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The African Times.

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

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

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

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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.

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

DECEMBER, 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, except when these dates fall on a Monday, when the departure will be deferred to the day following.

The Steamship VOLTA, Capt. JOHN GRIFFITHS, is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on NOV. 29, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th DEC., at 1 P.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar; this Steamer will also take Cargo for New Calabar, Brass, and Benin (delivering inside the bars), the same to be transhipped at Bonny, and forwarded by branch Steamer, at Shipper's risk. GOODS will be received in GLASGOW up to 6 P.M. on the 28th NOV., and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 P.M. on the 5th DEC. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 12.30 P.M. on the day of sailing.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship LOANDA, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 19th DEC., at 12 noon, for Madeira, Teneriffe, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Half Jack, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, Old Calabar, and taking cargo for delivery by branch steamer inside the bars of Opobo, New Calabar, and Lagos. Goods will be received up to 6 P.M. the day previous. Passengers will embark at 11.30 A.M. on the day of sailing.

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

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

All letters must pass through the Post-office.

For further information apply in London to Messrs. MALCOLM, HUDSON, 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.

☞ Shippers are respectfully informed that Cargo can now be taken by the Steamers of the 6th for delivery inside the Bars of NEW CALABAR, BRASS, and BENIN; and by the Steamers of the 18th for delivery inside the Bars of OPOBO, NEW CALABAR, and LAGOS. The Goods will be transhipped at Bonny, and forwarded by Branch Steamer.

WEST COAST MAILS.

ARRIVALS.

British and African Company's Bonny, October 29.
African Steamship Company's Yoruba, November 3.
African Steamship Company's Calabar, November 8.
British and African Company's Volta, November 13.

DEPARTURES.

British and African Company's Liberia, November 6.
African Steamship Co.'s McGregor Laird, to Lisbon and South-west Coast, November 12.
British and African Company's Volta, November 18.
African Steamship Co.'s Calabar, with monthly mails, Nov. 24.

PROJECTED CESSION OF THE GAMBIA TO FRANCE.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, Oct. 24, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—In a communication which I have been honoured by the perusal of, and addressed by the Earl of Kimberley to Mr. Quin, I find that the question of the cession of the Gambia is abandoned for ever by the Government. I naturally address myself to you with pride upon the subject, as one whose powerful journal achieved so much in sustaining the noble and patriotic efforts of Messrs. Quin and Brown. Without the instrumentality of your powerful journal, they would have been voiceless; aided by you they have been triumphant. They followed Sir Arthur Kennedy through the intricate labyrinth of his contradictions and his fallacies upon this great constitutional question; whilst your powerful pen made those blots upon his official life more conspicuous. But it would be invidious to draw distinctions when each in his own sphere has done well, and I can only say that the people along the whole of the coast, who would have been transferred to the rule of the French if the Gambia had been, would be very ungrateful if some solid memorial celebrating this triumph is not presented to you, to be preserved by your children for all time to come.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

WM. RAINY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, Oct. 28, 1871.

Sir,—In all the communications ever addressed by the governors of colonies to the Colonial-office, I venture to assert that the dispatches of Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy relative to the cession of the Gambia to France exhibit the grossest inconsistency and misrepresentation. His falacies have been ably exposed by Messrs. Quin and Brown, and if I travel over any of their grounds it is in order to keep alive the minds of the people of the West Coast as to the misrepresentations contained in the Governor's dispatches.

In 1869 Sir Arthur Kennedy stated that the Gambia was not worth holding, in consequence of the military expense attendant upon retaining it, although he knew very well at the time that the Gambia would very soon cease to be a military depôt. He spoke of the ignorance that prevailed in the Gambia, although he knew that when, in consequence of the failure of the mahogany market in England, their calculations in that branch of industry failed, they at once betook themselves to the ground-nut trade, and made up for their losses. Did this look like a want of civilisation? Did this show the supineness of the savage? They actually manufactured country cloths, and did not put the raw materials into the market unless there was a surplus. The Governor states that the Gambia is useless as a military depôt. For the last quarter of a century England has never looked upon any of her colonies in a military point of view, and why should the Gambia form an exception to this rule? Sir Arthur Kennedy* condemns the French rule in some portion of the West Coast; yet he has been kind enough to propose the handing over the Gambia to them. With regard to his loose statement that the merchants of the Gambia are all about winding up, I leave Mr. Quin, the eminent merchant, to deal with his excellency upon that head. Sir Arthur Kennedy stated that in 1869 the trade was utterly worthless at the Gambia; but he omitted to state that at this very period a fearful epidemic was raging there. He states that the year 1870 was a bad year for trade; whereas it has been conclusively proved that it was one of the best. He states that the people of the Gambia are a docile people; but I do not think that he found in them that amiable quality when, after years of connexion with English rule, they were about being consigned to the uncongenial rule of the French.

In conclusion, Sir, the heart sickens in reading over the number of contradictory statements made by Sir Arthur Kennedy to the Colonial-office upon this grave and mighty change, showing at least that he was as little of a statesman as he is a stern apostle of accurate and direct dealing.

It is hard for me to write so of Sir Arthur Kennedy, whose public life I at one time thought worthy of approbation; but I should be guilty of conduct unworthy of a man if, after having found out his real character, I for a moment hesitated to denounce him.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

WM. RAINY.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN SIERRA LEONE.

Letter of W. Rainy, Esq., to the Earl of Kimberley, K.G.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, Oct. 18th, 1871.

My Lord,—Still carrying out my self-imposed task of pointing out to your lordship the causes which have led to the present discontent which exists in Sierra Leone, I now proceed to deal with the all-important question of the constitution of the Legislative Council of that settlement.

At the period in which the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone first rose into existence, the people of that country were immersed in darkness, were numerically small, and in point of wealth stood perhaps lower than any native population in the world.

The basis of such a Council was necessarily small, consisting of a few Government officials; and the colony itself, depending upon a Parliamentary grant alone for existence, had no aspiration beyond the ignoble desire of being permitted to live. Since those gloomy days the colony in wealth, intelligence, and civilisation has made rapid strides, but the Council alone remains unchanged.

When the Legislative Council was established, Sierra Leone, as I have already stated to your lordship, was a suppliant to the Crown for her daily bread. She is now, thank God, self-sustaining. In 1844 her revenue was about 10,000*l.*; it is now about 70,000*l.* The taxes are collected from the bulk of the native population, whose very existence this council ignores, unless looking upon them, in the words of Lord Macaulay, as beasts of burden and beasts of prey. In fact, my lord, the natives represent so much taxes to be paid—mere lifeless and automaton figures, to be exorcised by the talismanic hand of the tax-collector alone. The budget, which, above all things, shows the advancement or retrogression of a country, the people of Sierra Leone are never consulted upon. It is passed, for the most past, by Government officials, who have no interest in the colony, the evident and painful proof of which was manifested in their miserable allowance of 300*l.* for the God-like purposes of education, until I effectually appealed to the Colonial-office against such an enormity, whilst they voted the most extravagant sums for defraying the expenses of illegal seizures, an abominable monopoly which I myself was instrumental in exposing before the Privy Council, and which ultimately led to its abolition. Even those stricken by one of the heaviest visitations of Providence, the tender subjects of solicitude in all the ages of the world—I allude to the insane—their helpless misery appeals in vain to this narrow-minded Council, for not a single lunatic asylum exists throughout Sierra Leone! The laws which regulate prison discipline date so far back as 1838, and certainly contain one notable clause—viz., that which empowers the Colonial Secretary to direct the flogging of prisoners *ad libitum*. This barbarous clause alone shows, in its comparative antiquity, the lethargic quality of those gentlemen who constitute the Council. There is no saying to what enormity and cruelty this might not lead if a reckless and inexperienced official were placed at the head of the secretary's office, holding the lash in hand, and empowered by the ordinance alluded to to gratify his most malignant passions.

My lord, let me still further note the failures of this Council. I myself was professionally concerned in a case where my client, the Hon. Mr. Heddle, lost 20,000*l.* by the escape of a debtor called Wood, and yet the Supreme Court was at a loss to know upon whom the responsibility for the heavy losses of my client fell; for when I made a motion in the matter against the sheriff for the escape of Wood, so many difficulties arose in consequence of bungling legislation, that the matter remains undecided up to this very hour, although the motion dates so far back as three years ago.

I know of another case in which I was engaged where the laws of humanity were violated and justice itself stood still in consequence of the shortcomings of this Council. The case was this: An unhappy African youth was injured for life by the loss of one of his legs, in consequence, as he stated, of the negligence of the servants of the African Steamship Company, and thrown a pauper upon the wide world. In my professional capacity I endeavoured to force this wealthy and powerful company, who were defendants in the case, to appear and plead to the action; but in consequence of there being no ordinance in Sierra Leone empowering the Supreme Court to enforce their appearance, I was unable to obtain any redress for my client.

Thus this narrow-based Council slumbers where it should act—represents a perished, and not a present age—which is the type of the numerically small and uneducated, and not the numerous and civilised; and stands, not merely the greatest obstruction to the advancement of Sierra Leone, but the prolific cause of all her calamities.

Governor Sir Arthur Kennedy has no doubt made an addition to the solemn mockery which constitutes the foundation of this Council by placing there two uneducated natives, one of whom can barely sign his name; both powerless for good, and any day likely to become the ready tools of their creator. In the words of Lord Denman, what a mockery, what a delusion, what a snare!

We are not to wonder that under such a debasing system the noble structure of the jury system has fallen to the ground; that the judge alone now takes all facts as well as law under his own supreme keeping, and that a crushed and baffled people no longer seek for redress, when they no longer expect to get it.—I have, &c.,

WM. RAINY.

