

# 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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## CONTENTS.

| PAGE                                                                  | PAGE |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| West Coast Mails .....                                                | 61   |
| A Sierra Leone Government Paper .....                                 | 62   |
| A Just Decision by the Secretary of State for the Colonies .....      | 62   |
| Revenue of Liberia for the Half-year ending Dec. 31, 1871 .....       | 62   |
| Deposition of the President of Liberia .....                          | 62   |
| How the First Instalment of the Liberian Loan was Disposed of .....   | 63   |
| Liberian Loan Money .....                                             | 63   |
| The Elmina Question—Sale of Slaves at Cape Coast .....                | 63   |
| Navigation of the Volta—Trade Factories at Addah .....                | 64   |
| High-handed Proceedings .....                                         | 64   |
| Fears of Danger through Errors Governors at Lagos .....               | 64   |
| Another Lagos Letter .....                                            | 64   |
| The Annual Trade by Steamers up the River Niger .....                 | 65   |
| An Old Calabar Complaint .....                                        | 65   |
| Public News from the West Coast of Africa .....                       | 65   |
| Liverpool Markets .....                                               | 65   |
| Cruel Efforts of the Slaveholders to Perpetuate Slavery in Cuba ..... | 65   |
| The Prince of Wales .....                                             | 66   |
| December 25, 1871, and January 1, 1872 .....                          | 66   |
| The Famed Liberian Loan .....                                         | 67   |
| A Caution to the Governor of Lagos .....                              | 67   |
| The Infamous Queensland Slave Trade .....                             | 68   |
| The Growing Evils of Lagos .....                                      | 69   |
| The African Peace Conference at the Oil Rivers .....                  | 70   |
| The Polynesian Slave Trade .....                                      | 70   |
| The Diamond Fields of South Africa .....                              | 71   |

## AFRICAN AGENCY

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

IN consequence of wishes expressed from all parts of the West Coast, MR. FITZGERALD has made arrangements for selling produce consigned to him by ships to London or Liverpool; and purchasing, and shipping goods ordered against the proceeds of consignments or other effective remittances only, from either of the above ports, on a system by which the greatest possible advantage of the markets will be secured to the AFRICAN TRADER; and, as time is very important to small capitalists, return goods will be sent off in all cases without any delay beyond such as may sometimes be caused by manufacturers.

All letters and bills of lading, whether the shipments be to or from London or Liverpool, to be addressed

F. FITZGERALD, Esq.,

121, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

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

JANUARY, 1872.

## 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 ROQUELLE, Capt. E. GRIFFITHS, is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on DEC. 30, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th JAN., 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 29th DEC., and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 p.m. on the 5th JAN. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 1 p.m. on the day of sailing.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship CONGO, Capt. FRENCH, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th JAN., at 12 30 p.m., 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 noon 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 Loanda, November 29.  
African Steamship Company's Lagos, December 3.  
African Steamship Company's Biafra, December 7.  
British and African Company's Roquette, December 15.

#### DEPARTURES.

African Steamship Co.'s Calabar, with monthly mails.  
British and African Company's Volta, December 6.  
African Steamship Co.'s Yoruba, with South Coast Mails, December 12.  
British and African Company's Loanda, December 19.

# A SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT PAPER: TO BE ISSUED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE REV. MR. BLYDEN, LATE OF LIBERIA.

We copy the following from the *Republican* (Liberia) paper:—"REV. MR. BLYDEN AND SIERRA LEONE PAPER.—We are informed that this gentleman will take charge of the Government Press in the Colony Sierra Leone. Besides Government printing, a regular paper will be issued; the whole Press and fixtures having been taken over by a Company, under the arrangement."

## A JUST DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

[We have great pleasure in inserting the following letters, which have been sent to us for publication.—ED. A.T.]

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, London, Nov. 23, 1871.

My Lord,—Previous to my departure from Sierra Leone, I addressed to your Lordship a communication dated the 26th June last, through the Governor, setting forth that Major Bravo, the Police Magistrate of Sierra Leone, had on the 5th April, 1869, written a letter to the Clerk of the Police Court (Mr. Metzgar) directing that person to read it in open court, the purport of it being to tell a certain suitor and others not to employ me, since he had prohibited my practising in his court; I at that time holding the highest position as an English barrister of nearly sixteen years standing, and an advocate and attorney in Sierra Leone since 1849.

Upon this highly unconstitutional proceeding, I took two separate actions in the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, one against Major Bravo as the writer of the libel, the second against Metzgar for publishing it. The judge, who in civil actions in Sierra Leone now tries cases alone without a jury, held that the libel was not sufficiently established, and therefore gave his verdict in favour of Major Bravo, at the trial of my action against that officer. My action against Metzgar for publishing the libel came on next for hearing before the same learned judge, who awarded me the sum of 200*l.* and full costs of suit against Metzgar.

With regard to my case against Major Bravo, as I had appealed against the decision of the judge to Her Majesty in Council, I refrained from making any comment on that decision. But with regard to my action against Metzgar the purport of my communication was that, having got judgment against a servant of the Crown who was virtually a pauper, unless as far as his official salary was concerned, over which the law had no control, what I did submit to your Lordship was this, that the Government of Sierra Leone should in the first instance directly satisfy the damages and costs adjudged to me by the Supreme Court, and deduct them from the salary of Metzgar.

In reply to this communication of mine from Sierra Leone, and to another dated in this country on the 13th of October last, calling your Lordship's attention to the fact that my Sierra Leone letter was unanswered, I recently received a communication from your Lordship, stating that you could not comply with my request for compensation.

Now, my Lord, what I am desirous of now submitting to your Lordship is the following, namely, that, as I have already stated, Metzgar is a pauper, unless in his official salary, a property which the law cannot reach, and as your Lordship has declined to order my claim to be satisfied by the Government of Sierra Leone, that your Lordship shall at least direct that Government to compel Metzgar, their own officer, out of the proceeds of his salary to satisfy the damages and costs awarded to me by the Supreme Court.

I venture to submit, that it would be unjust and contrary to all official precedent to permit a Government official, first in the abuse of his official position to be guilty of the publication of a gross libel, professionally ruinous to me; and when a court of law condemned him in damages and costs for this most outrageous and illegal proceeding, that he should be permitted still to hold his position in the Government service, and to draw his salary as well, a power which would enable him to repeat his nefarious conduct as often as he pleased. No commercial house of any standing in the world would permit the lowest of its subordinates to pursue such a course, and least of all would the Colonial-office sanction such unenviable conduct, by permitting Metzgar to retain his abused office. Nor would the pecuniary loss in the end fall upon Metzgar, for he would have his redress against Major Bravo, who, as a Police Magistrate, has a salary with allowances of nearly 600*l.* a-year, besides his pay as an officer in the army.

In order to assist your Lordship to arrive at that which I know you most desire, namely, a just judgment, I herewith transmit to your Lordship an authorised record of the proceedings in my action against Major Bravo, transmitted in the appeal before mentioned, so that your Lordship may see how the evidence given by Metzgar himself, and taken down by his Honour the Chief

Justice at page 9, corroborates my statement as to the publication of the said libel.

My Lord, may I say in conclusion, that the request contained in this communication is in perfect unison with the Government regulations enforced in every department of the State, namely, that officials shall not be permitted to hold office having undischarged pecuniary liabilities, even when they have been the result of misfortune. Shall there, then, be greater leniency extended by the Government of Sierra Leone, when the liability has been the result of a criminal action?

I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's Most obedient and humble servant,

WM. RAINY.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley, &c.

Downing-street, Nov. 29, 1871.

Sir,—I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge your letter of the 23rd inst., representing that you could not recover from Mr. Metzgar the amount of costs and damages awarded to you in the action for libel, Rainy v. Metzgar, on account of Mr. Metzgar possessing no other means than his official salary; and I am to inform you that the Governor-in-Chief has been instructed to apprise Mr. Metzgar that Lord Kimberley expects him to put aside 50*l.* a-year from his salary towards defraying the amount in question.

I have, &c.,

N. T. HOLLAND.

Wm. Rainy, Esq.

3, Plowden-buildings, Temple, Dec. 1, 1871.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's communication of the 29th of November last, and beg to offer you my best thanks for the decision which your Lordship has given in the case of myself v. Metzgar. I never entertained a doubt, that when the circumstances were clearly placed before your Lordship, that you would at once arrive at the conclusion set forth in your Lordship's communication.

I have, &c.,

WM. RAINY.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley, &c.

## REVENUE OF LIBERIA FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1870.

|                     | Dolls. | Cents. |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| Imports, 2 quarters | 17,640 | 11     |
| Exports             | 5,444  | 57     |
| Light and Anchorage | 117    | 00     |
| Licences            | 530    | 95     |
| Fines               | 913    | 09     |
| Land Sales          | 913    | 33     |
| Taxes               | 835    | 12     |
| Tonnage dues        | 652    | 53     |

\$27,055 70

The foregoing shows the total receipts of Government for the two quarters ending Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 1870, as per ledger of Treasury Department.

It is identical with what was handed to President Royce by Secretary-Treasurer J. F. Dennis when Mr. Consul-General Chinery requested informatory statistics of the import and export tariff of Liberia. It was made up from the books as last year's. There was, as is notorious, no "Report" of our Treasury, or Secretary of the Treasury.—*The Republican*, Monrovia, of October 21, 1871.

