.—EVENING SITTING.
The House met at 9 p.m.

BRITISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

On going into Committee of Supply,

Mr. McArthur rose to call the attention of the House to the state of affairs on the West Coast of Africa, with especial reference to the administration of justice and the necessity of reforming the same; of establishing some form of local and municipal self-government and of revising the system of taxation; further, to urge the importance of relieving the minds of British subjects at the Gambia from the apprehension of their transference to a foreign power. His object in calling the attention of the House to this subject was a desire only to promote the interests of those settlements, and to secure to the inhabitants the advantages of British protection and British law. A very general feeling of dissatisfaction prevailed throughout the whole of these settlements. Since 1866 petitions had been forwarded to the Colonial Office almost every year, complaining of certain grievances, and of the acts of certain officials, but those petitions, he was sorry to say, had not had the desired effect, for the grievances still remained, and the consequence was a want of confidence in the administration of justice, and the prevalence of a feeling of sullen discontent which might break out at any moment in insubordination and outrage. The *Watchman* newspaper gave expression to the complaints made by the missionaries on this head, and pointed out the measures of the local government, which were calculated to check all social improvement. The Settlement of Sierra Leone was formed by the British Government for the avowed object of suppressing the slave trade and promoting the religious and moral improvement of the natives. The slaves captured by men-of-war were taken there from time to time, and settled upon the land, and the population consisted chiefly of liberated Africans from different parts of the Continent, and speaking different dialects. The Church of England and the Wesleyans had undertaken missions among those people; the results had been highly satisfactory, and by those means the character of the population had been improved, and trade was rapidly increasing, as was shown by the exports and imports having increased from 265,338*l.* in 1854, to 581,485*l.* in 1867. But there were certain drawbacks which retarded the moral progress of the settlement, and these were found chiefly in the action of the Colonial Office of the changes which had been introduced, though he did not make any charge against those who were at the head of that department. In 1866, in consequence of the recommendation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, of 1865, of which Sir C. Adderley was Chairman, the settlements were placed under one Governor-General. Before that Sierra Leone had a single Supreme Court, which tried all civil cases by a jury of twelve. There was also a public prosecutor and a Court of Appeal, and the system worked admirably. In 1866 this state of things was changed. In an evil hour there was appointed to the Governor-Generalship of Sierra Leone Major Blackall, who had made himself unpopular in the West Indies, and, by means of a facile Legislative Council, sitting with closed doors, a blow was directed at trial by jury in civil cases, and the result had been the withdrawal of it altogether.

At this stage an Hon. Member moved that the House be counted, when a considerable number of members hurried in, and The Speaker remarked that the Hon. Member would see that it was not necessary to count the House.

Mr. McArthur resumed, and pointed out that, following on the abolition of the local court, leave had been given to appeal to the Queen in Council, but that privilege was virtually inoperative, as parties were prevented from appealing to the Privy Council where the sum was under 300*l.*, and almost all the actions which took place in the colony were for sums under 300*l.*, so that virtually Sierra Leone was without any court of appeal. Gambia and the Gold Coast had also been deprived of their courts of appeal. The natives had, moreover, lost all confidence in the Supreme Court. One important ground of complaint on the part of the people of Sierra Leone was the delay which attended the administration of justice; and there had been serious complaints against the decisions of the Chief Justice, and those complaints had formed the subject of petitions presented to the Colonial Office. As an illustration of this he referred to an action, *Lewis v. Huggins*, brought by a woman against Mr. Justice Huggins. The action was tried before Chief Justice French in February, 1870, and the decision was not given until thirteen months after the trial. The hon. member

