

The African Times.

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

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

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

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AFRICAN AGENCY

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

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

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

F. FITZGERALD, Esq.,

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

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

MAY, 1872.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

ADDITIONAL SAILINGS FROM GLASGOW.

This Company intend to despatch a Steamer from Glasgow on the 11th May and June respectively, in addition to the regular departures on the 30th of each month.

The Steamship LIBERIA, Captain A. P. FRENCH, is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on MAY 1, and from LIVERPOOL on the 7th MAY, at 4.30 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, Benin, and Opobo (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 30th APRIL, and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 P.M. on the 6th MAY. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 4 P.M. on the day of sailing.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship VOLTA, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th MAY, at 3 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 New Calabar, Brass, Benin, and Opobo. Goods will be received up to 6 P.M. on the 17th. Passengers will embark at 2.30 P.M. on the day of sailing.

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

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

For further information apply in London to Messrs. MALCOLM, HUDSON, and Co., 5, Crosby-square; in Glasgow to TAYLOR, LAUGHLAND, and Co., 24, Oswald-street; and in Liverpool, to ELDON, DEMPSTER, and Co., 48, Castle-street.

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

WEST COAST MAILS.

ARRIVALS.

Brit. and African Steam Navigation Co.'s Congo, March 28.
African Steamship Company's Soudan, from S.W. Coast, April 2.
African Steamship Co.'s Biafra, with monthly mail, April 6.
African Steamship Company's Eboe, April 18.
British and African Company's Liberia hourly expected.

DEPARTURES.

African Steamship Co.'s Lagos, with monthly mail.
British and African Steam Navigation Company's Roquette, April 6.
African Steamship Company's Soudan, April 11.
Brit. and African Steam Navigation Co.'s Congo, April 17.
The Biafra will take out the monthly mail on the 24th inst.

OFFICIAL.

The Queen has approved the appointment of Mr. Robert W. Keate to be Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, and the appointment of Mr. Anthony Musgrave, C.M.G., to be Lieutenant-Governor of Natal.

GAMBIA.

IMMORALITY OF EUROPEANS.

We have had a long paper addressed to us for insertion, which, though very well composed, and in a very praiseworthy spirit, we cannot, for many reasons, insert. The subject of which it treats is the alleged conduct of some European merchant, quite unknown to us, who had recently arrived in the colony for trade; who, having left a wife and family in England, and begun in Bathurst by denouncing all connection with native women, did, it is alleged, within twenty days marry a Jolloff girl, according to the native rites, giving to her parents 500 dollars and other valuable presents as her purchase money, in order to obtain her. Our correspondent regards this as bigamy; but however we may condemn and deplore the evil example thus set, we cannot look upon it in that light until the marriage of English subjects in British West Africa settlements with native women, with native ceremonies only, shall have been declared by legislative enactment or decision of a competent Court to be a legal and valid marriage in the eye of the law.

We have heard so little of late from the Gambia, that we are induced to hope that things are going on more satisfactorily to all parties—European merchants and natives—than they did formerly. Having had so much to do in defeating the project of ceding the Gambia to France, we feel deeply interested in the prosperity, contentment, and Christian and material progress of its inhabitants; and shall be glad to receive, from time to time, details of the good deeds being done, official and non-official, so that we may be able to praise those who do well as we formerly denounced those who did evil.—Ed. A.T.

DEPARTURE OF MR. SALMON.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, 13th April.

Sir,—No sooner did Mr. Usher come back than Mr. Salmon decided to skeddaddle. He felt so uncomfortable to be no longer in power, after having made himself universally hated and despised, that he applied at once to go on sick leave—that nice handy excuse for getting away. He goes, and no one says "God bless him!" except, it may be, the mulatto woman whom he installed as "mistress" at Government House, to solace him amid his despotism, while he was imprisoning, holding to bail, persecuting, and sending to trial men a thousand times better than himself, the spalpeen! Even the Devil himself would have been welcome, so that we could only get rid of Salmon. You may suppose therefore that Mr. Usher was made something of when he came. It is too early to form an idea of what he will do, but you shall know by the next steamer, which will be in England the middle of April. We feel that you will be anxious for news, as you will not be able to decide what to do for the Fanti Confederation until Mr. Usher's word and deeds have shown what is the feeling or intention of the British Government respecting us.—More in my next.