*See his dispatch, dated Sierra Leone, April 29, 1869, No. 98, addressed to Earl Granville.

THE SIERRA LEONE HOUSE AND LAND TAX.

Letter of W. Rainy, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, to the Earl of Kimberley, K.G.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, Oct. 20, 1871.

My Lord,—Above all the taxes which ever drove a people into madness, and in one case lost to England the finest of her possessions, the house and land tax of Sierra Leone stands without psrallel in the heartless severity of its operation. Neither age nor poverty, bodily nor mental imbecility, checks its dire operation; and the grave alone opens the only dreary escape from its terrible and remorseless fangs.

As I write, there lies before me a long list of human suffering which the gloomy and inspired genius of a Dante could not realise, the helpless victims to the most heartless and despotic of taxes. Out of this gigantic heap of misery, ground down, huddled together, and all the tenderness of humanity beat out of them, let me take the two first examples that occur.

The story of Cato Percival, of Fergusson-street, Freetown—I give the address of his wretched abode—is a sad one. Age, dire want, and an incurable disease rested upon him. He had no children to aid him, to alleviate the terrible weight of his sufferings, and he lived by daily alms. He had not paid the taxes for years, and his utterly forlorn position seems to have melted the heart of even the tax-collector. But his exemption from responsibility was destined not longer to continue. He was summoned in 1871 for the taxes of 1866, and sent to gaol for twenty-five days to work with chain convicts. In reading this statement we may well exclaim, Did the truths of the Gospel ever reach to Africa? Why should we speak about the atrocities of the Indian Thug, or about the blood-stained King of Dahomy, when we have the results of the Sierra Leone house and land tax before us?

The second case—that of William Macauley, of Cole-street—exhibits precisely similar features to those of Cato Percival. He was long exempted from the tax in consequence of sickness and poverty, as Percival was. However, like him he too went to prison for twenty-five days among chain convicts. He was scarcely freed from his first imprisonment when he was threatened with a second one, and then his wife started upon a devoted pilgrimage, begging from door to door until that miserable tax was collected which was to swell the local exchequer and preserve Macauley from a second captivity. But why should I weary your lordship with any more harassing examples of the working of this tax?—the same gloomy mark of sorrow is attached to them all. The subject was most ably dealt with by one of the best and most conscientious men Africa ever had, the Rev. Mr. Tregaskis, the able and indefatigable head of the Wesleyan Mission at Sierra Leone; and his official letter to Sir Arthur Kennedy on six celebrated cases—two of which I have quoted—remains unanswered and unrefuted.

The untenable vindication set up by his excellency to meet those cases was, that no appeal had ever been lodged in any of them. This was freely acknowledged by Mr. Tregaskis himself in his official communication upon the subject, nor are we to wonder that there was no appeal. Ignorance, stupifying poverty, accompanied by a long immunity from the payment of the taxes, could hardly be expected to make men adepts in the matter of appeal, the neglect of which frequently occurs in the highest state of civilisation.

Despite this fencing on the part of the Governor, the tax was exacted, or else the signatures of Colonel Anton, Justice of the Peace, and Mr. Sheriff Meheux, as set forth in Mr. Tregaskis' official letter, are forgeries.

Philosophers tell us that the ridiculous and the sublime, the tragic and the comic are nearer allied than the unobservant generally think. I have become a convert to this doctrine, for a gleam of merriment illumines the sad record of human woe which I have placed before your lordship, when I come to consider the principle upon which this odious impost is collected. It reverses all the doctrines of political economy, and should be preserved amongst the monetary records of the British Museum. All tenements rated at 5*l.* per annum at Sierra Leone (and they represent the better class) pay 1s. in the pound, all under 5*l.* (and they represent the poorest) are rated in the gross sum of 5s.

The recapitulation of such a system of taxation leads to this solecism—namely, that persons of relative or absolute competence pay house tax at the rate of 5 per cent., the labouring man at the rate of 10*l.* 8s. 4d., the widow of abject poverty at the rate of 16*l.* 13s. 4d. or 27*l.* 15s. 6½d. My lord, if the present gifted Chancellor of the Exchequer were to cast his eyes over this Sierra Leone budget, I think it would awake his genial sense of humour, and that he would be inclined to illustrate its meaning by the celebrated line:—

My wound is great because it is so small—

Your lordship must now plainly see that the native population of Sierra Leone, ground to the earth by this iniquitous tax, have no vitality or power of progress in them. What becomes of those taxes exacted from the life-blood of a people? Where are the rich fruits to be found? Justice is at a standstill, knowledge is but in its feeble infancy, lands that might have been turned to fertility are like charnel-houses. Neither the useful nor the beautiful flourish in that home of universal decay and general rottenness.

Such are the reflections of the aged and stricken pauper within his own hut, from the threshold of which he is hurried to the prison, until he helps to fill a treasury whose resources are lavished; and from which neither he nor his class derive a single substantial benefit or social improvement.—I have, &c., WM. RAINY.

ON THE ABOLITION OF TRIAL BY JURY IN SIERRA LEONE.

Letter of W. Rainy, Esq., B.L., to the Earl of Kimberley, K.G.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, Oct. 21, 1871.

My Lord,—I now approach the "question of questions," which has arrested the attention of the House of Commons upon several occasions, which have been taken up by members sitting upon the Ministerial side of the House, which in many of my public communications, as well as in many public petitions transmitted from Sierra Leone to the Colonial-office must have long since arrested your lordship's attention. I allude to the great jury question in civil actions.

I do not, my lord, intend in this communication to travel over all the desolate ground which I have so often traversed, but tersely to place before your lordship the dreadful effects resulting from the withdrawal of trial by jury in Sierra Leone.

The first question which strikes the inquirer into this great unconstitutional and social wrong is, first, Did the people in Sierra Leone ever enjoy trial by jury? Secondly, If they did, how did they come to lose it?

My lord, from the very foundation of the colony, and long before it was incorporated with the Crown, when it was under the control of a company, the people of Sierra Leone enjoyed the constitutional privilege of trial by jury.

The first question being thus satisfactorily answered, we come to the second, How did they lose it?

I have myself over and over again challenged the opponents of trial by jury to point out from the records of the Supreme Court a single instance of any abuse of trial by jury upon the part of the native population.

No doubt a few European officials, for reasons not only known to themselves but to the colony at large, reported against trial by jury. But, my lord, I have yet to learn that the greatest of all constitutional privileges should be abolished at the desire of any body of men, no matter how powerful, without any grievous error having been proved, and without any public inquiry having been granted. Let us see the results.

Since the withdrawal of trial by jury procrastination—the great enemy of justice—has not merely exhausted the patience, but seriously injured the impoverished resources of poor African suitors.

Contrary to the Ordinance which empowers the Supreme Court to try cases in the same manner as when juries existed, now, after hearing a case in which a poor African is plaintiff and a European is defendant, the Court too frequently adjourn the case *sine die*, and the verdict of the judge is withheld for some months, and sometimes for a whole year afterwards.

The miscarriages of justice which have arisen from the withdrawal of trial by jury (which by one of the most anomalous changes which the English Constitution has ever undergone made the judge sole arbiter of fact and law) are legion. But I now confine myself to the system of procrastination, which strives most conspicuously when the plaintiff is a penniless African seeking redress for personal outrages committed upon him by a European. Moreover, the African sees that the judge, who is the sole arbiter of law and fact, lives upon terms of the closest intimacy with the handful of Europeans who reside in Sierra Leone, that he dines with the defendant whilst the case is being tried, who laughs at the puerile attempt of the wretched native to bring him to justice, and, in one word, my lord, in the absence of the jury-box, the darkest scandals prevail throughout the colony.

I will not weary your lordship with the citation of cases relative to this vile system of procrastination, as they are matters of such notoriety that it would be superfluous to do so.

My lord, in conclusion I will say that if your lordship desires to keep alive the flame of loyalty in Sierra Leone, to make the laws respected, to preserve civil rights, to give to every injury the quickest and most immediate redress, you will restore to the

native people that ancient guardian of popular rights, trial by jury, and no longer leave the destinies of a loyal and peaceable people to the capricious ruling of a judge from whose decision there is no appeal (the Appeal Court in Sierra Leone having perished along with trial by jury), unless to the Privy Council here, from which august tribunal the poverty of the poor Africans I have alluded to debars them.—I have, &c.,

WM. RAINY.

ONE OF THE DREADFUL EVILS THAT OUR GAMBIA FRIENDS HAVE ESCAPED.

As the pertinacious and unscrupulous efforts made by Sir Arthur Kennedy to please the Colonial-office in its insane and wicked desire to transfer the Gambia to France found favour with many persons who ought to have known better, we think it as well to show our Gambia friends one of the many evils they have escaped in the purpose of the Colonial-office and Sir Arthur Kennedy having been defeated. The opposition of the Africans to be thus transferred, and their declarations of attachment to British rule and laws, although they have but too much reason to complain occasionally of the way in which the latter are administered, was stigmatised by Sir Arthur Kennedy as "*mere sentiment.*" "*Sentiment*"—in view of such a change as substituting the abominable criminal procedure in France, for the just and humane procedure observed in Great Britian and her colonies. Let all our African friends read the following from a contemporary. It will give them, we think, a strengthened attachment to British institutions:—

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN FRANCE.