further quoted a case of “*Henry and White*” to justify the feeling of the people. Such proceedings were calculated to bring the courts of justice into contempt. (Hear, hear.) They produced dissatisfaction and would provoke hostilities, which would lead to a repetition of the tragedy of Jamaica, if they were not put an end to. Several petitions had been signed by the most respectable men of colour in the country against Mr. Justice Huggins, and if half of what was alleged against him was true, he was totally unfit for the position he occupied. To prove that assertion he cited the case of a man charged with three larcenies, for each of which he was sentenced by this judge to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and to be three times privately whipped, or to six years' imprisonment altogether and to be twice privately whipped. But as the number of stripes was not mentioned, it was left to the officials to administer as many as they thought proper, and the consequence was that the unfortunate man expired after the second flogging. The hon. gentleman then complained of the system of bringing officials from the West Indies, inasmuch as they were particularly notorious for their hatred of the coloured inhabitants of the West African Settlements. He next pointed out how grievously the land and house tax pressed on the poorer classes, houses above the value of 5*l.* being taxed 5 per cent., and houses at and under that amount having to pay 5*s.* As a large number of the houses were not worth 5*l.*, this taxation amounted in some instances to more than 16 per cent., without the people having any voice in the imposition of the taxation; and if the party failed to pay the tax, he had to work three days for every shilling on the public roads, and to pay for his own provision besides. The prisons in Sierra Leone were in a most disgraceful state, and were sinks of impurity and immorality. Out of a revenue of from 70,000*l.* to 80,000*l.*, 36,000*l.* was spent in official salaries and pensions, and only 400*l.* on education. It had been suggested that there should be introduced into the colony a system of undenominational education, including a strict conscience clause; and that view was in accordance with the opinion of a large and influential body of natives. It was also considered desirable that in each of the colonies there should be, in addition to common schools, one high-class school giving a superior education to those who were to take a leading part in the affairs of the colony, so as to fit them for taking the position which by and by they must take if Africa was ever to be benefited by English influence and law. He was glad to find that Sir Arthur Kennedy had introduced the principle of competitive examination; and hoped that principle would be carried out in its integrity. Heart-burnings had been introduced in Sierra Leone by the introduction of concurrent endowment; and it appeared strange that it should have been established there while it was being discontinued in Jamaica. 500*l.* had been given by the Legislative Council for the pastors of the Church Missionary Society, and 150*l.* for the Roman Catholics. The Wesleyans objected to receive such assistance, on the ground that it was calculated to excite religious strife, and produce injurious consequences. The Legislative Council was composed of the Governor and some officials, and three of the Governor's nominees, and practically, therefore, the Governor was himself the Council. It might be supposed that with such large revenues proper attention would be paid to the sanitary condition of these colonies, but the prisons and other places were in a disgraceful state. In Sierra Leone there had been recently some improvement in that respect; but in the case of the Cape Coast Colony, which had been under British rule for forty years, and had a revenue of about 30,000*l.*, and 20,000*l.* in the Government chest, the town and the adjacent roads were like a vast dunghill, and the accumulation of filth had swept away many valuable lives. At Lagos there had been great improvement; but for the last three or four years there had been no returns of the exports—a remark which also applied to Cape Coast and Sierra Leone. He hoped the Under-Secretary for the Colonies would state what were the intentions of the Government with regard to Gambia—whether they meant to carry out the policy indicated by the Postmaster-General when he filled the post of Colonial Secretary. In 1867 the imports and exports of that colony amounted to 143,150*l.* The revenue was about 32,000*l.*, and 14,000*l.* was spent in salaries and pensions. No attempt had been made lately to develop the trade of that colony, or to take advantage of the magnificent river Gambia, which was navigable for 500 miles, for opening up trade with the interior. In the case of Bathurst, such was the indifference to the interests of the colonists, that an application having been made that one of the gunboats might go, for three days, up the river, in order to impress on the natives that Bathurst was under British rule, permission was refused, unless the coals which would be required for the trip were paid for. Yet 4,125*l.* was now being spent out of the local revenue in enlarging and embellishing the Governor's house. Sir Arthur Kennedy intimated a short time ago that it was still the intention of the Government to hand that colony over to France, although that was contrary to the wishes