CHANGE OF FEELING AT ELMINA, CAPE COAST.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

March 12, 1872.

Dear Sir,—I am sure that you will be glad to know that the Elmina people are now quite willing to have the English instead of the Dutch flag to fly on Elmina Fort. You will be sure to have heard that there would be very much opposition to the transfer, that blood would be shed, and all that. There was some reason in saying so, because the Ashantis, who with their captain were still there, tried to make as much mischief as possible, and to stir up the people. But this is all over now. The people have opened their eyes to the evil of having Ashantis always lorded it in their town, doing just what they pleased as masters among slaves; and now the Ashanti captain who has done so many cruel things in and near Elmina is made a prisoner, while the people who were loudest against the English rule, now cry out, "Why don't they come and finish the whole thing at once?" They feel now that they are not Dutch nor English Fantis, and they want to be one or the other; and as the Dutch are really going, seem to think the sooner they are now gone the better. I always wrote to you that there would be a change like this, and now you see I was right. From what I hear I do not think Elmina will have the British flag till about the beginning of May; but I will write you more by the Liberia,* when she comes up from Leeward.

Yours, &c.,

A FANTI.

* The Liberia has not arrived. April 22.—Ed. A.T.

COPY OF LETTER TO EARL OF KIMBERLEY, RE
FANTI CONFEDERATION.African Times Office, 121, Fleet-street,
March 23, 1872.

Re Fanti Confederation.

My Lord,—By letter dated the 17th January I was informed by your lordship that "Mr. F. C. Grant, who was named treasurer without his knowledge and consent, has repudiated all connexion with the movement;" and, again, that "the Constitution had been promulgated and acted upon before the Acting Administrator received a copy of it."

In reply, I have the honour to inclose printed copies of two letters of Mr. F. C. Grant, in one of which he accepts the office of treasurer, and in the other makes suggestions as regards the future operations of the Fanti Confederation. I also inclose printed copies of Mr. Acting Administrator Salmon's letter to Mr. Grant, demanding his disavowal of all connexion with the Confederation, and of Mr. Grant's reply thereto; and, further, of two letters from members of the Confederation, signed "One of Them" and "Fanti," the purport of which is to establish that your lordship had been induced in error on the points above alluded to. I have further the honour to inform your lordship that the originals of Mr. Grant's letters, as also of Mr. Salmon's letter of December 23 to the kings at Mankessim, of instructions to Mr. Robertson, and offering 10% to the kings if they will deliver papers, are in my possession, and that I am ready to submit them to your inspection, should your lordship so desire. —I have the honour to remain, my Lord, your Lordship's obedient servant,

F. FITZGERALD,
Editor of African Times.To the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley, K.G., &c., &c.,
Colonial-office.COPY OF LETTER TO THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY
FOR COMPENSATION TO PERSONS IMPRISONED,
&c., AT CAPE COAST.

African Times Office, 121, Fleet-street, March 26, 1872.

My Lord,—I have had the honour, from time to time since the 1st of January last, to bring before your lordship the respective cases of Mr. Brew, Mr. Davidson, and Mr. Amiasah, arbitrarily imprisoned, and subsequently confined to Cape Coast Town for a lengthened period, on heavy bail, to their great suffering, prejudice, and pecuniary loss, for no crime whatever upon which they could be brought to trial, as established by their eventual release from the said bail and the non-prosecution of any charge against them; as also those of Mr. J. A. Fynn, sen., Mr. J. A. Fynn, jun., and Mr. Forson, arbitrarily arrested, detained many days in a vile prison—bail, though tendered, being refused—brought to trial, and acquitted after several days trial by the unanimous verdict of a respectable and intelligent jury, notwithstanding great Executive and judicial pressure to obtain their conviction.

I have further the honour to state that no allowance was made to any of these persons for subsistence or expenses during their imprisonment and detention on bail; and that the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Chalmers, acting in concert with the Executive authorities, refused to grant any costs to Fynn, Fynn, and Forson against their nominal prosecutor, Colonel Foster Foster, Police Magistrate at Cape Coast.