## DEPOSITION OF THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA.

On the 23rd of October, 1871, President Royce was formally called upon to resign the Presidency of the Republic of Liberia, by a committee appointed at a meeting held by all the principal citizens; and on the 25th, Mr. Royce addressed to this committee his letter of resignation of office. The Executive management was thereupon confided to C. B. Dunbar, R. A. Sherman, and Amos Herring, "until the arrival of the proper constitutional individual at the seat of government, to whom the above-named parties are to turn over their authority." Meanwhile the *Republican* newspaper is publishing the official and private letters of Chargé d'Affaires and Consul-General Chinery, addressed to the late President Royce and his son, together with accounts of the mode in which some considerable portion of the money raised in England on the now famous Liberian 7 per cent. Loan of 1871 has been disposed of. We have felt it our duty to make some further editorial remarks with regard to that Loan, but shall refrain from doing more at present, beyond inserting below some extracts from the great Liberian newspaper of the day, the *Republican*, as follows:—

## HOW THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE LIBERIAN LOAN WAS DISPOSED OF—STATISTICS.

(From the *Republican*, published in Monrovia.)

FIGURES DON'T LIE.

We have often spoken of our fears that the whole of the first instalment paid on the loan had been drawn for. We give below the figures, to show that our apprehensions were well founded. It is astounding to find that Mr. Royce's Government, after contracting a loan contrary to law, and against the protestations of the people of Liberia, should set themselves deliberately to work to pocket that loan for themselves as fast as it is paid-up. The sacrifice at which the loan was made would have been severe enough, but when we see added to this the additional evil of the whole of the first instalment having been squandered well we may ask ourselves, when will the country recover from this robbery which has been perpetrated against it? In the figures given below we have estimated the pound at five dollars; for that was the value set upon the pound by the Commissioners.

Let the people of Liberia read for themselves. Behold the honest man, who has been struggling for twenty years to place himself at the head of the Government, only to filch a poor people out of its money! The truth is, Mr. Royce has been a deception from first to last. We know now, from his own proof, that he never was worth the money he pretended to have in the Commercial Bank of Liverpool, or any other bank; and that his sole object in becoming President was to get money for himself, by hook or by crook.

Amount paid on 1st instalment of the loan \$125,000.

Amounts drawn on 1st instalment, as follows:—

|                                           |    |            |
|-------------------------------------------|----|------------|
| 1 Draft favour G. Ralston                 | .. | \$1,000.00 |
| " W. S. Anderson, 100 <i>l.</i>           | .. | 500.00     |
| " do. do. act. Rescue, 600 <i>l.</i>      | .. | 3,000.00   |
| " J. N. Lewis 100 <i>l.</i>               | .. | 500.00     |
| " do. do. 775 <i>l.</i> 4s. 1d.           | .. | 3,876.02   |
| " H. W. Johnson Sr. 225 <i>l.</i>         | .. | 1,125.00   |
| " do.                                     | .. | 534.50     |
| " D. Chinery, 800 <i>l.</i>               | .. | 4,000.00   |
| " W. Brooke & Co. 50 <i>l.</i>            | .. | 250.00     |
| " J. T. Wiles 189 <i>l.</i> 10s.          | .. | 942.50     |
| " N. W. Waterhouse & Son 200 <i>l.</i>    | .. | 1,000.00   |
| Coin ordered out, 5,000 <i>l.</i>         | .. | 25,000.00  |
| Goods " 10,000 <i>l.</i>                  | .. | 50,000.00  |
| E. J. Royce, 1,000 <i>l.</i>              | .. | 5,000.00   |
| Do. Do. 4,000 <i>l.</i>                   | .. | 20,000.00  |
| Do. do. 5,849 <i>l.</i> 7s. 3d.           | .. | 33,849.73  |
| Paid on English Claims—1,000 <i>l.</i>    | .. | 5,000.00   |
| Draft favour of E. F. Royce—200 <i>l.</i> | .. | 1,000.00   |
| Paid British Post-office—100 <i>l.</i>    | .. | 500.00     |

\$129,177.75

Add to all this the improbability of the Government getting the coin that is supposed to have been already sent, and the fact that the fifty thousand dollars' worth of goods is shipped in Mr. Royce's private name, "so he can do with them as he pleases;"\* and every reasonable man will say at once that the Government is exceedingly lenient with the men who have been engaged in this swindle.

## LIBERIAN LOAN MONEY.

EQUITY COURTS.—DEC. 14.

(Before Vice-Chancellor Sir R. Malins.)

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA v. THE IMPERIAL BANK AND CHINERY.

A bill had been filed to restrain the defendants from parting with a sum of 17,000*l.*, which had been raised by loan, and paid into the bank on behalf of the Republic. There had been a peaceful revolution in Liberia, by which, on the 26th of October last, the former President had been deposed, and the object was to prevent Mr. Chinery, the Consul-General appointed by the former Government, from dealing with the money until the Legislature of the Republic had met and decided what should be done.

Mr. Cotton, Mr. J. N. Higgins, and Mr. G. Wood, on behalf of the defendant Chinery, now moved that the bill should be either taken off the file or dismissed with costs, on the ground that it had been filed without the authority of the Republic. Mr. Chinery was still the recognised Consul-General of Liberia in this country, and Mr. Jackson, the Consul in London, by whom the suit had been instituted, had no authority to represent the Republic in this matter. There was no intention on the part of Mr. Chinery to part with the money pending the decision of the Legislature whether the present provisional government should continue, and it would be very injurious to the Republic, and a dangerous principle, if the Court sanctioned the conduct of Mr.

\* This is an extract from a letter of Mr. David Chinery to President Royce, as published in the same number of the *Republican*.—ED. A.T.

Jackson in taking these proceedings without the consent of his superior officer.

Mr. Glasse and Mr. B. B. Rogers appeared in support of the bill, and stated that what they required was to keep everything in statu quo until the Republic had had the opportunity of deciding by whom it should be governed at home and represented abroad. Mr. Jackson had instructions not to allow the money to be dealt with till after the meeting of the Legislature of Liberia, which was to take place on the 4th of this month, and information as to the will of the Republic would reach this country in about three weeks from that date.

Mr. Medd, who appeared for the Imperial Bank, took no part in the contest.

The Vice-Chancellor said there could be no doubt that Mr. Chinery was the principal agent here of the Republic, and was entitled to be treated as having all the authority usually reposed by foreign governments in their ambassadors, consuls, and other agents in this country. Upon the deposition of the President, both Mr. Chinery and Mr. Jackson received instructions that the balance of 17,000*l.* of the loan of 100,000*l.* effected by the Republic in the English market should not be applied in any way until after the meeting of the Legislature; and Mr. Jackson accordingly gave notice to the bank that the money was not to be disturbed. No doubt that gentleman, before taking such a step, ought to have communicated with his superior officer; but as there was no intention to touch a penny of the money till further instructions had been received from the Republic, Mr. Chinery's position would not have been injured by his acquiescing in Mr. Jackson's notice, or giving a similar notice himself. Instead of that, however, Mr. Chinery intimated to the bank that he would assert his right to draw upon the fund, and would hold them responsible, if they acted upon Mr. Jackson's notice, for any damage that might occur in consequence. The result of that was that the plaintiff filed his bill on the 6th of November. Upon general principles his honour concurred in the argument that it was not competent to a subordinate officer of a foreign government to use the name of his government against the superior representative of that government in this country; but in the very extraordinary circumstances of this case he thought it better to order the motion to stand over than at once to take the bill off the file. By taking the bill off the file the Court would lose all control over the matter in dispute, and inasmuch as the whole question would be decided by communication from Liberia before the Court met again after the Christmas holidays, he thought the justice of the case would best be met by directing that the motion should stand over till Hilary Term, with liberty to apply at an earlier period if either party should think fit, Mr. Chinery undertaking not to deal with the money in any way in the meantime.

## THE ELMINA QUESTION—SALE OF SLAVES AT CAPE COAST—ASHANTEES STILL FIGHTING WITHIN THE PROTECTORATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 15, 1871.

Dear Sir,—Alas! if we may judge by appearances all that you have written in your September and October numbers is but too true; and I believe you are right that the wretched proclamation which you reproduce has had no little to do with the unfortunate hanging back of the Dutch as regards the cession of Elmina. That proclamation set them at ease, opened Elmina to trade again, brought revenue into the Treasury, and removed all apparent cause for a cession. The Colonial-office will not have been surprised at your severe article about it; for no sooner had it reached England than the Secretary of State for the Colonies repudiated it, and, as I have reason to believe, sent out a counter proclamation, stating that the Administrator was not authorised to do what he had done; and Mr. Usher was called upon to withdraw it immediately, if it had been circulated in Dutch territory. As, however, it had only been circulated in the English territory, Usher would not recall it. To have done so would have been like putting an extinguisher upon himself. And the evil had been already done, the Fantee pressure had been withdrawn, and all that the Fantee Confederation had accomplished was put an end to. Since that time the Confederation cannot be said to prosper. You once published the basis of a proposed constitution intended to define its powers and give it permanent organisation, action, and resources; but, unhappily, this was never matured, and when the powers at Mankassim, in order to raise a revenue, put a duty on oil coming down to the Coast, Sir Arthur Kennedy ordered that no such thing should be done; and he was right in this, for, without a permanent organisation and responsible officers, who could tell where the produce of the tax would go to. All this is bad, because I fully agree with you that the future progress of the country must depend in a

great measure upon the association of native powers with British officials in the government of these territories.