of the whole population. That state of things was paralysing trade and rendering everything insecure. The colonists had neither soldiers to protect them nor arms for their own defence, and there was an agitation prevailing among some of the native tribes which might break out in open rebellion. The inhabitants of Gambia wanted no money from the British Government; they were quite willing to bear their own expenses, and they had sent a petition to the Colonial Office against the handing over to the French Government of four settlements, containing a population of 23,000 British subjects, without their being consulted. (Hear, hear.) During the last ten years there had been great improvement in trade and in agriculture; the English language was the leading language that was spoken, and the inhabitants had, with one voice, protested against being deprived of British nationality. Although that subject was not an inviting one, he hoped it would be carefully considered. (Hear, hear.) What he would urge upon the Government was that they should see that justice was fairly administered in every settlement, that trial by jury should be established both for civil and criminal cases, and that Municipal Councils should be established, which would give the inhabitants a voice in the expenditure. At present the Supreme Court of Appeal consisted of Chief Justice French and Judge Huggins. He would suggest that a new judge should be appointed, and that the Court of Appeal should be composed of the three judges, who should go circuit to the other settlements. He wished to see the colonists enjoying the blessings of constitutional freedom, and a policy carried out in accordance with the words—

Where Britain's power is felt
Mankind should feel her mercy too.

Lord Palmerston warmly advocated that policy in reference to Africa, and said he knew no other nation that was ready to supply the place of England; and he (Mr. McArthur) felt sure that thousands and tens of thousands would read that debate with great interest, as affording some hope that the grievances which he had exposed would be redressed and the interests of the colonists secured. (Cheers.)

Mr. R. N. Fowler said he thought the House was much indebted to the honourable member for introducing that important subject. (Hear.) With regard to the colony of Cape Coast Town, its neglected sanitary condition was such that the colonists were threatened with an outbreak of cholera, and that was a matter to which the attention of the authorities on the Coast should be directed by the Home Government. He reminded the House that a Select Committee had recommended that they should develop amongst the natives those qualities which would fit them for self-government. He wished especially to point out that as regarded these Crown colonies, where there were no municipal institutions, and where the control of the colonial officer was practically despotic, there was only one body that could exercise any judicious control over them, and that was the House of Commons. To illustrate the state of things existing at the Cape Coast, the honourable member mentioned the case of a prisoner who absconded from gaol and was recaptured. He was flogged for running away, and then shot-drilled, when he fainted, and was taken to a hospital, where he died. The prison discipline there was inhuman, and Dr. Jones, the inspector of prisons, and another officer, had been suspended for their share in this transaction. A Mr. Joseph Lovell, for thirty years a merchant on the Gold Coast, was sued by the Governor of Cape Coast Castle for a small sum, and he sued the Governor for a similar sum. Both parties obtained a decision in their favour, and the difference in the amounts was only 6d. Mr. Lovell offered to pay the 6d., but the Governor ordered the decision in favour of Mr. Lovell to be set aside, and imprisoned him for the whole amount, and in default imprisoned him among the lowest felons, in a cell where the thermometer stood at 87°. Cases like these deserved the attention of the Colonial office, and in the next place the attention also of that House. Clarkson, and Wilberforce, and Buxton looked to the state of affairs on the Coast of Africa with great interest. Their first efforts were directed to the suppression of the slave-trade, and so bringing about the regeneration of the African race. He would also direct attention to the Gambia. It was proposed last year to cede this colony to France, and that this session was not accomplished was owing to the circumstance that on the very day when the case was under consideration France declared war against Germany, and the treaty then came to an end. The people of Gambia were Wesleyans, and they preferred remaining in connexion with England. The House had heard a good deal about the enormity of handing over Alsace and Lorraine to Germany, in violation of the wishes of the people of those provinces. But was it not equally objectionable to hand Gambia, attached as she was to England, over to the French? The *African Times* gave recently an account of a shameful outrage on the part of a

magistrate, who ordered a woman to be imprisoned for two days for contempt of court, and to have her hair cut off. A Mr. Jackson was a magistrate at Gambia, he was coroner, he was also chief justice, and he tried for murder a man whom he had twice preliminarily committed for trial. It was monstrous that one man should hold these three offices. These acts required the attention of the Colonial office, and he sincerely thanked the honourable member for Lambeth for calling attention to the subject.

Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen was sure the hon. member for Lambeth required no apology for bringing forward this subject and making his interesting statement to the House. These West African Settlements had from time to time attracted considerable attention in this country, and not the less so because England held them not for her own advantage, but from motives essentially high and pure, with a view to the extirpation of the slave trade and the introduction of civilisation and Christianity among the native tribes. Her occupation of them was rather in discharge of a moral obligation than any self-seeking policy for Imperial interests. The political advantage to England derivable from these colonies was very small, and they had involved her in several very expensive wars. The management of their internal affairs also occasioned no small expense to this country. But, while he said this, he must not be considered as advocating the relinquishment of these colonies. (Hear, hear.) Great Britain held them more for their own sake than for hers. She had no other object than to govern them in a manner to advance their welfare—to make her rule as acceptable to the people as possible. If any error could be pointed out in her present administration, or any blot in her system, the Government would be most anxious to repair the one and wipe out the other with the least possible delay. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the apprehensions which were entertained about the cession of Gambia to France, a few words would dispose of that subject. The argument in favour of the cession of Gambia to France, or rather its exchange for certain territories which would be more convenient to us, was very ably stated by his predecessor; but there never was any idea of ceding Gambia to France or any other country without previous discussion and obtaining the consent and concurrence of the House. The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war had put an end to the transfer, and no other country was likely to desire it. He did not say anything that should bind any future Government under different circumstances, but he might freely say that it was not the intention of the Government to propose any renewal of the negotiations for the transfer of Gambia to France. At the same time the House must not forget that the Committee of 1865 adopted as one of its resolutions that the settlement of Gambia should be reduced by Macarthy's Island. With respect to the unprotected state of the colony, no doubt that whilst negotiations for transfer were in progress the ordinary institutions were somewhat disturbed, but since he had been in office orders had been given to the Crown Agent to send out rockets and other munitions necessary to put the batteries in an efficient state. Some cases had been mentioned relating to the administration of justice, and he could no doubt give satisfactory explanations respecting them if he had been previously informed that the attention of the House would be called to them. With respect to the case of Mr. Lovell the facts were these: He was an agent of Messrs. Costa and Smith, and he owed the Government 57. He claimed a set-off of 41. 19s. 6d., and when the application was made to him for the sum he owed he declined to pay. The sheriff's officer took proceedings, when Mr. Lovell stated that all the goods in his possession belonged to his employers. He then offered to pay the debt, but refused to pay 5s. for the warrant. A friend subsequently paid it for him, when, after a few hours' confinement in a perfectly clean prison—as clean as his own drawing-room—he was released, having suffered no serious inconvenience. To bring that case forward as one of oppression by the Government against Mr. Lovell was an absurdity on the part of those who instructed the hon. member. It was stated by the hon. member who made the present motion that memorials sent to the Colonial office had not received their due effect, but he could state that every disposition was shown at the Colonial office to attend to any complaints on the part of memorialists. Nevertheless, some memorials had not a due effect there, because on investigation their allegations were not found to be supported by evidence. The two grounds on which the hon. member based his accusation against the present system were taxation and concurrent endowment, both of which points were touched on by the Wesleyans in the memorial they sent from Sierra Leone. They began by stating that they had great claims to consideration, because they paid the greatest part of the colonial revenue. They called attention to the new system of taxation recently adopted, protested against concurrent endowment and the neglect of schools in the colonial grant, and complained of the establishment of a

of the whole population. That state of things was paralysing trade and rendering everything insecure. The colonists had neither soldiers to protect them nor arms for their own defence, and there was an agitation prevailing among some of the native tribes which might break out in open rebellion. The inhabitants of Gambia wanted no money from the British Government; they were quite willing to bear their own expenses, and they had sent a petition to the Colonial Office against the handing over to the French Government of four settlements, containing a population of 23,000 British subjects, without their being consulted. (Hear, hear.) During the last ten years there had been great improvement in trade and in agriculture; the English language was the leading language that was spoken, and the inhabitants had, with one voice, protested against being deprived of British nationality. Although that subject was not an inviting one, he hoped it would be carefully considered. (Hear, hear.) What he would urge upon the Government was that they should see that justice was fairly administered in every settlement, that trial by jury should be established both for civil and criminal cases, and that Municipal Councils should be established, which would give the inhabitants a voice in the expenditure. At present the Supreme Court of Appeal consisted of Chief Justice French and Judge Huggins. He would suggest that a new judge should be appointed, and that the Court of Appeal should be composed of the three judges, who should go circuit to the other settlements. He wished to see the colonists enjoying the blessings of constitutional freedom, and a policy carried out in accordance with the words—

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Mankind should feel her mercy too.