These persons know that even if it were possible, which it is not, for them to prosecute any suit in the West African Courts for damages and costs against persons in authority, such as Mr. Salmon, Colonel Foster, &c., with any hope of obtaining justice, they would not be able in any case to recover from Mr. Salmon or Colonel Foster any damage or costs that might be awarded to them; and I am therefore instructed by them to bring their respective cases anew before your lordship, and to pray your lordship, as I now do, to order that they shall receive some adequate pecuniary compensation for the indignities to which they have been unjustly subjected, the suffering and loss to which they have been exposed; and additionally, in the case of Fynn, Fynn, and Forson, for the heavy legal and other expenses incurred by them in defending themselves against an infamous Executive oppression.

Praying that your lordship will order, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, a liberal and adequate compensation to persons so deeply injured in mind, body, and estate—a compensation worthy of the dignity of the giver—that will evidence the just displeasure of Her Majesty's Government at acts so oppressively committed in Her Majesty's name under their supposed authority; and that it will not be a new humiliation for them to receive, I have the honour to remain, my Lord, your lordship's obedient servant,

F. FITZGERALD,
Eleven years Editor of the African Times.ANNUAL BASLE MISSIONARY MEETING AT ACCRA.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

James Town, Accra, Feb. 12, 1872.

Dear Sir,—On the 6th ult. our brethren of the Basle Missionary Society held their anniversary of the circumstances and progress of their Mission on the Gold Coast during the past year.

This meeting took place at their chapel in the town of Christiansborg, where a large and attentive audience listened with deep interest to a most gratifying report, read by the Rev. E. Schenk, the chief resident minister at the Society at that station, and to sundry addresses afterwards given by other members of the Mission, and by other gentlemen, friends of the Society, who had been specially invited.

The ruling authorities of these settlements were represented at the meeting by Captain Lees, Civil Commandant of the Eastern Districts, who, in his place on the programme of the meeting, gave a warm and truly practical address.

The Rev. H. Wharton, the resident Wesleyan missionary at Accra, being ill from fever, that Society was represented at the meeting by Mr. T. A. Freeman, Sen., who spoke of the moral grandeur of the great cause of Christian missions to the heathen, and especially cited the Prophet Habbakuk ii. 14, for Divine assurance of the ultimate sublime consummation of all missionary toils.

The report was given in extensive detail, and showed, in general, satisfactory progress in the various departments of the Mission, which is being carried on on a scale of magnitude which claims for it the deep interest of all surrounding tribes and communities of men. The following are the items of their census for 1871: 7 principal stations; 29 European missionaries, among whom are builders, artisans, and men of business, who superintend industrial and other establishments; 16 European ladies; 20 European children; 24 native catechists; 11 native male teachers; 11 native female teachers; 903 scholars; 1,931 members of congregation; increase of members during the year, 82; baptisms during the year, 210; expenditure during the year, 8,300l.—N.B. Of the above-mentioned amount 3,000l. had been appropriated to schools.

The Mission extends its labours over the native districts of Old Danish Accra (now part of English Accra), Aquapim, Krobo, Akim, and Addah.

The chief principal stations contain airy, convenient dwelling-houses for European families, chapels, day-schools, and boarding-schools; and there is also an institution for training an extensive native agency as catechists and missionaries. These, together with the industrial establishments, constitute a fine combination of well-adapted appliances, all working in harmonious action for the accomplishment of a great purpose.

The speakers at the meeting were Commandant Lees, Mr. T. B. Freeman, Sen., and Dr. Luther, of Elmina, and also, of the Basle Brethren, Rev. Messrs. Schenk, Weiss, Lerwick, and Mr. C. Reindorf, Native Catechist.

During the course of the meeting the addresses were interchanged with hymns and choruses, the latter being sung exclusively by native youths trained to take different parts in vocal melodies.—I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

SEMPER FIDELIS.

CAPTAIN GLOVER'S PROCEEDINGS—HE PUBLISHES,
IN LAGOS, MR. FITZGERALD'S LETTER TO EARL
KIMBERLEY, AND HIS LORDSHIP'S REPLY.

No. 1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, March 7, 1872.