The Ashantees have been making a regular slave-mart of Cape Coast. During the six weeks ending about the 3rd November, the Ashantee traders had brought down here not less than 300 slaves. We have seen these poor wretches carried about from house to house and offered for sale. Surely this was the climax of the misfortunes arising out of that iniquitous and disgraceful Awoonah-Accra war, which would never have had existence but for the criminal neglect of the British Gold Coast authorities. It was at first like a little flame that might be put out by placing your bat over it, but which neglected may devastate a city or territory. And who do you think these poor creatures were, thus infamously hawked about for sale beneath the very eyes of our Cape Coast British Government? They were the poor Creepee cotton planters, who had been lately carried into captivity by Adooorfoo's army. Is not this an awful scandal? The Acting Administrator has now ordered that no more slaves shall be allowed to be brought down here for sale. As the Ashantees are in Apollonia fighting, he has also ordered that no more guns or powder shall be sold to Ashantee for the present. The Ashantees sent a very lame message down in answer to Mr. Ussher's letter to the King about peace. It is very possible that the King himself would be glad to have peace, but his captains like the present state of things better; and, absolute as he may be, he must find them very difficult to control. And I am certain we shall never have a real peace with Ashantee, until that Elmina affair be settled one way or other; and how can it be settled, as you truly say, without the withdrawal of the Dutch.—Yours, TRUTH.

#### NAVIGATION OF THE VOLTA—TRADE FACTORIES AT ADDAH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Christiansborg, Accra, Nov. 16, 1871.

Sir,—It is said that there is peace at present with the Ashantees, but I don't know how I am to believe this, when the captive missionaries are not released, although the prisoners in our possession have been delivered to them. I can say with some confidence now that there is some peace on the Volta, because it is navigated by canoes from Addah to Kpong and Kpong to Addah. The Nelly has been in the Volta once, and she is at Accra now, going there again. Her last visit on the Volta has made a very good impression. Kpong is being re-built, and most of the Kreepees have gone back to their country. Aquamoo is very quiet since the Ashantees have left them; but they think, or are afraid, now that we are going to take revenge on them. All the merchants at Accra have taken sites on the beach at Addah, and are now building houses. I hope another six months will open the business in Kreepee also. I hope the Kreepees will be encouraged to begin the cotton cultivation again. Poor people! their country has been cruelly treated by the Ashantees and their allies; so many have been killed or carried away into slavery, and the greater part of the once flourishing cotton plantation destroyed. I am glad cotton is up a little in price again, as that may encourage them. Improvement in other departments is going on at Accra. The fearful small-pox is raging at Accra, but has not gone much into the interior. The military doctors are vaccinating at one guinea per family—that is, one house. We have not any colonial doctor, and the natives, for want of means, are vaccinating themselves with matter extracted from one another's arms. We want a good energetic administrator, and I think we should then get on better than for a long time past.—Yours truly,

C. D. V.

#### HIGH-HANDED PROCEEDINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Jellah Coffee, c/o Voegel, Nov. 2, 1871.

Sir,—I beg most respectfully to inform you that there was a standing debt of one thousand and sixty-two gallons of oil between myself and Captain G. G. Laingdon, commanding one of Messrs. King's vessels, which I was to pay to him. He was here on the 19th of June, 1871, and called on me for his payments. I told him that just then I was doing nothing, owing to the Governor-in-Chief having bombarded my house; but that on his next return from leeward, as I expected some cotton goods from England, I shall be able to settle with him. This he consented to.

On the 28th October, 1871, he returned from Accra, and anchored at Jellah Coffee late at night; and on the 29th, which was the following morning, the S.S. Roquette arrived, when I sent my clerk on board to receive a surf-boat and five cases of guns. When coming on shore, Capt. Laingdon with his Kroomen armed themselves, attacked my clerk and boat men, and made a seizure of the surf-boat and three cases of guns, and also threw my boatmen into the sea, and then ordered my clerk to come on shore with the other boat; but as he refused he then took him on

board his vessel. I went on board myself and asked him to deliver the boat and the three cases of guns, and told him that he ought to have asked me for his payments; I told him that I have on shore some cotton goods with which to pay him. He consented and brought his vessel the next morning to Voegel roads. Without delay I went on board with the cotton goods and some palm-kernels, which he received; but he still refused to deliver me the boat and the three cases of guns. He said "No, not until he can get sales for the cotton goods before they can be delivered."

Please if you deem it necessary to insert this, you can do so. The value, as agreed between him and me of the cotton goods and palm-kernels I gave to him, is above one hundred dollars more than I owed to him.—I remain, Sir, yours truly,

GERALDO DE LIMA.

#### FEARS OF DANGER THROUGH EXECUTIVE ERRORS AT LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, November 18, 1871.

Sir,—Allow me space in your valuable paper to call attention to the pending danger here. There are things which lead many an honest man, under the guidance of the heart rather than the head, to suspect strongly that the Lagos Government are working a scheme that will one day embroil this settlement with the interior tribes, without there being any hostile neighbour to attack us by force or to excite international trouble; all around being too happy, if we will but understand our own pure interests in this island. The dread of the horrible treatment that the interior tribes are exposed to by the supposed secret policy of the Lagos Administrator, leads many honest and prudent men—merchants—to apprehend dangers to themselves and their properties and natural rights here. Experience has shown the merchants, and they are right in believing that the tendency of the Lagos Government is continually to undermine and endanger them; and this tendency requires to be closely watched and incessantly counteracted. The arbitrary display of power by the Lagos Administrator, which has been carried so much further than the English laws would ever approve of, or which Her Majesty's Government, we think, ever dreamed of, cause us to feel that if those arbitrary powers have really been granted to him, this African settlement is still in bondage, only having the false appellation of a free settlement. With our present revenue, and so many native educated traders very largely engaged in commerce, we ought not to be left at the absolute and unlimited disposal of any officials, unrestrained save by any sense of propriety that they may have, or the fear of popular resistance whenever the encroachments of the Administrator become of too flagrant a nature to admit of any plausible justification. Experience has taught us that the excess of officials, Mahomedans, &c., employed in this little island is a useless and dangerous burthen upon the colonial chest; that the system of lavishing the colonial funds in prodigal profusion on officials, chiefs, and men without the settlement ought to be put a stop to; and that even a just economy would then dictate a more liberal expenditure upon objects necessary to the improvement of Lagos and the stimulation of its commerce. Had the administration been properly controlled in the past, Lagos would have been saved from much pecuniary loss, and there would have been a profitable application of really vast sums which have been thrown away on projects ending only in discomfort. I am not used to praise any officials under this wrong and unjust system, to the errors of which we are, it seems, for the present hopelessly in bondage; but I must give Captain Cooper the praise to say that he checked much of the abuse of this reckless, wasteful expenditure during the time he was Acting Administrator in Captain Glover's absence in 1869-70. Mr. Simpson latterly did the same. Our Administrator of course then became their bitterest foe, for it is high treason to dare attempt to undo anything that he has done. "Lagosians," whose letter you have published, is right. It is beyond expression unmanly and too bad, that poor constables and clerks of different departments who have worked hard day and night for very small wages, should be then kept month after month without the money, which they want for the support of their families; while the money is being squandered on a worthless horde of idle mischief-makers always stirring up strife with the interior.

Are the colonial funds to be always thus wasted, and no account given of how they are spent? With a just and wise economy Lagos ought now to have 100,000*l.* in her chest, instead of being deeply covered with debt. NEGRO.

#### ANOTHER LAGOS LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, November 18, 1871.

Sir,—We are glad to notice that your valuable paper is open to both high and low, rich and poor, who delight in truth.

Your correspondent "Lagosians" omits to tell you that our Administrator is spending part of our revenue here on the ragga-muffin Ijaji men, who are only beating drums about the town and stealing. Elated by their flattery and dancing gestures our Administrator makes it a custom to be getting up foolish and extravagant expeditions to either the western or eastern districts, causing commotion among the people. Why can't the Governor tell them to go and work on a farm, rather than attaching them to the police, and paying them for nothing. We are not benefited by these idlers and lazy people. Lagos wants improvement, not in tomtomming and showing our powers, by going about the rivers and creeks with our steamer and steam-launch, to frighten poor people out of their wits by night and day. Our Administrator should look after Lagos, and not be spending our money in making useless presents to the interior kings; otherwise we shall soon be bankrupt.—Your obedient servant.

WATCHMAN.

#### THE ANNUAL TRADE BY STEAMERS UP THE RIVER NIGER.

We have not yet received any full details of the trading voyages of the steamers up the river Niger during the past season, but from reports which have reached us we fear that competition has been carried to an unprofitable excess. The present year was intended to have been the last for a regular ascent by a ship of H. M. Navy at the same time with the trading steamers. Owing, however, to an accident to one of the vessels on the West Coast Station, there was not one available for this year's ascent; so that the abandonment of the trade to its own powers for self-protection was commenced this year, instead of next year. The trading steamers that went up were four in number—viz., the Victoria, belonging to the West African Company; the King Massaba, to Holland, Jacques, and Co.; the Ja Ja, to Miller, of Glasgow, and the Ria Formosa, which is under the control of Mr. Pinnock and had gone up the Binne and not come down when our advices were sent from Lagos. The ships were, it is said, fired at by some of the natives, but we have not heard that they sustained any injury. It will be interesting to watch the progress of trade up the Niger, now that the protection afforded by one of Her Majesty's gun-boats has been withdrawn, as it was to be expected it would be sooner or later.—Ed. A.T.