While the Communist trials are proceeding it will be interesting to observe how French and English criminal procedure differ from one another, and how if a comparison between them were attempted it would be strikingly disadvantageous to the former. In England, the prisoner is from the first cautioned not to compromise himself by imprudent language, and he is considered *not guilty* until the contrary is proved; in France the accused is from beginning to end considered *guilty*, and treated as such. Again, in this country the prisoner must immediately appear before a police-court; in France there is no police judge, and the French law puts no limit to preventive imprisonment. Some persons have remained two years in gaol before being sent to a jury. A short sketch will here suffice to show the unfairness, and even the cruelty, to which the prisoner is subjected until condemnation or acquittal. At first he is put in a narrow cell, *au secret*,—that is, without any outward communication whatever—the greatest torture of incarceration—and remains there for two or three months—sometimes longer—while the *Juge d'Instruction* gathers his evidence, and the public prosecutor does the same for his own account. He is then brought in the presence of the *Juge d'Instruction*. This magistrate does not limit himself to a fair interrogatory, but tries by every means to extort from the prisoner the confession of the crime with which he is accused. It is not the truth which the judge tries to elucidate—his duty is to make out a case, his only aim to extort from the prisoner a confession. This interrogatory, which, according to those who have undergone the test, is excruciating moral torture, is unlimited. The prisoner is often brought ten, fifteen times before the *Juge d'Instruction*, and during the interval, every means of driving him to a confession is considered lawful, without excepting intimidation. The *Aumoniers*, the gaolers—everybody listens to his words and spies his least movements. It is not at all uncommon to awaken the prisoner in the dead of the night, in order to draw from him incriminating revelations in the first moment of surprise and terror which succeeds to violently interrupted slumber. This torment is, on the whole, another and worse form of the *question* abolished by Louis XVI., and requires extraordinary fortitude to support it. When the *Juge d'Instruction* has made out his case, the public prosecutor fixes a date for the trial at his own pleasure. But the tribulations of the accused are far from ended; when brought before the jury, the President of the Bench proceeds to question him closely at great length. Then comes the turn of the Procureur. He, too, assuming the guilt of the prisoner, and wishing to be remarked, heaps upon him violent denunciations, generally apostrophising him personally with much bitterness.

That the system is highly immoral, and a conspiracy against the prisoner from beginning to end; that it leads to deplorable judicial errors, are facts beyond denial. Public prosecution as it at present exists can hardly be styled other than an iniquity. It verges as closely as possible on that of the old Inquisition. Many examples of wrong convictions rise with terrible force against it, and a great number amongst the accused have not sufficient intellectual strength to bear these ordeals. Many may still remember how, some years ago, a woman charged with murder was put into the hands of the *Juge d'Instruction*. After six months of lingering imprisonment she was brought up for trial. The instructing magistrate announced in his indictment that the accused had avowed her guilt. The woman admitted the fact herself in court, but as the jury gave her the benefit of extenuating circumstances she was sentenced to penal servitude. Four years after this event had happened the public were startled by the news that an individual had given himself up to the judicial authorities, and confessed to the crime for which the unfortunate woman was suffering. Here was, then, a person who, on her own admission, had been convicted of a murder of which she was innocent. When questioned on the subject, she said she had been so cruelly pressed by the *Juge d'Instruction*, and that she had, moreover, undergone so considerable an amount of moral suffering, that she lost her wits and admitted the crime.

The above instances are among many. A French magistrate was once heard to say that the confession of the incriminated party was considered as a triumph for justice. These words, true to the letter, are the explanation and condemnation of French criminal procedure, and the question may arise whether men can apply so iniquitous a code without allowing their passions to get the better of their sense of justice.

WEST COAST NEWS.

We regret to state that the British and African steamship Bonny, which arrived in the Mersey on the 13th inst., lost her commander during her voyage home. Captain Pycroft was attacked by African fever, whilst in charge of his vessel on the coast, and notwithstanding the most careful and assiduous nursing, he died at Monrovia on the 8th instant, and was interred there on the morning of the 9th. The funeral of the deceased—who was not only an experienced seaman, but a most accomplished gentleman—was attended by a large number of the inhabitants of Monrovia, including the United States Consul. Mr. J. W. Nelson took upon himself the task of making all arrangements for the burial, and too much cannot be said of that gentleman's kindness, nor of the respect which was shown by all who participated in the painful duty. While at Bonny the screw steamer Victoria arrived from a voyage up the river Niger, with a large and valuable cargo of ivory, palm-oil, &c., which was at once transhipped on board the Bonny for England. The accounts brought by the Victoria from the Niger expedition were of the most satisfactory character. The Victoria was to return to the Niger on the 29th of September. The cargo, which was transhipped on board the Bonny, is, we believe, one of the most valuable which has ever come down the Niger. Affairs on the Opobo and at Bonny remained unchanged, and the truce between Oko Jumbo and Ja-Ja still continued.

RE MR. GERARD FOR THE COLONIAL SECRETARYSHIP OF LAGOS.

Lagos, August 25, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Sir,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable journal, to say a word or two in reply to the assertions of your correspondent "Ologududu," inserted in your last number. It is very far from the fact that we all here agree with this gentleman in his praise of the Stipendiary Magistrate as a fit person for the vacant post of Colonial Secretary at Lagos. "Ologududu" probably wrote under the Stipendiary Magistrate's directions, as a kind of collateral support to a petition which has been lately addressed to the Colonial-office by that officer, praying to be appointed to the important vacant post of Colonial Secretary of Lagos (an office second only to that of Administrator). I can assure you, Sir, the views and feelings of the Lagos public in the question at issue are quite the reverse to those of your correspondent.

Mr. Gerard first arrived in this colony as a ranker in one of the West Indian regiments. Some time after his company was ordered to the Gold Coast, where his commanding officer, the late Colonel Conran, from some personal gratifications on his part, advocated his promotion, and the result was Her Majesty was pleased to grant him a commission as an ensign in the army. He was subsequently promoted to be a lieutenant, under which title he arrived in Lagos the second time, with a detachment of one of the West India regiments. The pleasure of our Administrator placed him on the pinnacle of fame, by appointing him superintendent of armed police, an office which attached him to the person of the Administrator, from which time he began to ascend the official ladder, through which he entered into the several grades of office as enumerated by your correspondent. But the question is, Is he qualified to fill those offices? Yes; but his qualifications are none other than those of his being the man "whom the king delights to honour;" apart from this, the office of a police magistrate should be regarded as a munificent gift to a man who has not had the advantage of a liberal, much more a legal education. But favouritisms in official quarters are blind

to these deformities; hence he retains the office of police magistrate. A man who adopts always the court-martial system of procedure in deciding cases, one who incessantly lowers the standard of the bench by flagrant acts of incivility, a man who is literally uninformed, unskilled in accounts, untutored in diplomacy; above all, a man who is indirectly connected in trade—can such a man be said to be qualified to discharge the onerous duties of a colonial secretary? Can such a man be entrusted with the next to principal post in a British colony? I am sure that all your independent readers will vociferate "No, no!"

Such, Sir, is the man whom your correspondent is pleased to present as a candidate for the Lagos secretaryship; but our opinion is that Captrin Glover's interest for the well-being of Lagos is so great that he could not possibly recommend such an appointment.

Alas for Lagos and for Africa that such men as your correspondent should be regarded as specimens of African advancement in civilisation—men who would sacrifice the interest of their country for the sake of filthy lucre, causing the enemies of the negro to rejoice, and the children of the Burtonites to triumph!

I am sorry to occupy so much of your valuable space; but as I am an occasional corespondent I trust you will not scruple to allow me a little indulgence. Meanwhile you will please accept as sincere our regards for your untiring zeal towards the elevation of a trodden-down people.—I am, yours, &c.,

NEGRO.

AFFAIRS IN BONNY AND NEW CALABAR.

BONNY, Oct. 6, 1871.—Peace and quietness reign at present. All await the turn of events, as the truce expires on the 15th instant, and a renewel of the war depends on the action taken by Her Majesty's Consul and the will and caprice of the native kings and chiefs. So the future of commercial interests in these parts is wrapped in uncertainty. The Bonny men have made every preparation to recommence the war, and the Calabar men are equally well prepared to defend themselves, and perhaps do a little more. All parties hope for British intervention, and really, when we consider the enormous amount of British capital invested in the trade of the oil-producing rivers, our Government will commit a great blunder if they do not actively intervene, and put a permanent stop to these wars. The natives themselves say that they hope that our Government will act in a decisive manner, and acknowledge that their intervention alone, backed by a man-of-war, is the only thing that will produce a lasting peace, as none of the nations at war will agree to sign a peace unless the initiative is taken by Her Majesty's British Consul, and both sides are forced to settle their differences through a powerful third party, as they consider it would be a loss of dignity to whichever side made the first advances or concessions; but if both sides are told, "You must not fight; you must make peace," then neither party will have sacrificed its dignity and consequence.—*Liverpool Paper.*

AFRICA AND DR. LIVINGSTONE AND SIR SAMUEL BAKER.