Sir,—Since my last Captain Glover has caused a series of letters, passed between him and Acting-Consular Jobelot, of Porto Novo, to be published for general information. In Mr. Glover's reply you will perceive that he questions some of the signatures in the protests forwarded to him. But, Mr. Editor, Captain Glover never questioned any signatures in the petition he caused to be got up to cede Porto Novo; or any other petition to benefit him. Too true, alas! it is that if "wishes were horses beggars would ride." We notice in a recent letter that has passed between yourself, on behalf of Africa, and the Colonial-office, which letters Mr. Glover published in the streets of Lagos before your paper arrived, "that no explanation could be true except it came from the officer administering the government!" But, Sir, facts are stubborn things, and we do not despair. Having to expose all wrong, oppression, deceitfulness, and other unjust dealings, we thank you the more, and are greatly rejoiced that you speak out the truth. Captain Glover thinks so grandly of himself that he sent some of the copies of the letters to your friends here, enclosed in envelopes, as much as to say that he had obtained a great victory. In his idea, now, Prince Bismarck is not his equal.

We are glad to inform you that the Niger party arrived safely

at Lagos by the land route. They were treated most hospitably by all the kings and chiefs, missionaries and people, from Bida, on the Niger, down to Abeokuta; and, to crown all, by way of gratitude and credit, when they reached our territory on the mainland of Ebute Metta what did they behold, but ammunitions of war, guns, powder, shot, &c., in the hands of our subjects, preparing on a grand scale to welcome the Egbas whom the Administrator said were coming against Lagos! Bishop Crowther, one of the Niger party, published a paper showing the liberality of the people, from the Niger to Abeokuta; and we fail to find in it that the Egbas were coming to fight Lagos. Some time in 1870 a notorious Tiwo, a native trader of Lagos, went (by arrangement between him and Administrator Glover) to Iseri with armed people, and stayed there for some months, seizing Egba canoes and all produce coming from Abeokuta to Lagos, on account of debt said to be owing to the said Tiwo by some Egba traders of Abeokuta. Captain Cooper strongly disagreed with Administrator Glover in this policy, which resulted in Captain Cooper exchanging for the Gambia. Merchants and other traders of Lagos suffered greatly by this policy. Now the notorious Tiwo has commenced again, by arranging with Mr. Glover to force the Egbas to put their palm-kernels in a certain tub measure, made by the Administrator, for a certain price, and not in country bags as usual, with the natives. The Egbas, on the other hand, say, "All right; give us your goods at such a price;" and our traders refused, so there is a "stand at ease" for the present in Iseri Market, to the great loss and prejudice of merchants and traders.

Tiwo said that the Egbas should not be allowed to pass on to Lagos with their produce, and sent orders to that effect. By the way, he calls himself the chief of Iseri, and lives in Lagos; but any one that is against the Egbas is a great person in the eyes of our Administrator.

Be assured that the traders on both sides will soon settle their affairs, as they are all much concerned in the question as to whether they are to lose or to gain.

LATEST.—After all the fuss, and supplying ammunition at the expense of the settlement to every Tom, Dick, and Harry on the northern frontier, against the Egbas, the whole is a complete failure. Our debt is increasing, instead of decreasing. There is no cause whatever for wasting our revenue in such foolery. There is peace in all the interior, and in Lagos; excepting in one certain place or residence in Lagos. A great polygamist, and a member of our executive and privy councillor, died three weeks ago and was buried like a heathen, although he was an emigrant from Sierra Leone. Such, alas! are the men whom British administrators delight to honour.—Your obedient servant,

THE GOLDEN FLEECE.

No. 2.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, March 6, 1872.

Sir,—I was never more surprised than when reading that remarkable and elaborate reply of Earl Kimberley to letters of yours, dated Dec. 16 and 30, respecting Captain Glover and his unnecessary dealings with the interior countries, and in particular Abeokuta. May I ask whether it is the policy of the Home Government to uphold their officials in whatever they do, right or wrong? If such be the case, Sir, we in this part of the world think that it is high time for England to withdraw her seeming protection from us, and leave us to ourselves, to fight our way the best we could, looking only unto God for aid and support.