#### AN OLD CALABAR COMPLAINT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Old Calabar, Oct. 21, 1871.

Dear Mr. Editor,—I think you ought to have a word about us now and then, and we should like to tell, through your columns, the supercargoes who rule in our river that a temporary chapel has been opened and a day-school established here. And now I want to complain that they do not allow us, African traders, to ship our palm-oil by steamers to England. We see the steamers coming out and going home; but alas, we find that they were not built for us, as we had hoped, but for the use of the supercargoes. Surely every creature has a right to look after his daily bread, and it is hard that we Africans should not be allowed to do business in our own countries, except only as the servants of European supercargoes and traders.—Yours,

AN ACCRA.

#### PUBLIC NEWS FROM THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 29.—The British and African Steamship Company's steamship Loanda has arrived in the Mersey. She brings the news that Consul Hopkins has, after several palavers, settled the long-existing feud known as the Okerka difficulty, between the New Calabar and Bonny chiefs and people. It is expected that this peace will shortly be followed by the termination of the war between Oke Jumbo and Ja-Ja. These results, due to British diplomacy, are expected to have a most beneficial effect on the trade of the West Coast of Africa. Foreign-office Commissioner Simpson has ascended the Nile further than any white man has ever been previously. When the Loanda left Monrovia it was stated that President Royle had been arrested on a charge of having misappropriated upwards of 40,000*l.* of the Liberian Loan Bonds connected with the loan recently negotiated with England.—Daily News.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 2.—The West African Company's steamers Soudan and Lagos arrived in the Mersey to-day; the latter brings 658 ounces of gold dust and 329*l.* in specie. At Monrovia affairs were at a crisis. President Royle, General Lewis, and several officials were in gaol, awaiting their trial for high treason. An attempt was made to assassinate Royle before his arrest.

AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—At the meeting, on the 13th December, of the African Steamship Company the directors' report was adopted, and a dividend declared for the half year of 8*s.* 6*d.* per share, free of income-tax, leaving 638*l.* to be carried over.

#### LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Nov. 25 to Dec. 2.

Palm-kernels (cargo of sunken ship recovered), 240 tons; with all faults, 6*l.* 5*s.* to 8*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Palm-oil very steady, at fully previous prices; 500 tons sold. Irregular at 34*l.* to 36*l.*; Accra, at 37*l.*; Old Calabar, at 38*l.* 5*s.*; Lagos, at 38*l.* 10*s.*; Benin, at 38*l.* 10*s.*; and to arrive, at 38*l.* to 38*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

Sales of the week, 123,000 bales. African, 7*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb.

Dec. 2 to Dec. 9.

Benni-seed, 111 bags 35 brls., at 58*s.* to 59*s.* 6*d.* per qr. of 384 lbs. Palm-kernels, 1,100 bags and 13 tons, at 13*l.* to 14*l.* per ton. Palm-oil remains steady; 600 tons sold; Accra at 37*l.*, Pram at 37*l.* to 37*l.* 5*s.*, Bonny at 38*l.*, Benin and Old Calabar at 38*l.* 10*s.*, Cameroons at 38*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, Lagos at 38*l.* 15*s.*, and Brass at 41*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

The Cotton Market was quiet on Friday and Saturday, but became active on Monday, and the business has since been large, though with only a moderate advance in prices. There has been an advance in price for cotton to arrive. Sales of the week, 115,670 bales. Price of African, 6½*d.* to 7½*d.*

DECEMBER 9 to 16.

Benni-seed, 600 bags 2*l.* 19*s.* to 3*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per qr., 384 lbs. Ground-nuts, without shell, 100 tons and 1,600 bags at 17*l.* 10*s.* to 17*l.* 15*s.*, per ton.

Palm-kernels, 116 bags Lagos at 13*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

Ebony, 13*l.* to 13*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

Palm-oil, no change to notice; 600 tons sold; Inferior at 34*l.* 10*s.*, Pram at 37*l.*, Bonny at 37*l.* 15*s.* to 38*l.*, Old Calabar at 38*l.* 5*s.*, Benin at 38*l.* 10*s.*, Lagos at 38*l.* 15*s.* down to 38*l.* 10*s.*, Nun River at 41*l.* 5*s.* down to 41*l.*, Niger at 41*l.*, and New Calabar at 40*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

The Cotton Market has been very active throughout the week, and with large daily sales prices of all descriptions have gradually advanced ½*d.* to ¾*d.* per lb.

Sales of the Week, 132,000 bales.

Price of African, 7½*d.* to 8½*d.*

N.B.—Tuesday, the 26th (the Bank holiday), and Saturday the 30th December and Monday, the 1st January, 1872, will be close holidays in the Cotton Market.

DECEMBER 16 to 22.

Markets unchanged—but the Cotton Market without activity

#### CRUEL EFFORTS OF THE SLAVE-HOLDERS TO PERPETUATE SLAVERY IN CUBA.

Our latest advices from Cuba are not favourable. A dispatch from Havana of Nov. 29 says: "At one o'clock this afternoon the finding of the court-martial which was convened to try the medical students who demolished the grave of Gonzalo Castanon was announced from the balcony of Acting Capt.-Gen. Crespa's palace. Eight of the students who were found most guilty were sentenced to be shot at four o'clock this afternoon, at Punta. The others were sentenced to four and six years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary. All those sentenced to death were over eighteen years of age. The execution of the condemned prisoners took place at the specified hour. They met their death with resignation, and expressed regret at having committed the act for which they died. Great excitement prevailed throughout the city during the day, and business was suspended; but at this hour (6 p.m.) all is quiet. Captain-General Valmaseda, who was yesterday at Jucaro, is expected to arrive in Havana during the afternoon. He publishes a proclamation to the volunteers, promising that the guilty shall be punished, and charging the recent events to the machinations of the *laborantes*."

#### SPANISH DECLARATION AGAINST SLAVERY IN CUBA.

We are glad to hear that the Abolition of Slavery in Cuba has now become part of the professed programme of the Progressist Democratic Party in Spain. At a large mass-meeting of this party in Madrid on the 26th Nov., Senors Rivero, Martos, and Ruiz Zorilla declared that they were completely hostile to Slavery; that they looked upon it as the greatest dishonour to Spain that it yet existed in any portion of her territories, &c. Rivero further emphatically declared, "I would that there should be no slaves in Spain; I would have them disappear from our nation. I would not that our country should be the last on the face of earth to abolish this great affront to humanity." And this elicited immense applause in the meeting. Surely there is hope in this for the poor Cuban slaves. This is the first time that the Abolition of Slavery in the Spanish possessions has been boldly inscribed on the banners of a political party in the State, and as the Progressist Democratic Party looks like the *great party of the future*, let us hope that the knell of Cuban Slavery has indeed sounded in Spain.—Ed. A.T.

## The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

You are earnestly requested to allow your name to be added to the list of yearly subscribers. Price 6s. per annum for each copy, payable in advance.

## The African Times.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1871.

## THE PRINCE OF WALES.

WHEN our last number went to press his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was suffering with typhoid fever, which soon after assumed so serious a character as to threaten fatal results. It would be difficult to convey an idea of the painful excitement with which the daily bulletins were waited for and examined by all classes in the community. Her Majesty Queen Victoria took up her abode at Sandringham, where the Prince was lying; and about the 8th or 9th inst. his Royal Highness's brothers and sisters were summoned, with the fear that his last moments were rapidly approaching. Public prayers were offered up in all places of worship throughout the land on Sunday the 10th inst. About the 15th inst. a favourable change in the symptoms commenced, and since that time the public mind has been daily more and more relieved by official reports of continued favourable progress. We have, therefore, every reason now to hope that in our next issue we may have the joy of recording the fact of his perfect recovery.

## DECEMBER 25, 1871, AND JANUARY 1, 1872.

ERE this number of the *African Times* reaches the hands of our friends (we try to forget that we have any enemies) on the West Coast, the 25th December and the 1st January will have become dates of the past; will have contributed their quota to the imperishable record in the Eternal Books. Since we have been occupied in the advocacy of African interests in this journal, we have felt yearly more and more the gracious restraining influence of the commemoration of that wondrous Birth in Bethlehem, which was proclaimed by choirs of angels in those blessed words, "Peace on earth—good-will toward men." We are reminded by it, that there should not be such a thing as a feeling of enmity in the heart of any human being who professes to belong to Christ; and while, by God's help, we endeavour to eradicate from our own mind all remembrance of wrongs we may have ourselves received, we recognise the duty of abstaining, as far as our work for Africa will allow, from everything that may tend to arouse feelings of enmity towards us in the breasts of others. As all evil in the world is the work of human agents, and has its human representatives, he who publicly combats the manifestations of evil in any particular locality or sphere, must necessarily seem to attack individuals, although his only aim be the evil, and not the individual as an individual, who commits or upholds it. We have no desire at any time to wound, unless to wound be the only means of cure; and even then our desire to wound is mingled with deep regret that there should seem to be no other means of cure. We now therefore again, at this feast of the Nativity, while denouncing anew every shade of official evil on the West Coast; every official act of omission or commission that prejudices the cause and attacks the true interests of the African people; every evil official example that tends to encourage and perpetuate licentiousness, injustice, and wrong-doing; while denouncing these anew, we beg to assure those who are inevitably coupled with such denunciations, that we are free from even the slightest shade of personal animosity, and would gladly see just and sufficient cause to praise, where even most we blame. We would, at this time, beg of them to have these thoughts respecting us. And while looking forward to the first uplifting motion of the curtain, whose ultimate withdrawal shall have revealed to us the year 1872, from the beginning of January to the ending of December, we would fain hope that the characters to be