Lord Palmerston warmly advocated that policy in reference to Africa, and said he knew no other nation that was ready to supply the place of England; and he (Mr. M^r Arthur) felt sure that thousands and tens of thousands would read that debate with great interest, as affording some hope that the grievances which he had exposed would be redressed and the interests of the colonists secured. (Cheers.)

Mr. R. N. Fowler said he thought the House was much indebted to the honourable member for introducing that important subject. (Hear.) With regard to the colony of Cape Coast Town, its neglected sanitary condition was such that the colonists were threatened with an outbreak of cholera, and that was a matter to which the attention of the authorities on the Coast should be directed by the Home Government. He reminded the House that a Select Committee had recommended that they should develop amongst the natives those qualities which would fit them for self-government. He wished especially to point out that as regarded these Crown colonies, where there were no municipal institutions, and where the control of the colonial officer was practically despotic, there was only one body that could exercise any judicious control over them, and that was the House of Commons. To illustrate the state of things existing at the Cape Coast, the honourable member mentioned the case of a prisoner who absconded from gaol and was recaptured. He was flogged for running away, and then shot-drilled, when he fainted, and was taken to a hospital, where he died. The prison discipline there was inhuman, and Dr. Jones, the inspector of prisons, and another officer, had been suspended for their share in this transaction. A Mr. Joseph Lovell, for thirty years a merchant on the Gold Coast, was sued by the Governor of Cape Coast Castle for a small sum, and he sued the Governor for a similar sum. Both parties obtained a decision in their favour, and the difference in the amounts was only 6d. Mr. Lovell offered to pay the 6d., but the Governor ordered the decision in favour of Mr. Lovell to be set aside, and imprisoned him for the whole amount, and in default imprisoned him among the lowest felons, in a cell where the thermometer stood at 87. Cases like these deserved the attention of the Colonial office, and in the next place the attention also of that House. Clarkson, and Wilberforce, and Buxton looked to the state of affairs on the Coast of Africa with great interest. Their first efforts were directed to the suppression of the slave-trade, and so bringing about the regeneration of the African race. He would also direct attention to the Gambia. It was proposed last year to cede this colony to France, and that this cession was not accomplished was owing to the circumstance that on the very day when the case was under consideration France declared war against Germany, and the treaty then came to an end. The people of Gambia were Wesleyans, and they preferred remaining in connexion with England. The House had heard a good deal about the enormity of handing over Alsace and Lorraine to Germany, in violation of the wishes of the people of those provinces. But was it not equally objectionable to hand Gambia, attached as she was to England, over to the French? The *African Times* gave recently an account of a shameful outrage on the part of a

magistrate, who ordered a woman to be imprisoned for two days for contempt of court, and to have her hair cut off. A Mr. Jackson was a magistrate at Gambia, he was coroner, he was also chief justice, and he tried for murder a man whom he had twice preliminarily committed for trial. It was monstrous that one man should hold these three offices. These acts required the attention of the Colonial office, and he sincerely thanked the honourable member for Lambeth for calling attention to the subject.

Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen was sure the hon. member for Lambeth required no apology for bringing forward this subject and making his interesting statement to the House. These West African Settlements had from time to time attracted considerable attention in this country, and not the less so because England held them not for her own advantage, but from motives essentially high and pure, with a view to the extirpation of the slave trade and the introduction of civilisation and Christianity among the native tribes. Her occupation of them was rather in discharge of a moral obligation than any self-seeking policy for Imperial interests. The political advantage to England derivable from these colonies was very small, and they had involved her in several very expensive wars. The management of their internal affairs also occasioned no small expense to this country. But, while he said this, he must not be considered as advocating the relinquishment of these colonies. (Hear, hear.) Great Britain held them more for their own sake than for hers. She had no other object than to govern them in a manner to advance their welfare—to make her rule as acceptable to the people as possible. If any error could be pointed out in her present administration, or any blot in her system, the Government would be most anxious to repair the one and wipe out the other with the least possible delay. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the apprehensions which were entertained about the cession of Gambia to France, a few words would dispose of that subject. The argument in favour of the cession of Gambia to France, or rather its exchange for certain territories which would be more convenient to us, was very ably stated by his predecessor; but there never was any idea of ceding Gambia to France or any other country without previous discussion and obtaining the consent and concurrence of the House. The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war had put an end to the transfer, and no other country was likely to desire it. He did not say anything that should bind any future Government under different circumstances, but he might freely say that it was not the intention of the Government to propose any renewal of the negotiations for the transfer of Gambia to France. At the same time the House must not forget that the Committee of 1865 adopted as one of its resolutions that the settlement of Gambia should be reduced by MacCarthy's Island. With respect to the unprotected state of the colony, no doubt that whilst negotiations for transfer were in progress the ordinary institutions were somewhat disturbed, but since he had been in office orders had been given to the Crown Agent to send out rockets and other munitions necessary to put the batteries in an efficient state. Some cases had been mentioned relating to the administration of justice, and he could not doubt give satisfactory explanations respecting them if he had been previously informed that the attention of the House would be called to them. With respect to the case of Mr. Lovell the facts were these: He was an agent of Messrs. Costa and Smith, and he owed the Government 5l. He claimed a set-off of 4l. 19s. 6d., and when the application was made to him for the sum he owed he declined to pay. The sheriff's officer took proceedings, when Mr. Lovell stated that all the goods in his possession belonged to his employers. He then offered to pay the debt, but refused to pay 5s. for the warrant. A friend subsequently paid it for him, when, after a few hours' confinement in a perfectly clean prison—as clean as his own drawing-room—he was released, having suffered no serious inconvenience. To bring that case forward as one of oppression by the Government against Mr. Lovell was an absurdity on the part of those who instructed the hon. member. It was stated by the hon. member who made the present motion that memorials sent to the Colonial office had not received their due effect, but he could state that every disposition was shown at the Colonial office to attend to any complaints on the part of memorialists. Nevertheless, some memorials had not a due effect there, because on investigation their allegations were not found to be supported by evidence. The two grounds on which the hon. member based his accusation against the present system were taxation and concurrent endowment, both of which points were touched on by the Wesleyans in the memorial they sent from Sierra Leone. They began by stating that they had great claims to consideration, because they paid the greatest part of the colonial revenue. They called attention to the new system of taxation recently adopted, protested against concurrent endowment and the neglect of schools in the colonial grant, and complained of the establishment of a