Since I last wrote you, matters have assumed quite a different aspect. The famous "Bada," of whom I wrote in my last, was sent to Abeokuta a few days ago, with messages from the Captain (Glover) to the effect that Iseri, Agbozi, Gaun, Ebute Meta, &c., belong to him (of course these places, Mr. Editor, are no more Captain Glover's than the poorest beggar's in London; they actually belong to the Egbas; but by what right they became Captain Glover's or his Government's is a question to be solved only by himself), and that all the Creoles and emigrants in Abeokuta are his slaves, and that if Chief Arodu wishes him to return to Abeokuta his runaway slaves, he (Arodu) should first return to him (Captain Glover) his slaves (Creoles and emigrants). "Bada," of ill-repute, delivered his message on the 6th February last, with Captain Glover's staff in hand, in the presence of the Right Rev. Bishop Crowther, his two sons, and many others. The Egbas, thereupon, became aggrieved, and laid their complaints against Captain Glover before the Bishop, to interfere in the matter; and if in interfering he fail to achieve any good, then the Egbas will know what course to pursue. The Bishop asked them three months, by which time he hoped to be able to put things to right. The "Bada," of course, took the news to the Captain, who at once jumped up and began to sing the song, "The Egbas are coming to attack Lagos, and Chief Arodu is determined to dip his sword in the Ossa." An order was immediately despatched to our worthy friend Mr. Hutchinson for

1,000 guns for the protection of Lagos. Mr. Hutchinson, knowing full well that Lagos will soon become bankrupt, declined accepting the Governor's order. The Captain, finding himself and his scrap of paper, otherwise called "order," most justly treated by Mr. Hutchinson, says to himself, "What's to be done? The Egbas are coming, and Lagos must be protected. Now Mr. Hutchinson has declined accepting my order; but he is right, for this Government is becoming insolvent. What must I do? However, there is old Daddy —; he has plenty of money, and I am sure Mr. Hutchinson will honour his order; I'll get him to get the guns for me, for I must have them." Old Daddy Joe was at once resorted to, and of course he had the guns from Mr. Hutchinson as for himself, and then handed them over to the Governor, who at once sent for his favourites, the Ibadans, and a few idle fellows, the Ijais. Guns were distributed to these, of course, at the Government expense! and, more than all, Mr. Editor, the Governor had the unheard-of audacity to supply the Aworis (Egba subjects) with guns to go against Abeokuta. To allege as a reason for the distribution of guns to these people for the protection of Lagos is a mere farce, for the Egbas never on any occasion made any one to understand that they were going to attack Lagos or any British port, or places seemingly under British protection. You will, however, soon see the real reason why these multiplicity of guns were distributed.

You know, Mr. Editor, that I am in a position to be able to see clearly where the receivers of these guns took them to; some of them are now in Abeokuta, others are now in the bush being used for hunting, others are now far up the interior being used for capturing slaves; so you see that Captain Glover is encouraging slavery. Such is the state of things on this side of the world at present. Report says that the Dahomians are on their way to Abeokuta, acting under instructions said to be given them by the Lagos Captain; hence you see the reason for the distribution of the 1,000 guns; but, by God's help, they will be the worst for it. I almost forgot to mention that *Captain Glover caused your letter to Earl Kimberley, and the reply thereto, to be printed and posted in the streets of Lagos*, as justification in his acts. His cup of iniquity is being filled, and unless England is awakened to her sense of duty, and to put matters right between Abeokuta and Lagos, I fear Captain Glover must inevitably perish, notwithstanding all the support he may get by letters of the Secretary of State.

Ademola, King of Ake Abeokuta, is losing ground daily, as most of his supporters have turned their backs against him, and are now in favour of his Supreme Majesty Oyekou Oba Onile, or Lord of the Manna, &c. These supporters cease to support Ademola simply because they found (and very much to their sorrow) that they were actually pursuing a course which they ought not to have pursued. Matters are, therefore, much more at rest now than three or four months ago. His Supreme Majesty Oyekou having rightfully gained the ascendancy, we may now from henceforth expect better things than heretofore of Abeokuta, but I am afraid Captain Glover will cause our expectations to be frustrated. Until Captain Glover ceases to interfere unnecessarily with the interior countries, but in particular Abeokuta, there will always be confusion and misunderstandings between Lagos and Abeokuta Governments.—Yours,

A TRUE CORRESPONDENT.

NOTE ACCOMPANYING LAGOS LETTERS. TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, March 6, 1872.

My dear Sir,—Accept many and unfeigned thanks from the Africans for your kindness towards us. We read all your letters to the Earl Kimberley, and we are satisfied. It is for him to uphold the offices under his jurisdiction. It will go far to enlighten good people, and even the Government themselves. We trust those days of darkness are gone for ever when we could not reveal all oppressions and wrong and unjust dealings. The *African Times* has raised us from our low estate, and it is our duty to render all the assistance we possibly can. I fear we do not do all we ought in that respect.

REPORT BY BISHOP CROWTHER OF A JOURNEY OVERLAND FROM THE RIVER NIGER TO LAGOS.