At the first of this season's meetings of the Royal Geographical Society held on Monday evening, the 13th November, Sir Henry Rawlinson, President of the Society, in his address, said: It is surprising, and not a little disappointing, that up to the present time nothing should have been heard of the progress of Sir Samuel Baker's expedition on the Upper Nile. I am in correspondence on the subject with our Consul-General in Egypt, and I learn from him that the Khedive's Government does not manifest any anxiety as to the safety of the expedition; but it is a fact that since Sir Samuel Baker entered the reedy forests of the Bahar Girraffe in the middle of last December, no intelligence whatever of his further movements had reached Khartoum at the date of our last advices from Egypt. With regard also to our other great African explorer, Dr. Livingstone, we are still kept in a state of the most painful suspense. We learn by the last reports from Dr. Kirk at Zanzibar, dated in the middle of August, that the Arab merchants with whom Dr. Livingstone had travelled from the south up to Manyemeh, had passed on from that place to Ujiji, and early in the month of June were daily expected at Unyanyembe. From Livingstone himself, however, no direct intelligence had recently reached Zanibar, and it was only by inference that Dr. Kirk supposed him to be still at Manyemeh. The second batch of supplies intended for him had in the meantime passed on through Unyanyembe, *en route* to Ujiji, and Dr. Kirk was anxiously awaiting news of the arrival of the American traveller, Mr. Stanley, at that place. This gentleman, who is said to be of the true exploring type, left Bagamoyo, on the coast, for Ujiji, in February last, and intended to communicate with Livingstone before proceeding further into the interior, so that we must receive before long, from this, if not from any other quarter, some definite intelligence of our great traveller's present condition and his plans for the future. Those who know Mr. Stanley personally are much impressed with his determined character and his aptitude for African travel. His expedition is well equipped, and he enjoys the great advantage of having secured the services of "Bombay," the well-known factotum of Speke and Grant. He is entirely dependent, I may add, on his own resources, and is actuated apparently by mere love of adventure and discovery; and I need hardly say that if he succeeds in restoring Livingstone to us, or in assisting him to solve the great problem of the upper drainage into the Nile and Congo, he will be welcomed by this society as heartily and as warmly as if he were an English explorer acting under our immediate auspices. (Cheers.) The meeting will be glad to hear that we have to-day received information from the Treasury that Her Majesty's Government, on the recommendation of Mr. Gladstone, has granted 300*l.* from the royal bounty to the children of Dr. Livingstone. (Cheers.)

The ordinary business of the society was then proceeded with, the paper being by Captain Elton, on the Limpopo River.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Oct. 21 to Oct. 28.

Benni-seed.—386 bags, at 59*s.* to 59*s.* 3d. per quarter.

Palm-kernels.—1,100 bags, &c., at 13*l.* 5*s.* to 13*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

Ground-nuts.—64 bags, at 16*l.* per ton.

Palm-oil in continued good request, at further advanced prices, the business being limited on the spot, owing to the small quantity offering; 1,200 tons sold on the spot and to arrive; principally the latter; Bonny 35*l.* 15*s.* to 36*l.* 10*s.*, Congo 41*l.* to 41*l.* 5*s.*, Brass 41*l.* 10*s* Benin 36*l.* 10*s.*, Old Calabar 36*l.* 10*s.* to 37*l.*, New Calabar 40*l.* 10*s.* to 41*l.*, and Lagos at 37*l.* per ton.

The cotton market opened quietly, and as the week advanced great heaviness prevailed, the sales being limited with the supply abundant, and an irregular decline was submitted to of fully $\frac{1}{4}$d. per lb. To-day, with an increased business and firmer tone, prices have partially recovered, but are still about $\frac{1}{4}$d. below the quotations of last Thursday.

Sales of the week—63,000 bales. African cotton 7$\frac{3}{4}$d. to 8$\frac{1}{4}$d.

Oct. 28 to Nov. 4.

Ginger.—170 bags African, at 34*s.* per cwt.

Palm-kernels.—360 bags at 13*l.* 5*s.* to 13*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

Palm-oil.—The market is steady, and the sales are 600 tons; Irregular at 29*l.* to 33*l.*, Bonny at 37*l.*, Opobo at 36*l.*, Lagos at 37*l.* 10*s.* to 37*l.* 15*s.*, Old Calabar at 37*l.* on the spot, and at 38*l.* for distant arrival, New Calabar at 40*l.* to 40*l.* 5*s.*, and Nun River at 40*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

The cotton market opened quietly this week, and prices gave way about $\frac{1}{8}$d. per lb., but on Tuesday the demand increased, and has since continued good, with a steadier tone, and the quotations of Thursday last are resumed in most instances.

Sales of the week—90,000 bales. African cotton 7$\frac{1}{2}$d. to 8$\frac{1}{4}$d.

Nov. 4 to Nov. 11.

Benni-seed.—880 bags, at 58*s.* 6d. to 60*s.* per quarter.

Palm-kernels.—9 tons and 900 bags, at 13*l.* 5*s.* to 13*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

Palm-oil continues steady, and 600 tons sold; Irregular at 30*l.* to 36*l.*, Accra at 35*l.* 10*s.* to 36*l.* 10*s.*, as in quality; Opobo at 36*l.* to 36*l.* 5*s.*, Bonny, Benin, Old Calabar, and Cameroons at 37*l.*, Lagos at 37*l.* 7*s.* 6d. to 37*l.* 15*s.*, and New Calabar at 40*l.* 5*s.* to 40*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

The cotton market has been dull throughout the week, with a limited business, and tendency of prices in favour of buyers; quotations are generally reduced about $\frac{1}{8}$d. per lb.

Sales of the week about 70,000 bales. African cotton 7$\frac{1}{2}$d. to 8d. nominal.

Nov. 11 to Nov. 18.

Benni-seed.—152 bags at 58*s.* per quarter.

Ground-nut kernels.—7,220 mats and 60 tons at 18*l.* per ton.

Palm-kernels.—1,150 bags and 30 tons at 13*l.* 5*s.* to 13*l.* 15*s.*

Calabar beans.—4 barrels and 6 bags at 6d. per lb.

Palm-oil is firm, and prices rather dearer; 750 tons sold; irregular 33*l.* to 37*l.*; Sherboro' at 36*l.* to 36*l.* 2*s.* 6d.; Bonny and Old Calabar at 37*l.* 10*s.* to 38*l.*; New Calabar at 41*l.*; Lagos at 37*l.* 10*s.* to 38*l.* 10*s.*; Benin at 37*l* to 38*l.*; and Brass 41*l.* 10*s.* per ton, closing at the highest quotations.

Cotton has been firm throughout the week, with a considerable business, and an upward tendency in prices. On Monday and Tuesday there was some animation in the market, and though a quieter tone has since prevailed, quotations of the current descriptions are advanced about $\frac{1}{8}$d. per lb.

Sales during the week—98,650 bales. African cotton 7$\frac{1}{2}$d. to 8d. nominal.

Nov. 22.

Oil, Kernels, Benni-seed, &c., unchanged.

Cotton, market steady, but prices declining, under the influence of large arrivals at American ports. African 7d. to 7$\frac{3}{4}$d.

The African Times.
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The African Times.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1871.

THE CONSULATE OF THE BIGHTS.

The inconvenience which might be expected to result from placing the head-quarters of the British Consul for the Bights at Fernando Po has been felt for some time past; and recent and threatening events in the countries of the Oil Rivers have placed this inconvenience—and indeed inconsistency—in a very strong light. Fernando Po is a place of very limited trade, without any British mercantile establishments of importance; while at Old and New Calabar, Brass, and Bonny, the commercial transactions are of great magnitude, and difficulties with the native authorities are not of unfrequent occurence. We are not surprised therefore to hear that it is in contemplation to remove the head-quarters of the Bights Consulate from Fernando Po to Old Calabar. The very slow progress in civilisation made by the native people of that and the other Oil Rivers, notwithstanding that legitimate trade has now been carried on there for more than 30 years, has long deeply grieved us, and caused us very serious thought. Some new impulse to civilisation is evidently wanting, and we hope it may be found in the projected residence of a Consular representative of Great Britain among them. We think this must at least have a tendency to preserve peace in the rivers, so essential to the profitable pursuits of trade and commerce, now threatened with interruption through some stupid native quarrels, which might be at once appeased were there some supreme authority, such for instance as the British Government, to insist on a reference of these differences to its agent for settlement, and that the parties should abide by his decision.

WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH IT?

We suppose we are bound to credit the assertions we hear made—that the London Liberia Loan is therefore an accomplished fact—and, as we saw lately the announcement of the day of final instalment having arrived, that it has now been paid up in full. Presuming the deductions for voyages, travels, breakfasts, dinners, commissions, and other interceptions, to amount to 10,000*l.* out of the 85,000*l.* for which Liberia gives her 100,000*l.* of seven per cent. bonds to the wise and no doubt happy lenders, she now is, or ought therefore to be, in possession of those three hundred and seventy-five thousand silver dollars, which are to open for her a geni's garden of delight. Three hundred and seventy-five thousand silver dollars! Sum unheard of heretofore in the history of Liberia! What will her rulers do with it? We wish them joy with it; they have desired it—they have planned for it—they have got it—and now we do most sincerely hope that they will utilise it. We do not mean for themselves, though of course the labourer is worthy of his hire, but for the country in whose name they have borrowed, whose money, therefore, it is, since its late foolish owners have parted with it, and which will have to pay the interest, and redeem the debt, unless the same ability which procured this first cash on loan should be equally successful in negotiating fresh loans to pay therewith the said interest and redemption. That this delicious system is in view, we do not entertain the shadow of a doubt. It must be so. Those who have borrowed know as well as we do that Liberia, though rich in undeveloped resources, has no available means with which to pay the interest and repay the principal of this loan; that there is no power in the country to bear the weight of seven thousand pounds a-year, thirty-five thousand silver dollars for that interest (to say nothing of the promised sinking fund for paying off the principal), in addition to the taxes now levied for the current service of the state, and the yield of which has been altogether inadequate for that purpose. We can, therefore, only suppose that some one hundred thousand of these dollars will be set aside (reinvested in England at interest perhaps) for the due discharge of the first two or three years' interest and formation of the sinking fund; so necessary to the foundation of a credit that may hope to be rewarded by fresh loans. In this case, there will remain the magnificent sum of two hundred and seventy-five thousand silver dollars. This is the sum which the supporters, or rather advocates, of the loan in Liberia affirm is to regenerate the country—to produce such a development of industry, to place such hitherto untold wealth in the hands of the people at large, as shall convert the whole country into a veritable *pays de cockaigne*. It cannot, therefore, or rather ought not to be thought astonishing that we should ask, "What will they do with it." How will they dispose of it—how utilise it for producing those stupendously magnificent results of a vast development of industry, which would be the only justification of such a loan. It is an interesting problem, and one in the solution of which we shall take a very deep interest. To our mind, the amount disposable in Liberia seems so totally inadequate to such results, that we expect very little more from it than the redemption of the depreciated paper currency, and the payment of the English claims, which have hitherto not been discharged on the perfectly true plea of the Treasury not having an available cent in it. The non-payment of those claims has been of course very unjust and prejudicial to the British claimants; and we do not see how the British Government can do otherwise than demand the payment out of the realised proceeds of this loan. It will, it is true, be only a transfer of British money from one pocket to another—but as it has left the one British pocket for ever, it had better go into the other than be squandered in vain and idle schemes of material development, for which it is manifestly inadequate, and which only the industry of a people can achieve.