written by officials on the West Coast, on the yet unsullied pages of those three hundred and sixty-five days, will form a record honourable to themselves as servants of the British Crown and Nation—just, equitable, generous, and praiseworthy as regards their dealings with the African people, and evidencing a constant active desire for the spread of Christian civilisation, and the development of those material resources which Africa possesses in so great abundance. We cannot refrain from asking ourselves, what will 1872 do for West Africa? Will it see her confiscated jury institution restored in its integrity? Will it see any portion of her people occupying a position in her council chambers independent of the favour, and not subject to the caprice of administrators; but fairly commencing that participation in the acts of power, by right of nomination from their fellow-citizens, which shall gradually prepare the communities to which they belong, for that self-government which was contemplated for them by the Parliamentary Committee of 1865? Will it see that reform in the Gambia Government which will prevent the shameful waste of revenue we have hitherto witnessed there; and leave an adequate surplus (after providing the necessary sums for civil government) for efficient protection, and the exercise of that influence up the river which is needed for the development of productive industry, and the protection of trade? Will it behold the British flag waving over Elmina; the advantage of utilising the Fantee Confederation in the work of interior government fully recognised; roads to the interior commenced; the establishment on the Volta of adequate protection to commerce? Will it show us the old jealousies between the Egbas and Lagos removed; and that confidence and good feeling mutually established which is all that is wanted for speedily doubling the trade of that youngest of British settlements? Will it see the head-quarters of the British consulate for the Bights removed from Fernando Po to Old Calabar; with such results as may give well-grounded hope of some more rapid conquest of Christian civilisation over cannibal barbarism, than has hitherto attended the increase of legitimate trade in the countries of the Oil Rivers? The Niger, the Benue, the Cameroons, the Congo, are all in our anxious thoughts. How great is the work to be done in Western Africa! Alas, who is sufficient for these things! We feel that the desired progress must be necessarily slow, until all those Africans who have been educated to some knowledge of what Christianity and Christian civilisation really are, shall feel that they have a sacred duty to perform as regards all others of the African race, who are yet in the deep and wretched gloom of heathen superstition, with its bloody and debasing rights and customs, its degrading licentiousness, its sloth, its privations and woe. There are few things that pain us more than to hear of educated men from Sierra Leone and other schools of British civilisation, throwing off all restraints of that civilisation and of Christian precepts when they get among the heathen, instead of showing that bright example which would place in strong contrast before heathen eyes, the beauty of Christianity against the diabolic ugliness of heathenism. Those of them who have only heard of Jesus, but have never taken him and his precepts into their heart of hearts, cannot of course "show that they have been with Jesus;" but even such ought so to feel the obligations they owe to that Christian zeal which has worked for and with them, and made them differ from their heathen forefathers, as to induce and constrain them to show some of the light of that civilisation amid a surrounding heathen darkness. We wish every educated man to understand that he is included in our work, which is not only to correct and remove the official and administrative evils that have run riot on the West Coast, but also to produce in him and in all his fellows that devotion to Africa which may stimulate him to seek other than mere personal interests and gratifications; and to labour with us for those higher objects, the attainment of which by increasing thousands of the African people, can alone fully remove from him and them that stigma which the slave trade and slavery has fixed so deeply on the race, in the opinion of the civilised world. With these observations we formally bid adieu to 1871, with all its good, and, alas! its greater evil; and shall welcome 1872 with a firm

determination that by God's help we, at least, will not be slothful in the work which he has given us to do for Africa and her people. We are thus entitled to call upon every one of our African readers thus also to determine, and thus to strive for God and good.

## THE FAMED LIBERIAN LOAN.

IF we had need of any justification of the course we have pursued in exposing the iniquity of this loan from the very outset, what is now passing in Liberia would very amply furnish it. In another column we reproduce from the *Liberian paper*, the *Republican*, an official account of the gross entire revenue of Liberia for the six months ending December 31, 1870, which appears to have been 27,055 dollars, or say, supposing all to have been paid in coin, 5,400*l*. Let it be remembered this was the gross revenue of the Republic—the sum that had to make head against all the demands for the public service. Is it extraordinary that we ask, would any subscriber to the loan have believed that the sum of 27,500 dollars had been the revenue of the last six months of 1870, when he finds the resources of the state thus described in the prospectus of the loan issued by Messrs. Holderness, Nott, and Co., in the name of the special Liberian Commissioners, his Excellency David Chinery, Chargé d'Affaires and Consul General for the Republic of Liberia, the Honourable William Spencer Anderson, Speaker of the Liberian House of Representatives, and the Honourable Henry Washington Johnson, Secretary of the Interior?

## EXTRACT FROM PROSPECTUS.

"The present is the first public loan of the Republic of Liberia, and is issued under the Act of Legislature of 1870; and the due payment both of the principal and interest is secured under the Act by an excise tax, estimated to produce 30,000*l*. per annum, and one fifth of the custom duties, which in the year ending September 30, 1870, amounted to 95,184 dollars, or more than 19,000*l*. sterling."

Would any subscriber to the loan, we repeat, have believed that the total revenue of a state thus described had been for the last six months of 1870 only 27,000 dollars, or 5,200*l*. sterling? We do not think he would; but from the framing of the above-quoted paragraph he might rather possibly believe that the "one fifth of the customs duties, which in the year ending September 30, 1870, amounted to 95,184 dollars, or more than 19,000*l*. sterling," that the one fifth, we say, amounted to above 19,000*l*. We have no doubt, however, although they did not express themselves very clearly, that the Commissioners intended to describe thus the entire—the total customs duties for the year, as 95,000 dollars, or more than 19,000*l*. sterling. Still it passes our understanding to conceive what exceptional circumstances there could be in the other portions of the year selected by the Commissioners (ending September 30, 1870) to make the export and import duties amount to 95,000 dollars; when in the half-year ending December 31, 1870, they only amounted to (see the official extract p. 62) 23,094 dollars. Surely there must be a gross error somewhere! Quite as little also could we conceive the possibility of raising a revenue of 30,000*l*. or 150,000 dollars per annum by an excise tax of one dollar per annum from all male citizens, when the total amount of *taxes* paid for the above-mentioned half-year by those citizens amounted only to 835 dollars, or 167*l*. sterling. We have felt bound to make these remarks in the interest of the English subscribers to the loan, for whose sake we can only hope that the power given to the contractors or lenders "to deduct from the loan the interest thereof for three years" has been fully exercised. With what has been done with the whole or any portion of money (see p. 63) we have nothing to do. That is a question to be settled by the Liberian people with their now deposed President, and the three before-mentioned Commissioners. Meanwhile our readers will see (p. 63) that the Consul of Liberia, Mr. Jackson, has attached 17,000*l*. of the proceeds of the loan lodged in the Imperial Bank in the name of his Excellency David Chinery, Chargé d'Affaires and Consul-General of the

Republic, one of the before-mentioned Commissioners; and that Vice-Chancellor Malins has confirmed the embargo on the money. The last instalment of the loan was payable—and paid, we believe—some little time ago. Is this 17,000*l*. all that is left of the loan in England? It may be worth while for some subscriber to inquire into this, seeing that the Liberian people are charging their deposed President and others with serious malpractices as regards the application of the proceeds of that loan. At the same time we congratulate Liberia that she has within her a body of honest citizens, who feel that her temporary authorities had no right or possible justification in contracting a debt in her name, neither the interest nor any portion of the principal of which she could possibly pay for many, many years to come; even though she might have obtained possession of the whole of the proceeds.

## A CAUTION TO THE GOVERNOR OF LAGOS.

THE Lagos traders, European and native, who suffered so severely a few years ago through Capt. Glover's mistaken policy with regard to the people of the interior, may well be excused for looking with uneasy minds at every action of their Executive that may seem to indicate a new tendency in the same unhappy direction. It would appear by letters we have lately received that the caution on this head given in our September number was by no means unnecessary. Independently of the letter signed "Africa," which we insert in another column, we have one from a tried and reliable friend, who writes: "I am sorry to have to tell you that Capt. Glover has again begun to lay dangerous plans as regards the interior, which, if carried out, will destroy all the good he may have done, and bring ruin on us all in Lagos. It seems to us as if you were present here, and knowing all that is going on. You have quite hit the right nail on the head in your page 32, September number, under the heading of the 'Church Tower and Clock in Lagos,' when you write, 'And here we think it well to take advantage of the opportunity,' &c., 'and they may arouse anew the old hostile feelings,' &c." In the observations we then made we were reasoning by the light of long experience in political and other matters. There are but few instances that we can remember, in which men with strong will and ardent temperament ever thoroughly abandoned a policy on which their heart had once been set, however great the disasters that may have attended their efforts in that direction. It was thus that when Count Beust, who had so unadvisedly allowed his anti-Prussian tendencies to influence him in throwing his master, the King of Saxony, in 1866, into the arms of Austria, became, after the Battle of Sadowa, Prime Minister of that same humbled, yet still powerful Austria, the political world could scarcely conceive the possibility of his full relinquishment of the old antagonism; and that he seems really to have done so, has gained for him a reputation which he could never otherwise have achieved. That our doubts of Capt. Glover, thus derived from the lessons of experience, should prove to have been justified by what was at that time actually taking place in Lagos, is indeed to us a matter of sincere regret. We should infinitely prefer to have been wrong, where to be right points to so much disaster for Lagos; unless a superior power impede and prevent the development of the evil. And that a superior power will do this, now that we have thus drawn attention to the subject, we have the fullest confidence. Capt. Glover knows as well as we do that the British Government is now thoroughly and immovably opposed to a policy of forcible annexation and aggrandisement in any part of the world whatever, and perhaps most of all in Western Africa; and if he has not entirely got rid of common sense he will cease even to give countenance to the intrigues of such unworthy advisers as are alluded to by "Africa." His reputation and his future advancement are both at stake—his reputation, because a ruler who has not benefited by the lesson of his past experience is but a very second-rate person after all; his future advancement, because if he allow facts thoroughly to establish that he has still in his heart the insane projects of the past, or any similar projects, he cannot hope to attain to that Governor-Generalship of the