Acts of liberality of King Masaba, of Nups, to British subjects, as a token of gratitude to Her Britannic Majesty the Queen, for kindness shown him by Her Majesty's Government during a period of nine years.

The land-route party, consisting of eight white men and several natives of position, from the S.S. Victoria and Rio Pormoso, now aground in the river Niger, desire most gratefully to acknowledge the kindness, liberality, and ready help of King Masaba, whose noble example was readily followed by the kings and chiefs of other countries and towns we had passed through, down to Lagos, in a round-about route over 400 miles of roads.

All our loads were carried free of expense by order of King Masaba to his subjects, either by canoes or by land from the neighbourhood of Lokoja to Bida, and thence to Ilorin, a distance of about 200 miles, which, if we had had to pay for, could not have cost us less than 180*l.* sterling.

During a period of forty days we partly stayed at Bida, and partly travelled past many towns and villages in his territory to Ilorin. We were liberally provided for by the King and his subjects, in cooked and uncooked supplies of provisions of rice, yams, sheep, goats, turkeys, ducks, fowls, pigeons, milk, honey, oil for the lamp, firewood to cook with, and guinea corn for the horses, in great abundance, all which, if we had had to pay for, would not have cost us less than 150*l.* sterling.

On our departure from Bida, King Masaba gave to each of us a horse for the journey, twelve in number, out of a due regard for Her Majesty the Queen, which, if valued at the average rate of 10*l.* per horse, will amount to 120*l.* sterling.

King Masaba's liberality may be summed up as follows: 12 horses at 10*l.* each, 120*l.*; free carriage of loads to Ilorin, a distance of 200 miles, 180*l.*; supplies of provisions for forty days, 150*l.*; total amount, 450*l.*

ILORIN.—Here we remained nine days, when we were entertained with 4 bullocks, 6 bags of cowries, 1,600 yams, 4 pots of palm-oil, and 40 loads of guinea corn for the horses.

OSOGOSHO.—Here we remained two days, and were entertained with 1 goat, 2 bags of cowries, 50 yams, and 6 loads of guinea corn for the horses.

IWO.—Here we rested one day, and were entertained with 2 goats, 4 bags of cowries, 50 yams, and 6 loads of guinea corn for the horses.

IBARAN.—Here we remained nine days, and were entertained with 12 bags of cowries, 20 sheep, 59 loads of yams, and 35 loads of guinea corn for the horses.

ABEOKUTA.—Here we remained eight days, and were entertained with 20 bags of cowries, 6 sheep, and 2 baskets of oranges, by all the authorities of the Egba community.

By Chief Ogudipe, 2 bullocks and 4 bags of cowries.

Also by King Ademola, Madame Tinubu, the Sierra Leone friends and mercantile agents, headed by Mr. J. George, and the Church and Wesleyan converts, 10 bags of cowries, 10 sheep, 5 ducks, 23 fowls, 262 yams, and 2 loads of guinea corn for the horses.

No toll paid at any gate throughout.

To the Rev. D. Olubi, Native Pastor at Ibadan, to Mr. Franklin, of the Wesleyan Mission of Abeokuta, and to Mr. and Mrs. Robbin, of Ake, many thanks are due. Not only had these gentlemen thrown their houses open for our accommodation, but for several days Mrs. Robbin undertook to superintend the cooking department, to change our diet, in which was very kindly added, by Mr. J. George and Mr. Robbin, refreshing drinkables, such as beer, lemonade, soda water, tea, coffee, and chocolate, at their expense, which greatly conduced to restore the declining health of the travelling party, and strengthen them for their remaining journey.

These acts of kindness deserve to be thus noticed, as the example was set by King Masaba in gratitude to the Queen, whose subjects we are, and had nothing in hand during our journey to make adequate returns.

S. A. CROWTHER, Bishop, Niger Territory,
A Member of the Travelling Party.

February 20, 1872.

CUBA AND SLAVERY.