Church College at Cape Coast, with a grant of 1,000l. With regard to the statement that they paid the largest portion of taxation, that on inquiry turned out to be a mistake, and, though the objection to concurrent endowment was fair enough on the part of those who objected to all endowments, yet in some cases religious equality was best secured by concurrent endowment, and in others by no endowment at all, according to the feelings of the population. Consequently, the refusal of the Wesleyans to accept a grant was no reason why the efforts of other religious bodies should be neutralised by want of support from the State; and, with respect to schools, all other bodies except the Wesleyans agreed to a resolution that grants for schools should be given. The Church College, which the memorialists alluded to, was never intended to be founded. The particular tax to which the memorialists objected—namely, the house tax—was not a new tax, as it was introduced in 1854. It did not produce a very large revenue, but it was satisfactory in its collection, and it would be beneficial to extend it as far as possible, because it tended to give the people an interest in self-government. With regard to the administration of justice, there was a magistrate in every one of the four settlements, and the Court of Appeal in Sierra Leone was constituted by the two judges to whom the honourable gentleman had alluded. The honourable member had complained of the abolition of trial by jury, but the House must remember that in colonies with a small white and a large coloured population there could not be applied the same rules that would be enforced in a body composed entirely of white men. The evidence given before the Select Committee had shown that the verdicts of juries in criminal cases were not objected to, but that was not the rule as to verdicts in civil actions, because the jurors made up their minds as to the latter before they went into court. Certain allegations had been made against Mr. Justice Huggins, and several petitions had been presented against him, but if the honourable member would apply his mind to the subject he would find that the statements were not correct. It was said that he had inflicted cruel punishments and had given heavier sentences in cases of previous convictions, though they were not included in the information, as was the practice in England; but, in defence, it was shown that he had acted upon an old law, which according to his interpretation, had not been altered. On this matter being represented to the Colonial Office steps were taken to remove the doubts that existed, and those who were still in custody obtained a mitigation of their sentences. He was sorry to hear it said that any one in a responsible position was hostile to the native races, because that was a mistaken idea. While he agreed with much that had been said about the difficulties of administration in the colonies, he must ask hon. members to consider that, in consequence of the climate and the low salaries that were paid, it was impossible to induce first-rate men to settle there, and when those who went out endeavoured to do their duty they should be judged as favourably as possible, and not condemned until all the facts were fairly known. With regard to the local self-government of the colonies, that was a matter which would be gradually developed; and as to their sanitary condition no complaint had reached the Colonial Office. It was difficult to establish municipal and local government in such places, and an experiment of municipal government which had been tried on the Gold Coast had broken down in 1850, and had not been revived. As to the want of sanitary regulations, he had not had sufficient notice that that would be brought forward, but he would make inquiries into the matter, and he had already instituted an inquiry in reference to the alleged want of prison accommodation. The case of the woman who had her hair cut off when in prison had been inquired into in anticipation, for, having noticed the circumstance in the *African Times*, he caused a despatch to be written for an investigation into the statement, but sufficient time had not yet elapsed to receive an answer. Many of the complaints that were made were found upon examination to be by no means of the importance that was attributed to them. It was not impossible that some points might have escaped notice, but that department would always be ready to give prompt attention to any communication. He might as well tell his hon. friend that although these colonies had not been the source of any great profit to England, and she had ruled them more for their benefit than her own, a great improvement had taken place during the last few years. It had been said that since all of them were placed under one Government, in accordance with the report of the Committee of 1865, there had been a great increase of expenditure, and that the settlements were not so prosperous as before; but he found that whereas in 1864 the revenue of the four settlements was 91,231l., against an expenditure of 103,235l.; the revenue last year was 151,207l., and the expenditure 149,330l. In 1864 the value of the imports was 524,000l., and of the exports 570,600l.; whereas in 1868 the imports had increased to 988,000l., and the exports to 1,161,000l. These figures gave some hope that the settlements

were improving, and that our philanthropy, self-sacrifice, and good intentions could not have been entirely thrown away upon them. The time might come when they would be great, and prosperous, and advantageous to this country; but at all events they had accomplished the object for which they were established. The slave trade was crushed out, human sacrifice had diminished, and there could be no doubt that civilisation was progressing in that part of the world. It was not easy to deal with small European settlements surrounded by barbarous or semi-barbarous communities, for misunderstandings would arise and misrepresentations would be made, and if colonial officials were sometimes in error, the hon. gentleman would admit that newspaper editors were occasionally mistaken, and even missionaries were not always infallible. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) The policy of this country towards the West African Settlements was conducive to their prosperity, and as the conduct of English statesmen was better understood the complaints now made would gradually diminish, and the prosperity and happiness of all Her Majesty's West African subjects would be promoted. (Hear, hear.)

Sir C. Adderley said that after the full and satisfactory explanation of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies it would be necessary for him to say but a few words on the subject. It was of considerable importance that nothing should go forth to the world reflecting on the Colonial Government without its being accompanied with a full and explicit answer. The hon. member who had brought forward the motion had made an accusation against Her Majesty's Government, and unless it had been satisfactorily answered it would have been a great reflection on the colonial policy of this country. The colonies had a right to appeal to the House, having no representatives of their own, but while he admitted that proposition, he submitted that it was most unwise and mischievous to bring forward unfounded and exaggerated statements.

An Hon. Member here observed that there were not forty members; but several members having re-entered during the time the Speaker was counting, a House was constituted.