THE FANTEE CONFEDERATION.

What is the Fantee Confederation about? Has it been mesmerised into apathetic slumber by the wands of Mr. Ussher and Sir Arthur Kennedy, which they waved with so much ignorant pretension over Elmina; and which "Dutch obstinacy and selfishness" (vide "Englishman") have so cruelly seized and broken? If so, we hope that our words may have power to dispel the charm—that they may be restored again to active life and vigour. We do not hesitate to say that this Confederation, if properly organised and wisely directed, is essential to the prosperity and development of the Gold Coast countries; and we are therefore naturally impatient to know what it is about. If not asleep, it has at least been too much of late in the shade. We hope to see it out again in the sunshine. We regard it as a grievous fault in the Cape Coast Government that the mighty germ of power for good existing in the Confederation was not recognised and acknowledged. We have for years past claimed for the native element—kings, chiefs, and educated natives—a participation in the acts of Government, as enfolding the only power through which the countries can be really and efficiently governed; and it was most painful to us to perceive so many evidences of little-minded jealousy in the occupants of Government House. This, with all due deference to "Englishman," was the true "dog in the manger" spirit; they could not eat the hay of power throughout the interior countries themselves, and they could not bear that the kings, chiefs, and educated natives should eat it; the result being that it is trodden under foot and not utilised at all. The existing administrative apathy at Cape Coast is deplorable. We behold there countries, manifestly destined to a great future, inert and motionless—not making a single step forward toward that inheritance which is theirs by right and title, and must become theirs in fact and deed; and it seems day by day more painfully evident that not one step will be made unless it be through the instrumentality of the Confederation. We are becoming

naturally and justly impatient; we cannot expect a very protracted lease of life, and we want to see some of our hopes of Gold Coast advancement, progress, development, and instrumentality as regards countries beyond, accomplished and realised. The nineteenth century is on the wane; there are only two decades of it yet remaining untouched, and we had hoped that long ere its final day should come, the power of darkness in gloomy Ashanti should be broken and dispersed by light streaming in through the Gold Coast countries. We repeat that we want to see this realised; that we have no expectation of seeing it realised save and except by somebody such as the Fantee Confederation participating in the work, and that we therefore look anxiously for some new evidence of life and vigour in that organisation which inept Cape Coast officials seem at one and the same time to have despised and feared, with equal ignorance and unreason. We trust that, at least with the New Year, which will now soon be upon us, we shall hear something worthy of being heard from Mankessim.

ROADS TO THE ASHANTI FRONTIER.

We commenced our remarks last month on the important subject of roads into the interior of the Gold Coast, by the expression of our ever-present conviction that the better life and the social amelioration, as well as the material progress of the Gold Coast territories and the countries at their back, absolutely depend on the opening of improved communication by roads from the coast towns to the Prah. How deeply we have felt this must, we think, have become manifest to our readers by our persistent efforts to force the British Government and the Local Administration to commence a work which the old Romans, had they been in our place and position at Cape Coast, would have many years ago performed and perfected. We confess to an occasional feeling of shame that we should have so long urged this matter in vain—not shame as appertaining to us personally, for our advocacy of a change which must be so incalculably great in moral, social, industrial, and religious results—but as appertaining to this Great Britain, whose officials have so neglected and betrayed the sacred trust committed to their hands. Since we wrote last month, our heart has been stirred anew within us, not by any revelations strange to us, but by graphic descriptions* of horrors and atrocities with which we have by report been for a long time past familiar. We seem to recognise in this little volume the powerful pen of our esteemed friend Mr. T. B. Freeman, of Accra, who knows the interior countries of the Gold Coast and the neighbouring kingdom of Ashanti better, we believe, than any other man living; because he has not only had experience in them beyond most men, but has also the faculty of individualising and generalising what comes under his observation. When reading anew in this Book (the title of which we have already given at foot) the vivid word pictures of those dark deeds of cruelty and blood in Ashanti, which are the bitter fruit of a degrading, debasing, fiendish superstition, we bound with impatience at the thought of that official procrastination and indifference, of which "Englishman" made himself so lately a public exponent and defender. If there be condemnation for duties unfulfilled, as well as for evil acts committed, we cannot doubt that a heavy responsibility rests upon Great Britain for the continuance of that atrocious bloodshedding which demonises the people of Ashanti; and which will be prolonged so long as there may be victims to slaughter, until *a way* has been opened by which the blessed light of Christian truth and the influence of precepts which lie at the root of Christian civilisation may enter largely, so as to show the King and people how deeply they sin against their own interests and happiness, in their outrages against humanity. We had once hoped, before the slimy threads of West Coast official corruption, depravity, and sloth had been wound around him, that Sir Arthur Kennedy would have perceived so strongly illuminated before him the glorious page in history that will be occupied by the man who conquers the first difficulty in the way of opening up that rich and mighty interior which lies beyond the Prah, by constructing a road—a good permanent road—from Cape Coast to that river, as to impel him to apply all his energies to that one great object. But, alas! he did not comprehend the great truth that would have wooed him on to historic immortality; and lost himself in the dark swamps and quagmires of dirty West Coast official idleness, littleness, and intrigue, into which if a governor once sink there is no possible extrication for him. But he will have his rewards; vanity will be, as it has already been, gratified by the paltry bauble of St. Michael and St George, for his efforts to dismember, instead of to develop the colonial empire; and after his five years of West Coast authority, so obsequious a servant may justly look to an inglorious Colonial-office for something more real and tangible than "*mere sentiment*." For ourselves we must, however, confess that we are soured against him for this among other disappointments which he has caused us; because if he had possessed a great instead of a little heart and soul, he could have done more than almost any other man in the same position could have done, for the realisation of our cherished hope; nor shall we ever forget or forgive him until some real man—some man of noble ambition, of vigorous intellect, and enlarged conception as regards Christian and industrial results—shall wipe him out of our memory by gloriously acomplishing that which he has so ingloriously left undone. Again and again, we demand in the cause of God and man, the road from the Coast to the River Prah—and, God helping us, we will yet have what we demand.

* Missionary Enterprise No Fiction. A Tale Founded on Facts. Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row, London, 1871.

MR. RAINY—HIS LETTERS—AND WEST COAST OFFICIALS AND AFFAIRS.

In our last number we commenced the publication of a series of letters addressed by Mr. W. Rainy, late of Sierra Leone, to the Colonial-office, on the present position of public affairs on the West Coast of Africa. That publication we now continue; and have no doubt that the three letters we insert in this present number will be read with great and well-deserved interest. The writer's intimate acquaintance with the West Coast of Africa, his large experience there, his undoubted ability, and his unpurchasable patriotism, have justly elevated him to the high position of an authority, despite the rebuffs of the Colonial-office; and in these letters it will be found that he has laid the hand of a master upon wrongs which we have long been engaged in exposing, which have tended to lessen the prestige and love of English power in Africa, and to augment the political and social evils that already existed there. We think it necessary to recall the attention of our readers to the first of these letters, because they must be read in conjunction, forming as they do a complete catalogue of ills, in the contemplation of which every well-regulated mind must, we think, be deeply pained. That first letter sets forth lucidly the fact that the centralisation of Government on the West Coast of Africa brings with it none of those benefits which should reconcile the friends of Africa or the public thought in Africa to the adoption of a principle so directly antagonistic to those which have formed the English mind and contributed so much to English happiness, progress, and greatness; and is so little calculated to produce and secure the benefits that ought to accompany British rule. Neither expedition in the administration of justice, general social content, or economy in carrying on the machinery of government, has marked the evil and unhappy combination of administrations which Mr. Rainy has so ably exposed. He tells us, with an accuracy that no one can doubt, that since the administrative and partially judicial amalgamation of the West African settlements, the Colonial chest of Sierra Leone, which used to have a surplus, has now become a borrower both in England and in Sierra Leone. He disposes of the fallacy that any analogy exists between the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa; and shows that whilst the Governor of Sierra Leone in his costly pleasure yacht is visiting other settlements, the capabilities, wants, and wrongs of which he is profoundly ignorant of, and seemingly unable