"The planters know that slavery is condemned, that they are continuing a system which is not in accordance with the spirit of the age, and they would willingly consent to its abolition if some means could be found to prevent the total ruin which immediate emancipation must cause them. They would be satisfied if they were allowed to import free negroes from Africa, but they cannot risk losing all their workmen at once. But a beginning has been made. In one room we saw a lot of little free children—those born since September, 1868, who according to law are never to be reduced to slavery. All the men who are upwards of sixty are also free, but their freedom is of very little use to them, as that is an advanced age for a negro, and when he has attained it he is hardly able to take care of himself. But this process of emancipation is too slow, and the Cubans know that the question must come on for solution after the suppression of the insurrection."—*Standard*, April 3, 1872.

[We enter our protest against any such mode of "satisfying" the Cuban planters, as above suggested. "If they were allowed to import free negroes from Africa" a pretty sort of freedom they would be likely to enjoy on the Cuban plantations. No, there can be no more supplies sent there from Africa. Cuba received, alas, too many, and "used them up" too mercilessly, while her slaves were able to elude the British cruisers. That

is all over now; and Africa has no surplus of population. She could utilize on her own productive soil a tenfold greater number of people than the accursed slave-trade has left her.—*Ed. A. T.*]

THE POLICE MAGISTRACY AT LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

December, 1871.

Mr. Editor.—I have just been reading over some of the items in your paper of, or rather by, this mail, amongst which I see one signed "Negro."

When shall we cease complaining? Surely some people must think us a lot of dissatisfied beings on this coast; much like a capricious young lady crying her eyes out for a bonnet instead of a hat she had, who as soon as the bonnet is given her, and one too which the giver thought was just the very thing, she would praise it "all ends up" for a few days. Then all at once she discovers some fault; it is either not becoming to her features, or is too small for her head, &c., and she would rather have the old hat back again. She gets the hat, but then finds it wants somehow some new or extra trimming. So it seems to be with many of my countrymen. Not that they have not in many instances most just and palpable reasons for complaint, and many too, that I would join them in; but at the same time we must bear in mind that by too often complaining we may make the heart sick. We must weigh matters well, and also consider that there is no man or woman born that has not some defect. For instance, one might say, "That is a very good man, or handsome woman, but—he is so queer in his ways, or she does not walk gracefully, or is too proud. If it were not for those faults they would do," and so on. There is always that everlasting "but" or "if." Now if every one doesn't know, I do that I am neither a friend nor associate of Mr. Gerard's, nor do I think he would allow me the honour to drink tea with him. But stop—when was this letter written by "Negro"? Some time in August last, I believe. Well yes, as far as regards fitness for the Colonial Secretary of Lagos, or in fact in other British colony, I cannot but say, as far as my humble opinion may be valued, that he is totally unfit for such office, and I believe he has been straightforward enough to acknowledge it to one officiating next to him in that office, saying that he did not understand anything about the work; but, as far as his police magistracy is concerned, I say again, as one of your correspondents did some time ago, he is the right man in the right place, and I know that the majority, if not the whole of the coloured people here—ah! and many Europeans too—would prefer Mr. Gerard to any one we have had here yet since this has been a British colony. We know, and he has several times said it in his court (Police-court), that he knows nothing about law; he only sat there to do and give justice between man and man, let him be rich or poor, black or white. And did he not do so? Even when he was acting Chief Magistrate did he not have to deal with some very critical cases? I ask "Negro" did he do justice or not, although he did not know Mr. Law? Who is every one almost crying out for now, or rather before Mr. Finlay took the seat as acting Police Magistrate? "Negro" quotes Mr. Gerard's rising from the ranks, &c. Certainly there are cases where one is almost obliged to bring such things to mind to show the why and wherefore, but again one must admit that he may be told, "Never mind what the man *was*, tell me what he *is*." I was once before Mr. Gerard as the prosecutor, but by his address to me, from what the prisoner or defendant said, he seemed to make me the culprit, because I did not provide myself with the necessary witnesses; nevertheless, I do not think any one here can conscientiously say but what they have got justice at Mr. Gerard's hands, and often far more lenient than from others before or since.