Sir C. Adderley resumed: With regard to the allegation that the country wanted to get rid of the question, that allegation had been sufficiently answered by the hon. gentleman who had just spoken. Then, with respect to the second portion of the motion, relating to the mal-administration of justice, he must be permitted to say that the cases which had been brought forward had been disposed of as far as was possible. They were mere ex-parte statements, brought forward in such a manner that no one could answer them. It was not right to make ex-parte statements relative to the administration of justice, when they were very probably unfounded or exaggerated. The only point made against the administration of justice was that trial by jury had been abolished, but that was only in civil cases, and the change had been most beneficial to the colony, and litigation had considerably diminished. A supreme court, with well-paid judges, was much more satisfactory than inferior courts with a larger number of judges. With regard to the subject of taxation, when he was in office the taxation of the colony only averaged about 10s. per head of population, so that that was not excessive or open to complaint. It was said, however, the taxes were badly appropriated, and that only 400l. a-year was granted for education, but the fact was that almost or quite enough money for educational purposes was provided voluntarily. The English Government of West Africa had been singularly enlightened and beneficial, and he agreed with the views of the select committee of 1865, that government on the spot should be developed as far as possible, and made self-supporting, so that the Government of England might eventually be withdrawn.

Sir J. Hay thought the promises made by the Government were very satisfactory, and he was glad to learn that the colony of Gambia was not to be transferred to any foreign power. Such a transfer could not be advantageous either to this country or to the colonists.

An Hon. Member here called the attention of the Speaker to the fact that there were not forty members present.

The house was counted, and it being found that there were only thirty-five members present, the House stood adjourned at a quarter to twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 12.
SIERRA LEONE AND TRIAL BY JURY.

In reply to Mr. Beresford, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen said that trial by jury was abolished in Sierra Leone while Lord Carnarvon was Colonial Secretary, because it was found not to be adapted to the colony.* That step was not taken until after much consideration.

* We deny this failure of adaptation, and that such a failure was ever proved.

SINGULAR INCIDENT IN CAPE PALMAS.

The mail steamer brought the news that J. W. Thorpe, a British subject from Sierra Leone, was alleged to have committed murder on a woman. He was tried in the Quarterly Session for November term, and was brought in guilty of wilful murder. He was taken to the gallows on Saturday, December 17, and placed on the scaffold. When the drop fell, the rope broke, and Thorpe fell to the ground. He was again placed on the scaffold the second time, when the rope broke again, and Thorpe fell to the ground. He was again placed on the scaffold, the third time, when the same accident happened, and Thorpe refused to be put on again.

WAR BETWEEN THE LIBERIANS AND PRINCE MANNAH OF GALLINAS.

Prince Mannah took captive a Liberian citizen, who was trading in his territory, one Mrs. Blackford, a trader. In consequence of this outrage the Liberian Legislature declared war against Prince Mannah. 500 strong Liberians went out, but they were repulsed by Prince Mannah's army and driven back, with thirty Liberians wounded and several killed, Colonel Sherman mortally wounded. Reinforcements of 400 were sent, which made the Liberians nearly 900 strong. The Liberians have taken two of Prince Mannah's towns, and driven the natives out of them. It is said that they were marching on the capital on the 4th of March, 1871. Several large guns were, it is said, also taken from Prince Mannah's Army.

A VESSEL FOUND AT SEA.

A vessel was found at sea by the Booter people, a tribe near Sinoe County, in Liberia. When they boarded her she was under full sail, but there was not a soul on board. The table was found laid. She was loaded with salt. It is reported that her name is the Lagos, belonging to a Hamburg house, and it is supposed a French steamer, which was seen cruising about that week, might have taken the crew prisoners and let the vessel go. She now lies on the beach at Booter.

LAW NOTICE.

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

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

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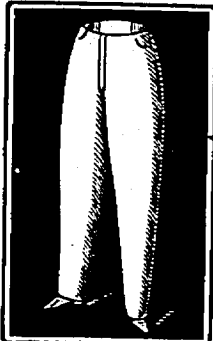
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