to comprehend, he in his real position of Governor of Sierra Leone permits legislation to slumber, and important measures to be indefinitely postponed. From this starting point, Mr. Rainy in another of these letters exhibits the Legislative Council as it really is; and proves that from the narrownes of its construction, its unsuitability to the present age, combined with the total absence of all national representation, it is the grossest mockery of local and native participation in administrative power, that the world ever saw. Within the doors of the Legislative Chamber not even a supposed representative of national feeling ever puts his foot, until the fact has been well established in the executive mind, that either his ignorance or his cupidity renders him a fitting deceptive instrument of the Governor or his ever-watchful satellites. We neither know nor care how the Colonial-office, in whose acts we have long ceased to have any faith, will deal with the letters we are now commenting upon; but through the columns of this journal, which has now for eleven years watched over the interests of West Africa and her people, publicity will at least be given to Mr. Rainy's denunciation of the prolific source of countless ills which weigh upon the people, primarily of Sierra Leone, and secondarily, of every other British settlement on the West Coast. From the letter upon the House and Land Tax we will not quote a single line. It is a mournful record to be inscribed in the history of a people. The sorrow naturally felt in its perusal is, however, to a certain extent, relieved by the well-merited satire which Mr. Rainy flings upon the financial genius of the Governor and his docile Council of officials and official tools. The letter upon the withdrawal of trial by jury from the West Coast settlements—a subject upon which we have never ceased to combat the unhappy and unjust decision of the British Government, deceived by unworthy official conspirators, and which, though repeatedly brought before the House of Commons through our and Mr. Rainy's efforts, has been burked hitherto by officialmisrepresentation—ought to be perused with deep interest by English readers, who have been taught from childhood to revere an institution that secures to them the protective authority of their fellow citizens as exercised in the jury-box. It may, however, be asked what good can be expected to result from these letters and their publication by us, while Sierra Leone is ruled by Sir Arthur Kennedy, while a dismissed Tasmanian judge is his confidential adviser, while a Mr. Justice Huggins is retained in office there, notwithstanding he disputes money matters with his clerk in a court of law, and has received the virtual condemnation of one Secretary of State—the present head of the House of Buckingham. Our answer is that these letters point as significantly to a coming session of Parliament as does any railway signal to the fact of an approaching train. We, for our part, will never sit down apathetically while West Coast official wrongs and wrongdoers are before our eyes; nor do we believe that the Colonial-office will for ever remain indifferent to delinquencies that bring disgrace upon them through their subordinates. The Colonial-office might forgive Sir Arthur Kennedy's deception as practised upon unofficial persons; but it seems to us that they cannot so easily forgive his misleading them—whether ignorantly or intentionally it imports not—in facts and other matters connected with the Gambia affair. The real photograph of Sir Arthur Kennedy was transmitted to the Colonial-office through Mr. Quin, and in the columns of this journal; and they could not fail, we should imagine, to have made at once the discovery that they had to deal with a man so practised in official deceit, that he failed even to recognise the necessity of a cautious adherence to truth in his communications with them; and thus grievously misled them. True, they were willing to be misled in the matter of the Gambia. Its transfer to France was one of the pet measures of Sir F. Rogers, late Permanent Under-Secretary there, now lately raised to the dignity of the peerage; and it is not, therefore, surprising that Sir Arthur should have also been rewarded for his share in the disastrous measure by a step in the new colonial order. We, however, consider that we have gained greater honour by our efforts to save the Gambia and its people to Great Britain, than any that can be officially conferred on Sir Arthur Kennedy for his share in endeavours to confiscate the cherished allegiance of the latter, and turn the former over to the Empire of Napoleon III. With the Parliamentary doors turning on their hinges before us in the distance, and the columns of this journal open to him, for all that seems to us to be calculated to aid in removing those evils which are rampant in the West African settlements, and in advancing those political, social, and administrative changes which are indispensable to material and Christian progress, and to the building up of self-governing communities, such as the House of Commons Committee of 1865 contemplated and urged upon the Colonial-office, we are not surprised that Mr. Rainy should believe that these letters, whatever may be their fate at the Colonial-office, will tend to give new life to public feeling and indignation, and guide them in the right direction. Our efforts from the very first page of the first number of this journal, eleven years ago, have been systematically and prayerfully directed to the great object of building up powerful and Christian British dependencies, to become in time powerful and independent Christian nationalities on the West Coast of Africa. Though not always coinciding with his opinions, nor always approving the terms in which he advocates them, we have long recognised in Mr. Rainy a fellow-labourer in our noble and interesting work, to the prosecution of which we have been guided by an influence superior to all earthly ones. We are always ready, therefore, to hold out to him the willing hand of fellowship in every effort of his for the overthrow of the disgusting abuses of power and authority in West Africa, by unworthy British officials, to the fullest extent that the unchanging principles on which the *African Times* is conducted will admit. It is impossible for us, therefore, not to join with him in unmitigated condemnation of Sir Arthur Kennedy, since he departed from the paths of promise for Africa in which he at first walked, before he threw the official mantle of his protection around Mr. Justice Huggins, whose removal to some other colony it was his undoubted duty to advocate at the Colonial-office—before he committed the unpardonable outrage of constituting a man so officially and justly disgraced in public opinion as Mr. Algernon Montagu, the dismissed Tasmanian judge, to be his confidential adviser. We attribute all Sir Arthur's successful efforts to debauch the public mind to this unworthy choice—as we do his almost inconceivable jumble, as shown in his published dispatches, of mendacity, ignorance, and insolent heartlessness in the matter of the proposed cession of the Gambia to France—to the joint influence of his unworthy councillors at Sierra Leone, and his desire to gratify and stand well, at any cost to Africa, with that Colonial-office on which his future official promotion depends; and which had become desirous of getting rid of that finest of West Africa rivers, and turning over a Protestant people to Roman Catholic France attached British subjects to French rule. But if this be correct, what does it prove? What, but that he is mentally unfit for the great work that is wanted to be done in West Africa; and, in our point of view, one thus unfit is, together with his but too numerous official protegés on the West Coast—from Mr. Ussher downward to one of his latest Vancouver importations, the so-called Colonel Foster-Foster, Police Magistrate and Inspector of Police at Cape Coast, by grace and favour of Sir Arthur Kennedy, an obstructive and dangerous nuisance, to be got rid of as soon as possible. There cannot be a healthy public opinion on the West Coast of Africa while the official fountains from which it ought to derive a bright and healthy draught are filthy and impure; and the man who, as chief of all the administration on the West Coast, tolerates, permits, and even pets, official filth and impurity, is equally guilty, though in his own private character and conduct he may be, as Sir Arthur Kennedy undoubtedly is, blameless.

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE."

Downing-street, Nov. 18.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Arthur Henry Porter, Esq., to be a Member of the Legislative Council of the Settlement of Lagos, on the Western Coast of Africa. [Who is Mr. Porter?—Ed. *A.T.*]

JUSTICES' JUSTICE IN JAMAICA.

It would appear that this island is in an unsettled state, and that the black and coloured people are very discontented. *The County Union*, a Government paper, writes:—

"No inconsiderable amount of agitation has existed for a few weeks past, in the parish of St. Mary's, in consequence of a rumour prevailing that the germs of another 'rebellion' had been discovered in the mountains of Metcalfe. Great was the excitement evinced at Port Maria on Tuesday last, when the constabulary, with the aid of the auxiliary force of rural constables, were seen bringing into the bay some 20 or 30 men, for whose apprehension warrants had been issued. Their worships, after Mr. Berwick had argued his objections at great length, stated that they felt there was no alternative left but for them to dismiss the prisoners."

A correspondent of the *Gleaner* writes:—

"Drillings by the peasantry are taking place. On Monday, as my brother and Mr. Hannaford were driving along the road from Old Harbour to Spanish Town at four o'clock in the morning they had an occasion to stop the buggy for a moment, when they distinctly heard voices and the words '*shoulder arms*,' '*present arms*,' *&c., &c.*; this was close to Spanish Town."

No sane person would imagine for a moment that this state of things existed without some just grounds of discontent. The burden of taxation, which falls unequally on the coloured population, as the abominably unjust house-tax does as regards the poor in Sierra Leone, had something to do with it, while *justices' justice* aggravates and envenoms it. During last session of Parliament we noticed the case of Mr. Bravo*, a magistrate of St. Mary's, who had disgracefully ill-treated a poor black man; and who, although the judge had fined him 20*l.* for the outrage, was up to that period permitted to remain in the Commission of the Peace. By the last mail we learn, however, that the Governor had accepted the resignation of Mr. John R. Bravo's several commissions and appointments in the parish of St. Mary's. Accepted the resignation! Do we not see the same iniquitous disregard of propriety on the part of the Colonial-office in this matter that we see and complain of in the West African settlements? Can there be any doubt that such a man ought to have been summarily dismissed from the Commission of the Peace, &c., instead of giving him the option of resigning; and the latter only, it seems, after he had been further found guilty of defrauding the revenue, and fined 40*l.* for it? Then, again, there is the case of Mr. Thompson, another magistrate, respecting the accusation brought against whom Mr. Knatchbull-Huggessen promised last session that inquiry should be made of the Governor as to why he was permitted to remain on the Bench. We thought that to inquire why such a man was continued in the magistracy, was equivalent to a promise of dismissal; but it seems that we were mistaken, and that Mr. Thompson still continues in office, for the *County Union*, which we have said above is a "Government paper," has the following in one of its latest numbers:—

"Almost the first case on which Mr. Justice Bruce was called to adjudicate brought him in collision with a Justice of the Peace of St. Ann, who ran exceedingly restive under the fine the Judge was forced to inflict, for an outrage unparalleled in the audacity it exhibited; it being nothing less than the forcible ejectment of a man from his own house, upon a Sunday evening, at about nine o'clock—a man sleeping in his own bed, the magistrate actually taking a sergeant of police and a policeman to do the wrong under his immediate order. Mr. Thompson, the magistrate, was fined 40*s.* for the assault, the fine at once placing the Judge in bad odour with the upper class. No appeal was made against the decision of Mr. Bruce, but a complaint was at once made to the Governor, who, as it was generally understood in St. Ann, expressed his surprise that the fine had not been much larger. Why the magistrate was not removed from the Commission of the Peace for the gross outrage he had committed, is one of those secrets of State we cannot for the life of us unravel; for a more violent perversion of magisterial power never yet was ventured on, the circumstances in the background being as flagrant as those publicly stated."