West Coast which is supposed to be one of the objects of his reasonable ambition. We do not believe him capable of the insanity of following such a stupid delusion as is marked out for him in the petition to annex Porto Novo; but that he should allow such a petition to be got up at all is a most lamentable fault, and he does not act as a ruler of common sense would act unless he exclude such foolish evil counsellors from Government House. That the native authorities and people in the countries near Lagos are suspicious of him, and credulous as regards evil designs against them on his part, is no matter for surprise so long as he shows marked favour (if he does so show it, as "Africa" alleges) to men who are capable of such an outrage to those authorities and peoples as is contained in the said petition to annex Porto Novo. It is the curse of arbitrary rulers to be supposed to be under the influence of favourites, and generally of unworthy ones, who mislead solely with the purpose of furthering their own personal and selfish ends. And the Government of Lagos is an arbitrary one; so arbitrary, that "Africa" sees no hope, save in the interference of a Governor-in-Chief to prevent its doing mischief. That "Africa" is wrong in his remedy can be easily shown. What beneficent control would there be in this particular case, were the present Governor-General to leave the Coast, and Captain Glover to be made Governor-General? We do not think another word necessary to show how grievously he errs in his supposed remedy. The only safe remedy lies in the direction we suggested in our September article—an elected Legislative Council, the presence in which of Christian and civilised African merchants and traders will not only overcome all suspicion in the minds of the neighbouring native authorities and peoples on the mainland, but make it impossible for any Governor of Lagos, even if backed by a Governor-in-Chief, to inaugurate or pursue any policy that may reasonably be supposed to imperil the prosperity of trade in Lagos. We earnestly hope that the Colonial-office will take this matter into their serious consideration. The revenues of Lagos are becoming too large to be at the disposal of one man; the commerce of Lagos is too important to allow of any one man being left in a position to imperil it. The loss of British capital through Captain Glover's mistaken policy with the Egbas, &c., a few years ago was probably not less than half a million sterling. Such errors must not be repeated. And Lagos, moreover, has a right to the entire benefit that the revenues levied from its trade might procure, which she never will have until she has such a Council as we advocate her right to possess. It is monstrous that one man should thus have the really uncontrolled disposal of some forty or fifty thousand pounds a-year, wrung from the trading community over whom he holds sway; and it is more monstrous still when this money is made in any way an element of disquiet to those interior peoples, on whose industry it is finally levied by their consumption of the goods the duties on which compose it. The interest of Lagos as an island emporium of commerce, the commercial inlet and outlet of an extensive, populous, industrious, and productive interior, is, that it should possess the entire confidence and good-will of all the tribes and peoples of that interior, by a persistent abstention from any interference with them beyond what the legitimate protection of its traders should demand; and its administration, and the control over its revenues, ought to be such as would at all times insure that abstention. We do not believe that this can ever be insured save by an elected Legislature working with an English administrator; and having this firm conviction, we shall never cease to strive for the important change thus indicated.

Since the above was written we have received further letters from Lagos by the S.S. Roquelle. If we could really believe for a moment that the Administrator could be guilty of so abominable and criminal an act as that imputed to him—viz., of urging the Dahomians and Ibadans to a joint attack on Abeokuta, and furnishing arms and ammunition by secret means, directly or indirectly, to the Ibadans for that purpose—we should become earnest supplicants to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, praying that, for the sake of common humanity, and to avert an

indelible shame and disgrace from Great Britain, Administrator Glover should be forthwith relieved of the charge of the government of Lagos. But although we do not believe this, still the very fact, that such a report is propagated in Lagos—is by some believed in Lagos—that the Administrator lends some colour to it by an indiscreet and expensive display of force, expeditions by steamer and steam-launch with Houssas (Mahometan troops, &c.), and by secret despatch of ammunition, &c., to countries out of British jurisdiction, create at Lagos a position of public affairs so serious, that we have felt it to be our duty to bring the matter immediately under the notice of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by a letter addressed to his lordship on the 16th inst., copy of which we may possibly give in this present number of the *African Times*. We shall watch narrowly the course of events at Lagos, as they may be made known to us by letters now on their way to England; and our Lagos friends may rest assured that if we see there is need, we shall take further measures to enlighten the Government at home on the subject of Lagos affairs; and to procure such an intervention on their part as will disperse all the ominous clouds which now excite the alarm and just indignation of the active and enterprising merchants and traders, who have raised Great Britain's latest settlement to a great prosperity, in face of all the difficulties presented by the suspicions of their Administrator entertained by so many of the neighbouring peoples.

#### THE INFAMOUS QUEENSLAND SLAVE-TRADE.

THE kidnapping of natives of the South Sea Islands for the supply of labour to the colonists in Queensland has been carried on most remorselessly for some years past, notwithstanding frequent deputations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies here, to urge proper and adequate means being adopted by the Government to put an end to the iniquity, and punish the guilty parties. This new and atrocious slave-trade has at length borne fruits of mischief that may possibly lead to some real effort on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to do what it ought long since to have done. John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia (son of the late Mr. Justice Patteson, one of the judges of the Court of Queen's Bench), has been murdered by the natives of one of the islands, Santa Cruz, who landed there from his yacht (bought and maintained by himself, and in which he chiefly lived) on one of those visits of mercy which he had been accustomed to make from island to island. It appears that for some time past the captains of the slave-trading vessels, finding that the natives would no longer come on board their ships to be kidnapped and conveyed to Queensland, adopted the atrocious means of luring them on board by sending word ashore that the good Bishop Patteson, whom they all loved, was in the vessel, but too ill to land, and desired to see his children. The natives, young and old, would then flock to the ship, and so soon as the villain found he had sufficient victims on board, the anchor was weighed, the poor creatures driven by force under hatches, and the human cargo was carried off. Suspicion came at last to some native minds that the good Bishop, whom they had looked upon as their father, and who was warring with all his heart and means against the abominable traffic, was a party to it; was a wolf in sheep's clothing. So when he landed, unsuspectingly and with confidence in the love of the natives, on the Island of Santa Cruz, with a Mr. Aitken, a companion in his labours of love, both he and Mr. Aitken were immediately surrounded and cruelly murdered. The poor, mistaken and deluded natives destroyed their benefactor. But who can doubt that the really guilty parties in this affair were the infamous wretches who had used the good Bishop's name in the way we have pointed out; and, alas, our own Government, who have neglected to use the proper means for putting an end to the iniquitous trade. We are told from time to time that many of our friends think we are too hard upon the Colonial-office in charging it with a supine winking at evils to which its attention is called, and which it ought to remedy; winking and tolerating, whether from idleness or pride we know not, until it becomes in our eyes justly

chargeable with guilty connivance. We are glad therefore to have through this most lamentable occurrence, an opportunity of showing what influential organs of the British press think of the Colonial-office, and say too, whenever some sad event such as this murder of the good Bishop induces them to notice colonial matters. The *Examiner*, writing on this subject, says that "it is now perhaps not altogether improbable that the Polynesian slave-trade will at last be put down; not because we think it at all wrong or even discreditable for Queensland planters to kidnap Polynesians and to hold them in semi-legalised slavery, but because a bishop has been clubbed. Of the Queensland slave-trade we have known for some years. Fanatics and enthusiasts have gone so far as to besiege the Colonial-office itself, and to call attention to the doings of such gentlemen as Mr. Ross Lewin, and his friends, Messrs. Burt and Underwood. The Colonial-office, to do it justice, has taken the matter up. It has replied that if distinct cases of cruelty or of kidnapping could be brought forward, there would then be ground for the Colonial-office to consider whether it should not suggest to the Queensland Legislature that cruelty and kidnapping are things which are very painful to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and of which he hears with infinite regret. The matter is 'under consideration.' Government intends to look into it."

Our readers will no doubt remark the bitter irony of the Editor of the *Examiner*; irony, alas, but too well merited. Yes, those who expose to the Colonial-office wrongs, infamous wrongs, officially or otherwise perpetrated in the colonies, are, in the eyes of Colonial-office authorities, "fanatics and enthusiasts." Yes, and thus were those noble men continually spoken of, to whose persistent efforts the Africans owe the gradual and now almost final extinction of that slave-trade of which they were the victims, and which devastated and ruined Western Africa. And we are proud to have our name enrolled, in however humble a position, among such officially despised "fanatics and enthusiasts." We suppose, too, that as regards West African wrong-doing we may console ourselves, as the editor of the *Examiner* is consoled, by the supposed fact that "the Colonial-office, to do it justice, has taken the matter up," that if distinct charges are proved, there will then be ground for it to consider whether it should not represent to officials and others on the West Coast, that what it hears are things very painful to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and cause him infinite regret. "The matter is under consideration!" "Government intends to look into it!" But as while the Colonial-office rested with an intention to look into the matter of the Queensland slave-trade, good Bishop Patteson became one of the victims of its atrocities, so while West Coast errors and evils are under consideration, they poison the moral and physical atmosphere of the countries where they are practised and allowed to run their pestilential course. Our duty, therefore, is clear, to continue the work of exposure until good and sufficient remedy be wrenched from a reluctant Colonial-office.