Well may the Jamaica editor find it difficult to imagine why such a man should be allowed to poison the streams of justice. We can only suppose that there must be good Colonial-office reasons of some kind, why Mr. Thompson *must* continue on the Bench, as there no doubt were why Mr. Algernon Montagu should be continued in official employment at Sierra Leone; or such a person as Colonel Foster-Foster be nominated to the police magistracy of Cape Coast. All these offences against the people of our colonies show unmistakably that the Colonial-office system is a disgracefully rotten one. Where, alas! shall we look for a remedy now that the House of Commons has become so indisposed to give any time or attention to colonial complaints. All we know is that a remedy *must be found*; and that we shall continue, in the interests of the West African people, to cry aloud for one until it be found.—Ed. *A.T.*

* We do not know that such is the case, but we have been informed that this Mr. Bravo is of the same family as Major Bravo, police magistrate at Sierra Leone.—Ed. *A. T.*

GREAT DEATH-BLOW TO SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

The latest news from Brazil is of a most important character, and marks quite a new era in the annals of that country. By a very large majority the Senate has passed the Emancipation Bill. By this Act no more slaves can be born in the empire, and the sequence of the measure will be to anticipate the period of liberty fixed for 1,500,000 of our fellow-beings. The first article of the law reads thus: "All children born of slave-mothers after the 28th of September, 1871, shall be considered of free condition." This enactment—that no addition should be made to the number of enslaved persons in the way of natural increase—seals the doom of the institution. As late as the year 1850 slaves were imported into Brazil, but in that year the hateful traffic was effectually suppressed. At a much later date a great English mining company held as part of its property eight hundred slaves in Brazil, in spite of the penalties of Lord Brougham's Act. The price of slaves has, however, been rising for the last twenty years, and the labourers have accordingly been better cared for. Henceforward the children of female slaves will be under the authority of the owners of their mothers, who will be bound to rear them until they complete the age of eight years, when the owner of the mother may elect either to receive a pecuniary compensation of about 60*l.*, payable by the Government, or to have the use of the minor's services until he completes the age of 21 years. A minor whose services an owner has thus elected to appropriate may redeem himself from the onus of service, by tendering, either personally or by another person, pecuniary compensation to the owner of his mother. Thus, if he can induce any one—as, for instance, by promising to work for him for a certain time for certain wages—to redeem him, the owner of his mother has no choice but to permit his services for the unexpired term to be valued. Another article of the law empowers the Government to enter into arrangements with Emancipation Societies, or other authorised associations, for the support and employment of children of slave-mothers, whom it may have to place under their care, the Government maintaining a right of guardianship and inspection over them. Further, in each province of the Empire slaves are to be freed annually, the number depending on the amount annually disposable from the fund set apart for emancipation. This fund arises from the produce of the tax on slaves, and on the transfer of slave property; from the fines established by this law; from sums voted in the estimates; and from subscriptions, donations, and legacies. Again, slaves are secured in the enjoyment of their own property, their *peculium*, notwithstanding their servile status; and if they can raise the money to indemnify their owner for their services, they may claim their liberty under this law. Henceforth no married slaves are to be separated from their husbands or wives where the property in them is transferred. We need not follow out in detail the numerous provisions for giving effect to the spirit of this statute. They are such as to show that the Government, while avoiding anything like a sudden dislocation of social and industrial relationships, sincerely aims at the universal and complete extirpation of slavery from the territory of Brazil. Henceforth liberty will be the rule and standard in Brazil; slavery the condemned exception. In some cases, it is reported, the masters have already and at once set their slaves free. At the end of September no fewer than 1,600 slaves, the property of the State, were set free; and on the same day the Benedictines, who have been among the best friends of emancipation, set free 1,600 more, and have announced the intention of settling them on lands belonging to their order.

Liberian Seven Per Cent. Loan.—The Stock Exchange have authorised this loan to be marked in the Official List.

Captain Bravo.—The *Gazette* of the 31st of October last announces that the promotion of Captain and Brevet-Major Alexander Bravo (who is now Police Magistrate of Sierra Leone) from the 1st W.I.R. to a majority without purchase has been cancelled. We understand that the appeal case of Mr. Rainy against this officer for a libel on Mr. Rainy has been set down for hearing before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Mr. Pater, late of Sierra Leone.—This learned gentleman has resumed his practice at the English Bar, and was well received by his brother professionals. Mr. Pater's career in Sierra Leone was a successful one, but his thoroughly independent and truthful spirit could not live in such a den of sycophancy, falsehood, and corruption. By the order of the Court he held several briefs for the prosecution at the session, and success as usual attended him. His name appeared gracefully in the columns of our great contemporary the *London Times*.

SLAVERY IN THE SPANISH COLONIES.

Spain now stands alone in slave-holding iniquity; but it is to be hoped that the example of Brazil will have some good influence even in the Spanish Legislature. Meanwhile, however, emancipation prospects do not seem to be very bright just now in Madrid, although a proposition for the abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico has been laid before the Cortes. A contemporary says, under the head of Madrid:—

"The slave-holders are coming out very strong in these days. They have bought over a number of journals, either to complete silence or actual support of the institution.

"The Abolitionists, though a brave little band, rich in nothing but confidence in the ultimate triumph of the good cause, are, it must be confessed, somewhat cowed and disheartened at the overpowering opposition they encounter.

"The proposition for the law for abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico was presented yesterday in the Cortes, it having been decided that, for many reasons, it was more expedient that it should be presented by the Deputies instead of the Senators. It commences by a number of considerations tending to demonstrate the many reasons why Spain should hasten to abolish the odious institution existing in her colonies. It adduces the fact of the existence in Puerto Rico of only 32,000 slaves in a population of 650,000 inhabitants, only 10,000 slaves taking part in the agricultural labours of the island. It, besides, enumerates the favourable circumstances that combine to render the island peculiarly fitted at the present moment for initiating this great reform, demanded of Spain by the inhabitants of the island themselves, by the lovers of liberty in the Spanish Peninsula, and by the remaining civilised nations of the world. Its first five articles are as follows:—

"Art. 1. Slavery is henceforth abolished in the Island of Puerto Rico.

"Art. 2. The present owners of slaves are to be indemnified.

"Art. 3. The Corporations and Provincial Deputations are to provide for the disabled freedmen who cannot remain with their owners, from the sum set apart for analogous cases among the labouring classes of the island.

"Art. 4. Freedmen will be subject to the police regulations in force for the labourers of the island.

"Art. 5. Two competent persons are to be appointed in each locality for valuing the slaves; one to be appointed by the owner, and the other by the local syndic, on the part of the slave, and in case of their being unable to agree, a third person is to be named by the Provincial Deputation to decide the question. The valuation is to be made simultaneously throughout the province of Puerto Rico. The valuation is not to exceed two hundred dollars, and in case of any slave being partly ransomed, and whose price in consequence is already fixed, it shall not in any instance exceed the sum previously agreed upon between master and slave."

DISINFECTANTS.

[As so many diseases are caused or rendered tenfold dangerous by noxious effluvia, the following letter to the *Times* is not unworthy of notice.—Ed. *A. T.*]

That earth is a disinfectant no one will deny, but I fear that many persons may be led to believe that it is as efficacious as any other disinfectant deodoriser, which is clearly not so, it being far inferior even to charcoal. Still, at the same time, when other agents are not procurable, it may be used with advantage as a fair substitute.

Of the numerous disinfectants at our command I think we are nearly all agreed in giving the preference to chlorine, extolled most highly, and very properly so, by "A. J. B.," in a letter dated from St. Thomas's Hospital, which appeared in your impression of Thursday last. The easiest way to evolve this gas is, I think, that given by Dr. Mapother in the "Half-Yearly Abstract of Medical Sciences," Vol. xlv.—viz., to mix two table-spoonfuls of common salt, two teaspoonfuls of red lead, and half a wineglassful of strong oil of vitriol in a quart of tawer. The bottle must be kept cool, tightly stopped, and in a dark place; a little of this fluid exposed in a saucer, sprinkled on the floor, or soaked in sheets of old linen, and hung about the room, rapidly deodorises and destroys effluvia.

While writing on this subject, it may not be considered out of place to mention that some three or four years since—shortly after the publication in your columns of some letters I penned on scurvy—a correspondent, writing under the *nom de plume* of "Nearchus," stated, in a letter now before me, that he remembers hearing many years ago some South Sea whalers speak of burying those sailors who were much afflicted with scurvy, in order that they might receive in perfection, direct from the earth, that benefit which they indirectly derived through the medium of esculent roots. The writer of the letter adds that he does not remember with sufficient accuracy all the particulars of the "burying process," and he never witnessed its performance, but they selected spots sheltered from the sun's rays, removed the turf and sufficient earth for the patients to lie down as they would in bed, and be covered with earth instead of bedclothes. The patients were attentively watched and removed whenever they desired. This process, we are told, was repeated daily, and effected early recovery.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. Domett Stone, M.D., F.R.C.S.

NATAL.

Labour.—There is still a demand for labour, and a sad dearth in the supply. The planters are, however, bestirringly themselves actively in the matter, and it is to be hoped that by next season measures will be established which will render the supply adequate and reliable. The means in plenty are around us on every side. They only want to be properly used. Private parties are bringing batches of Basuto labourers into the colony. We know that within the past months two of these batches have arrived in the colony, one of about 300, and the other of about 150 labourers. The Labour Commission has been at work, and it is hoped it will effect some measure which will meet the requirements of the planters, and be of real and enduring benefit to the colony. On the 21st inst., 150 natives, from the district beyond Leydenburg, were brought into Durban, by Mr. Dyer, and registered at the Immigration Agency.

On the 1st of June, a young man here known by the name of Geo. Elland, but whose real name has since been found to have been Arthur W. Warrand (late Lieutenant in the 42nd Royal Highlanders), shot himself dead with a revolver. Monetary difficulties are supposed to be the primary cause which led the unhappy man to commit this dreadful deed. Deceased had been only a few months in the colony.—*Natal Mercury.*

IMPORTS OF COTTON INTO ENGLAND.

In the year 1870, 11,949,157cwt. of raw cotton was imported into the United Kingdom, and the following is a list of the countries from which the supply was imported: From the United States, 4,638,610cwt. from southern, and 1,756,435cwt. from northern ports on the Atlantic; from British India, 3,040,550cwt.; from Egypt, ports on the Mediterranean, 1,283,037cwt.; from Brazil, 573,331cwt.; from Uruguay, 1,193cwt.; from the Argentine Confederation, 1,478cwt.; from Chili, 36,119cwt.; from Peru, 21,216cwt.; from Ecuador, 28cwt.; from Venezuela, 8,268cwt.; from New Granada, Atlantic ports, 34,295cwt.; from Mexico, Atlantic ports, 18cwt.; from British Guiana, 1,812cwt.; from the foreign West Indies (San Domingo, Hayti, Porto Rico, &c.), 14,660cwt.; from the British West India Islands, 18,851 cwt.—7,117cwt. being from Trinidad, and 4,505cwt. from the Bahamas; from Nova Scotia, 4,317cwt.; from Australia—7,928 cwt. from New South Wales, 8,201cwt. from Queensland, 3,348 cwt. from New Zealand; from China, 94cwt.; from Siam, 135 cwt.; from French possessions in India, 2,348cwt.; from Ceylon, 8,269cwt.; from Persia, 527cwt.; from Africa—20cwt. from Algeria, 120cwt. from the Gambia, 493cwt. from Sierra Leone, 2,721cwt. from the Gold Coast, 12,503cwt. from the West Coast, 561cwt. from the Cape of Good Hope, 4,368cwt. from Natal, 6cwt. from Mauritius; from Turkey—33,278cwt. from European Turkey; 51,581cwt. from Natolia or Asia Minor; 1,060cwt. from El Hadjaz and ports on the Euphrates or Persian Gulf; 7,326 cwt. from Syria and Palestine; from Greece, 571cwt.; from Malta, 832cwt.; from Illyria, Croatia, and Dalmatia, 2,114cwt.; from Italy, 611cwt.; from France, 330,653cwt.; from other European countries, 35,271cwt.

TOTAL ECLIPSES OF THE SUN TO BE VISIBLE IN WEST AFRICA.

By Mr. J. R. Hind, Astronomer Royal.

Eclipse of May 17, 1882.—The central line commences in the Ashantee territory, traverses Africa to Upper Egypt and the extremity of the Sinaite peninsula at the entrance of the Gulf of Akabah; the duration of totality here is rather less than two minutes. The after course is by Teheran and Kashgar across the Chinese Empire to Shanghai, where the eclipse is total for 20 seconds only, with the sun 18 degrees high.

Eclipse of August 29, 1886.—As regards the length of duration of totality, this will be the most notable phenomenon within the period of which I am writing. The central line commences among the more southerly of the Bahamas Islands, and, traversing the Atlantic, meets the Coast of Africa near Portendik, leaving this continent on the eastern side, south of the equator, and ending two degrees north of the upper extremity of Madagascar. Calculating for a point on the West Coast of Africa in latitude 17 deg. 55 min. S., which is about ten miles south of Portendik, and close upon the central line, I find the total eclipse commences at 11h. 27m. 36s. A.M., local time, and continues 6m. 21s., the sun being at an altitude of 79deg.

Eclipse of December 22, 1889, commences in the Caribbean Sea, and, passing over Barbadoes into the Atlantic, arrives on the African coast in Angola, thence traversing Lake Tanganyika, it continues its course to the Indian Ocean, and leaves the earth in about 61deg. E. and 7deg. N. At Bridgetown, Barbadoes, totality begins at 6h. 47min. 6sec. A.M., with the sun at an altitude of six degrees, and continues 1m. 48s. On the Angola coast in 10 deg. south latitude, he is 56 degrees above the horizon, and is obscured 3m. 34s., the middle of the eclipse falling at 2h. 11m. P.M., local time.

These are the only *total eclipses* that will be available for physical observations in Western Africa during the next twenty years.

THE SUN'S COURSE; IS IT A STRAIGHT LINE OR A CURVE?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Chippenham, Wilts, England.

Dear Sir,—I know that none of the philosophical journals will insert this letter, and I would feel most obliged if you would allow it to appear in the *African Times*, where I am sure it would meet the attention of those able to further my object, which is, to ascertain whether the sun's course is an exactly straight line like the seam of a cricket-ball, or curvilinear like the rim of a plate. Select an open and rather elevated spot, from whence both sunrise and sunset can be seen. On the day before place an upright pole, of not less than six feet high and six inches in diameter, exactly underneath the sun at twelve o'clock, then the next morning at sunrise place a second pole of the same size forty or fifty feet from the first one, and between it and the rising sun, in an exact line, and then a third pole at the same distance on the other side of the first pole, but in a direct line with the other two. All three then will stand in an exactly straight line with the rising sun. If the sun's course be a straight line, without any shadow right or left, the astronomers were correct in saying that the "Equator divides the two hemispheres." But if this is not the case, and the sun's shadow diverges in the very least towards the north, the sun's orbit must be curvilinear, and a straight equator, as shown in our maps, a fraud and a delusion. The names and addresses of at least six respectable witnesses must be sent.—Yours, very truly,

John Hampden.

Mr. A. H. W. Kennedy.—According to the *Daily Telegraph* of the 26th of October last, Mr. A. H. W. Kennedy, who at one time held the post of Acting Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone, under his father, Governor Sir A. Kennedy, has been committed for trial on a charge of fraud.

Photographing Skin Diseases.—The magic lantern has been successfully applied in London, *Galignani* says, to the study of diseases of the skin, by Dr. Balmanno Squire. A transparent photograph of the patient is taken, and then placed in a magic lantern; a strong hydro-oxygen light casts the figure enlarged on a white sheet, and in this way the smallest details are brought out with astonishing minuteness.

Dr. Livingstone.—In the course of a speech recently at Bristol, the celebrated African missionary, the Rev. Robert Moffatt, the father-in-law of Dr. Livingstone, said he had no doubt in the world that the traveller was safe. He thought communications that Livingstone had sent to the coast had never arrived, the dealers having failed to deliver them, and that he had in consequence given up writing altogether. He had no doubt from what he knew of the natives that if Livingstone were dead we should have had definite information before now.

Salt.—The quantity of rock salt sent down the river Weaver in the year ending the 31st of March, 1871, reached 67,410 tons of 26 cwt., and of white salt 901,158 tons; the total, 968,568 tons, is larger than in any of the years over which the returns of the Keeper of Mining Records extend. Worcestershire produced in 1869, at Droitwich and Stoke Prior together, 195,000 tons of salt. The Belfast Salt Mining Company raised 17,472 tons; and there is now another company raising salt, but no returns were received from it. The export of salt from the United Kingdom advanced in 1869 to 833,316 tons, but the value was only 430,914*l.*, being less than the value of the smaller export of the two preceding years. More than 240,000 tons were exported to British India in 1869, more than 214,000 tons to the United States, 94,000 tons to British North America, 74,000 tons to Russia. The total quantity of salt raised in the United Kingdom in the year was about a million and a quarter tons, the value estimated from the export return was 687,000*l.*

NOTIFICATION.

THE LOWER COURT OF JUSTICE (Niedergericht) of the City of Hamburg Hereby Gives Notice, that the term for bringing into Court all Claims against the Estate of Julius, alias Isaac Valentin, pursuant to an application from Carl Busch and Louis Ludeman *mand. nom.* E. A. Muller in Berlin, as Executors of the Will of the said Julius, alias Isaac Valentin (published in Vol. X., No. 118, 119, 120 of this paper), has been prorogued until the 27th MARCH, 1872.

(Certified) R. RENDTORFF, Dr., Actuar.

Hamburg, the 27th of September, 1871.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

FOR the convience of persons wishing to make small remittances between the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, the undersigned will be prepared to ISSUE DRAFTS at five days' sight from One Pound to Fifty Pounds sterling every month at a premium of 5 per cent.

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WM. R. TAYLOR,
Merchant and Government Contract...

Fort-street, Cape Coast,
September 2, 1871.

NOTICE.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Partnership Business hitherto existing between myself and Mr. James O'Connor Williams, under the style and firm of HOARE, O'CONNOR & CO., has this day been DISSOLVED by mutual agreement.

All Accounts standing against the said firm of Hoare, O'Connor, & Co. up to date, shall be paid and satisfied by me; and all debts due and owing to the said firm are to be paid to me, the undersigned. THOS. GEO. HOARE.

Lagos, 13th July, 1871.

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Fort-street, opposite the Castle, Cape Coast.
December 22, 1870.

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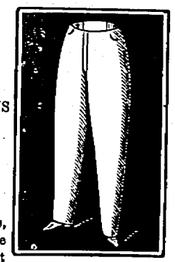

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