#### THE GROWING EVILS OF LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

November 1, 1871.

Sir,—We beg most respectfully, but earnestly, to bring before the Colonial-office the great philanthropist of England, the Governor-in-Chief, and the public in general both in Europe and Africa through the medium of your valuable journal, "The Growing Evils of Lagos," and to expose all intrigues of the Executive. It is not done from any envy, malice, or hatred in our hearts, but from pure love, for "open rebuke is better than secret love." In treating upon the subject, our Executive must remember the saying of the wise man, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall;" also the words of the Psalmist in rebuking the proud, "I said unto the fools, deal not foolishly; and the wicked, lift not up the horn; lift not up your horn on high, speak not with a stiff neck. For promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South. But God is the judge; he putteth down one and setteth up another."

For some time past we have permitted such correspondents as Ologundudu, who seems to be a devoted servant, to laud Captain Glover for his (pretended) good behaviour—an Aku man, who is an ex-(discharged) schoolmaster of Badagry, and at present the head policeman of Lagos (although he chooses to call himself

the Black Governor, or Obba Dudu)—to extol Captain Glover, and advocate the wasting of money and aggrandisement by building forts in the interior, in territories not our own; calling a parcel of thieves "war boys;" also "a negro," who knows how to sow discord, carry false news, and meddle with politics, instead of minding his spiritual functions; and recently Mr. "Olitob," the Advocate-general, who, by the way, could not get on in his own country, but emigrate down here to better his conditions, pleading for our Government to be separate, and not to be fettered by the acts of a governor-general; showing the military organisation of the Egba, Yoruba, and Jebu; that the rapid progress of civilisation and Christianity depends very much upon the free action of this government; that our executive is not grand as it was before, and that the (weak and poor, of course) chiefs call Captain Glover "a boy"; and to crown all, to raise our revenues and spend them without being checked." Having thus briefly mentioned the foregoing, we shall now explain undeniable facts, being aware that "silence is often held to show consent," and that "delays are dangerous."

Lagos, we maintain, has been more quiet since it was placed under the Governor-in-Chief than at any other time since the cession. We have plenty of trade, the country improving, colonial and other steamers plying over the bar for cargo, and towing ships in and out, and good relations with the surrounding and interior countries, so long as we don't meddle or interfere. The only complaints made to the Governor-in-Chief were for acts done before we were placed under Sierra Leone, and which were settled by the late Governor Blackall.

We ask, then, what has the Governor-General done to us?—Answer. Nothing.

Does the Governor-General hinder us from improving the country and bettering our condition?—Answer. No.

Does he hinder the merchants and traders from trading or making fortunes?—Answer. No.

Does he teach any one subject or native chief to disobey or dishonour our Executive?—Answer. No.

Does he hinder us from spending our revenue for good purpose?—Answer. No.

Supposing the Governor-in-Chief wrong us as the Gambia people were wronged, have we not a right, like them, to complain to his masters in Downing-street?—Answer. We have.

Why, then, is it wanted that we should be detached from the Governor-in-Chief?—Answer. Because he is checking us in our growing evils; in pride and ambition; power and might; unfettered action and unlimited sway; tribal feelings; aggrandisement and waste of money; meddling with interior countries.

Can this be true?—Answer. Yes, it is true. For we are proud that no superior should dare to ask, "What doest thou?" We have no chance to show our power and might by dictating to those poor heathen kings and chiefs what they must do to suit our ambition, whether they like it or not; we want unfettered action and unlimited sway, so as to get up war expeditions when we like, and do all sorts of damage to the poor natives without any reasonable cause whatever, before you good people hear of it in England. Of course all that could be required then would be explanation on paper; but what of those hundreds or thousands of souls that would have been hurried to eternity to suit our ambition. You know Captain Glover is not infallible, for a man is nothing but a man; hence he should not be vain. Tribal feelings! Alas the late Governor Blackall did his best to let bygones be bygones; but the Yoruba class still keep it up. They originate it. They look down upon every other tribe in Lagos because they are the "Privy Counsellors." They are a band of idlers, consisting of Sierra Leone and Brazilian refuse, of pagans, Mahomedans, and polygamists. Nearly every day they are to be seen in Balogun streets, gathered like feathered fowls, framing lies and mischief to send to their ignorant brothers in the interior, misrepresenting things, and advising them to take up arms; and alas, but too true, they scale the upstairs of Government House as their own, and all take counsel together. It will pay one to sketch these idlers as they go to Government House nearly every day, whilst other people go to their callings. But of course it is a business to them; they sow discord in Lagos.

Aggrandisement and waste of money to enable us to annex countries, and bring distrust and suspicion once more into the minds of the natives! In fact our Attorney-General of Lagos has already got up a petition, after *sweet counsel*, to annex Porto Novo, and it was sent to the natives here to sign, *exclusive of the Europeans*; but the King and people of Porto Novo have heard it. The petition is to empower our Executive to annex it. "We have sufficient rockets etc.; if they refuse, might is right." We hope the Governor-in-Chief will think well before he sanctions it; all our aim is to please a handful of people. We have money to build forts and hosts of other things in countries not our own, and to give presents for no good purpose. So long as we continue to interfere with the interior tribes, by meddling in their matters and favouring one above another, we

shall only get them to distrust us. Why, we heard in Abeokuta how the Dahomians and Ibadans are invited by the Lagos clique to attack and break Abeokuta and other countries this dry season; how powder, etc., was sent privately by the clique at Lagos to the Ibadans. Our Executive is very busy now, going to fro with the colonial steamers, with rockets, houssas, and his friends the Isayi refuse; these latter have eaten plenty of our money for doing mischief.

Mr. Editor, we have no wish to be detached from the Governor-in-Chief. We who are not officials will speak our mind; also we are not bound so as not to be able to expose the intrigues of our Executive.

Mr. Olitoh talks all rot. Mr. Editor, all you want is truth; no deception and flattery. Therefore you have it; publish it fearlessly. Continue your good work for Africa. The Lord will bless you for it. Having permitted the friends of Captain Glover to tell you the bright part of Lagos always, it is our duty to tell you and the world at large the dark side of it, which will spoil the good government of Lagos unless we knock off from taking rotten advice from a low and ill-bred class of idlers. A word to the wise is enough. If the other correspondents are afraid to say the truth, we will say it and let the world judge. As for the missionaries, they have borne the heat of the day, before our Executive reached Africa. Their duty is to preach peace and salvation, not war. Was Mr. Olitoh in Abeokuta in the days of king Sodeke, when the noble band of missionaries went there? Was it the Governor-in-Chief who ordered the dismissal of the ex-schoolmaster at Badagry for immoral conduct years ago? As for the Sierra Leone revenue, that has nothing to do with us. As for respect and honour, what more ought to be expected from the natives than is given already? Do you want them, I say, Mr. Olitoh, to fall down and worship our Administrator? If this is what you call giving respect to the Queen's representative, you will soon see the handwriting on the wall, "Mene, mene, tekel upharsin," at Government House in Lagos.

AFRICA.

#### THE AFRICAN PEACE CONFERENCE AT THE OIL RIVERS.

The unhappy state of suspense that shrouded all political affairs here for some time past has at last been brought to a conclusion in a satisfactory manner.

In the early part of October, H.B.M. Acting Consul, Captain D. Hopkins, received full powers and orders from H.B.M. Government to arbitrate between the contending tribes in the Bight of Biafra, and endeavoured thus to put a stop to these ruinous wars. At the same time a powerful force of sloop-of-war and gun-boats was ordered to assemble at Bonny River to support the Consul. Having sent instructions to the Kings of Bonny and New Calabar to abstain from all warlike action, the Consul left for Brass. While there, having settled some matters directly connected with that river, he informed King Eyo that he also must abstain from all war with New Calabar, as a peace conference would soon be held in Bonny River. On the Consul's return to Bonny he summoned the kings and chiefs of Bonny, New Calabar, and Ekreka to attend a meeting in Bonny on the 24th ult., and on the 22nd H.M.S. Pioneer went to New Calabar, and brought over King Amachree and seven of his chiefs.

On the 24th the conference was opened on board H.M.S. Dido, under the direction of the Consul and the senior officer of the station, Captain Chapman, and in the presence of the representatives of the firms trading in the two rivers. Bonny was represented by King George Pepple, Oko-Jumbo, and the principal chiefs; New Calabar, by King Amachree II. and seven chiefs; and Ekreka by six chiefs, one of whom was deputed by King Phibia to act for him, "his Majesty" not liking to risk his valuable person so far from his capital. Each side explained their grievances, first in the native language, and afterwards in "broken" English by one of the chiefs, and if his translation was defective he was corrected by some of the chiefs on either side. It was most amusing to hear each side in turn complain of the number of men and women killed, and canoes, &c., captured, by their opponents, and the cool manner in which such outrages or "grievances" were acknowledged. The great question was the ownership of certain oil markets, and that was debated by the rival speakers in an unyielding manner. The spokesman for New Calabar was Prince George Amachree, a brother of the King, and he argued the case in an astute, calm, and fluent manner. He is not only a most talented and intelligent man, but the leader in the council of his King. King George Pepple, assisted by advice from Oko-Jumbo, advocated the cause of Bonny and Ekreka, and he showed considerable cleverness for so young and inexperienced a man.

On the 25th the conference was resumed, and although a good deal of recrimination passed between all parties, the day closed without damage to either side; but the Ekreka chiefs seemed

most dissatisfied, as they did not see much chance of gaining any great advantage from either Bonny or New Calabar.

On the 26th the "talk" was again resumed. The Ekreka declined to attend, and King George Pepple stated that he and his chiefs had no power to compel their attendance; "that Ekreka was a powerful country and as large as Bonny and New Calabar together" and "that Bonny could not coerce Ekreka." His Majesty ignored the fact that for years Ekreka has been subsidiary to Bonny. This was Bonny diplomacy. Well, the subject of peace or war was continued, and towards evening a satisfactory solution to the main difficulties having been found, the basis of a permanent treaty of peace between Bonny and New Calabar was agreed to, the question of peace or war between New Calabar and Ekreka being left for settlement to a future day. The New Calabar men agreed to permit Bonny to trade jointly with them at the oil markets of Indelly and Abile-torro, on the west side of New Calabar River, for a certain limited period, until some of the Aquia and Umballa oil markets had been opened to Bonny by peace with Ja-Ja; and that the Brass men might trade jointly at Ehgenny oil market. Matters had progressed so far when an incident occurred which illustrates the great difficulty of settling disputes between native tribes. The Bonny men insisted on claiming a place they called "Obietaboo," stating that it was an "oil market." Now as one oil market given to either side is not a matter of such great consequence, the Consul was about to concede the point, when some of the agents from New Calabar stated that "Obietaboo" was the native name for the greater part of the Eboe country. The King and chiefs of New Calabar were asked if that was true, and they said "Yes." King George Pepple was then asked if if such was the case, and, after some hesitation and conversation with his chiefs, he acknowledged that it was so. Thus, by a quibble, Bonny was nearly getting command of all Eboe, and with it the basis of future wars would have been laid. This point being settled, King Amachree and his chiefs signed the treaty of permanent peace between the two countries. On the 27th the King and chiefs of Bonny signed it, and then both sides were allowed to witness some gunnery practice by Her Majesty's ships, which proved to them what forcible arguments well-directed 100-pounder shot and shell would be if such were necessary in dealing with pugnacious tribes.

Meanwhile a treaty had been drawn up for signature between Ekreka and New Calabar; and after some pressure on the part of Bonny, King Phibia's representative and his brother chiefs signed it on the 28th October. It gives liberty to Ekreka to fish in New Calabar waters, and *vice versa*, and some commercial and domestic benefits. Thus peace is restored to these long belligerent tribes.

On the 29th October King Amachree and chiefs, accompanied by the Consul, senior officer, and a number of the white residents, proceeded to New Calabar town, on board H.M. ship Pioneer, where they were entertained in a most hospitable manner by Prince Batabo Amachree, a brother of the King. As the gunboat containing the King and chiefs passed up the river, the batteries at Touche and Young Town fired a salute, and she was quickly followed to Calabar by a strong force of war cruisers that had been awaiting the return of the King, and when he reached the town there were great demonstrations of joy on the part of the people.

Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul goes to Brass River next, and, having settled matters there, will then proceed to Opobo River. He deserves great praise for the talent and finesse displayed in reconciling such contending interests, and arranging what seems likely to prove a lasting peace.

#### THE POLYNESIAN SLAVE TRADE.

At a meeting of the members of the Aborigines Protection Society, held on the 13th December, a resolution was passed "to present a memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, urging him to adopt vigorous measures for the repression of the Polynesian slave trade." The following statements were made at the meeting: Captain Palmer, of H.M. ship Rosario, wrote: "It seems only yesterday that, when in New Zealand, Bishop Patteson was telling me the story about the traders painting the vessel white like his mission schooner, the Southern Cross, and sending one of their number on shore, dressed like a missionary, to tell the natives she was the Bishop's schooner, and that he was on board, but had broken his leg, and consequently they must come off and see him. More than one cargo was secured in this atrocious manner." Mr. M'Arthur, M.P., cited the case of "Mr. J. Micklejohn, a magistrate of Queensland, who, wishing to satisfy himself as to the real nature of the traffic, got himself appointed as Government agent on one of the vessels; and who, when the ship was anchored off one of the islands, and a batch of natives were brought on board and put into the hold, protested against such conduct, whereupon the captain pointed a revolver

at his head and threatened to shoot him unless he promised that he would never divulge what he had seen." And the Chairman, the Hon. A. Kinnaid, M.P., read extracts from letters and papers, showing that, beyond all doubt, "the natives of the Fiji islands, of the New Hebrides, and of other islands in the South Seas, were kidnapped, enticed by alluring promises on board vessels engaged in the trade, and sometimes conveyed on board by violence; that when once on board they were prevented from returning; and that, in short, this 'immigration,' as it is called, differs in no way from the slave trade so long carried on on the coast of Africa." We sincerely hope that the efforts of the Society will prevail to induce Her Majesty's Government to take some immediate measures of a much more stringent nature than such as are with just satire condemned in an extract from the *Examiner*, which will be found elsewhere in our present number.

#### THE DIAMOND FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

On Monday evening, 27th November, Mr. T. W. Tobin, who was entrusted with the charge of Mr. Streeter's recent expedition to the diamond fields in the almost unexplored region of Southern Africa, delivered an interesting lecture on the subject to a crowded audience at the Polytechnic Institution, Professor Pepper presiding. The address was illustrated by a series of original sketches and diagrams, executed by Mr. Tobin from draughts made during his travels. After a few words descriptive of the travelling route to the scene of labour, the lecturer proceeded to explain the geological formation of soil of Africa. It was believed, he said, that the whole of that vast continent was at some early period covered by the sea. The sand and other substances constituting the bed of the ocean had gradually petrified and formed the solid rock and other soil now above the surface of the sea. The so-called table-mountains, so abundant in those parts, were due to submarine volcanic eruptions, the lava ejected by which had taken the form of the rock known as "green-stone," in the neighbourhood of which the diamonds were chiefly found. The principal scene of operations was the vicinity of the Vahel and other rivers. The peculiar appearance of the pebbles there had first attracted the attention of one Baron Von Ludwig, who gave his opinion that before long some valuable stones would be discovered there. The children of a farmer to whom he made this statement soon afterwards found the first diamond, and sent it to the Baron, and almost immediately another was picked up worth 11,200*l.* It was a noteworthy circumstance that on the banks of rivers the largest gems were found close to the water, and they became smaller and rarer as one searched inland. Mr. Tobin next discoursed at some length on the physical constitution and properties of the precious stone under consideration. Its origin, he said, had as yet been a mystery, but it was known to consist of carbon in a state of crystallisation. Owing, however, to the rapid progress of science, there was now some hope that it would soon be traced to its source. It was pretty clear that most specimens were of volcanic origin, and nearly connected with the above-mentioned green-stone. Professor Pepper then proved that the diamond was identical in composition with a piece of ordinary charcoal, by the somewhat expensive experiment of burning it in oxygen. The gas formed by this process was tested by means of lime-water, and proved to be carbonic acid gas, exactly the same compound as was made by burning the less costly material just mentioned. Mr. Tobin, after this experiment, resumed his lecture, remarking that several Dutch farmers possessing land out in the Cape district, upon hearing of the discovery of the first few gems, set to work to search their farms, and were in many cases well rewarded for their pains. One man accidentally saw something shining in the wall of his mud cottage. On examination it proved to be a diamond of the first water. The soil from which the mud of the wall was taken was then investigated, and found to consist of chalk or lime, liberally sprinkled with diamonds. Immediately below the surface of chalk was discovered a mass of green-stone. There was at once a rush to the spot, and an unlimited number of stones were unearthed. Specimens of garnets, rubies, and diamonds, apparently in the course of formation, were shown by the lecturer, magnified to a considerable size by microscopic power, and excited great interest.

THE VALUE OF CORAL.—We are pleased to hear that the Neapolitan coral-fishers this year have been very successful; but there is no chance, we believe, of the prices being lowered, so increasing is the demand for this article since American tourists arrive in Naples in such numbers. Good pink coral is now worth about twelve times its weight in gold; what will it be if the mania continues for a few years more? The produce of the coral fishery this year is reported to be of the value of 300,000*l.* sterling. Only one boat of the entire fishing fleet was lost.

#### 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 LUDMANN *mand. nom.* E. A. MULLER in Berlin, as Executors of the Will of the said Julius, alias Isaac Valentini (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 convenience 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.

Foreign coins at par.

WM. R. TAYLOR,

Merchant and Government Contractor.

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.

COTTON, WOOL, and other Material, PRESSED and PACKED by WALKER'S PATENT ROTATING PRESS, in HALF the USUAL TIME. Sugar Mills for Splitting the Cane, Palm Nut Sorters, Nut Crackers, and every kind of Machine for Africa or India.

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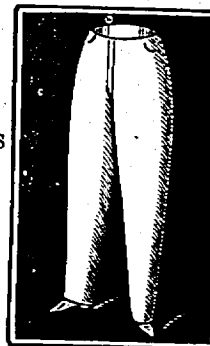
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