I for one, amongst many, do not think we could have better men than Mr. Gerard, or his substitute, J. Finlay, for reasons which I shall endeavour to show—viz., It must be remembered that the community of Lagos is a very mixed one. There are the habits, customs, religion, &c., &c., of the people to be considered; also their advancement as regards civilisation. All these tend to make it a great point of nicety to decide cases that come to the Police-court. It requires a person that has been with and had some amount of experience of different grades of coloured people, their ways, manners of thinking, notions, ideas, &c., to know how to judge or decide cases that are daily brought before the Police Magistrate here; and no one can doubt but what Mr. Gerard must have acquired much experience by his former position in life, which "Negro" seems so much to ridicule. By the bye, may I ask, would "Negro" be willing to inform us what were his antecedents? "Negro," I believe, wrote his letter in August, and this is now December, and Gerard has been now absent on leave some three months or so, leaving his vacant seat to the renowned Mr. Goldsworthy (made famous by the case *Shepherd v. Goldsworthy* at Sierra Leone), who sits down like a sleepy old owl, listening, scratching his head, and looking more fit to go to bed to sleep off last night's bottle-fever, whilst the

poor police officer is questioning plaintiff and defendant, and scribbling away as hard as he can; one simple case taking so long to go through that half the people in the court have fallen asleep or nearly so, he taking as long to decide one as either Gerard or Finlay would half-a-dozen.

Who was every one crying out for before Goldsworthy went to Badagary the week before last? Why—Gerard, of course!

In conclusion let us not be too quick to trace lineage or rake up former positions, but see what a man *is*, not what he *was*. I think there are many that have sat on the bench as police magistrates of Lagos that were far more unfit for the position than Gerard. Let him enjoy his post as long as he does not do worse than he has done, for fear we throw away the frying-pan and have to sit on the fire. FAIR PLAY!

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

MARCH 23 TO 30.

Palm-kernels.—124 bags and 10 tons at 12*l.* 15*s.* to 13*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

Palm-oil.—400 tons sold; Irregular at 27*l.* 10*s.* to 34*l.*; Bonny at 35*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 35*l.* 10*s.*; Benin at 36*l.* 10*s.* to 36*l.*; Old Calabar at 37*l.*; New Calabar at 37*l.* 15*s.*; and Brass at 38*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

Cotton.—Market quiet, but closing firm at last week's prices. Sales 58,740 bales.

MARCH 30 TO APRIL 3.

Guinea Grains.—Five tons at 45*s.* per cwt.

Ebony.—Nine tons, Old Calabar, 8*l.* per ton.

Palm-kernels.—192 bags on private terms, and thirty tons at 13*l.* to 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

Palm-oil.—The market remains steady; 700 tons sold; Irregular at 27*l.* 10*s.* to 35*l.*, Benin at 36*l.* 5*s.*, Old Calabar at 36*l.* 15*s.*, Lagos at 36*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, New Calabar at 37*l.* 15*s.*, Bonny, at 35*l.* 5*s.* to 35*l.* 10*s.* on the spot, and at 35*l.* per ton to arrive.

Cotton.—Market has been animated, and business large. Sales, 98,000 bales; price, West African, 8*d.* to 9*d.*

APRIL 6 TO 13.

Cotton Seed.—5 tons African at 5*l.* per ton.

Palm-kernels.—1,420 mats at 13*l.* to 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and 150 tons at 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 13*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

Copra.—17 bags at 16*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

Palm-oil.—Fair consumptive demand, but prices for some descriptions have been in buyers' favour; the sales are 500 tons; Lagos at 36*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 37*l.*; Benin at 36*l.*; Bonny at 35*l.* 5*s.*; Accra at 34*l.* 15*s.* to 35*l.*; Loando at 34*l.*; Wydah at 35*l.*; Congo at 40*l.*; Old Calabar at 36*l.* 10*s.*; and low and irregular at 30*l.* to 34*l.* per ton.

Cotton.—Trade has been more dull and quotations rather reduced.

Sales of the week about 71,000 bales. Price of West African, 8*d.* to 9*d.*

APRIL 12 TO 19.

Benni-seed.—151 bags at 57*s.* per quarter.

Cotton-seed.—1,008 mats African; at 5*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

Palm-kernels.—1,124 bags Benin at 13*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

Ground Nuts.—40 tons at 15*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

Palm Oil steady, and the sales are 500 tons; Monrovia at 30*l.*, Bonny at 35*l.* 5*s.* to 35*l.*, Wydah at 35*l.* to 36*l.*, Accra at 34*l.* 15*s.*, Old Calabar at 36*l.* 10*s.*, and Lagos at 36*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 37*l.* per ton.

Cotton Market.—Rather quiet, but quotations maintained. Sales of the week about 80,000 bales. Prices as last week.

OBITUARY.

HAZELEY.—Died, on the 26th January, at Garrison-street, Freetown, Sierra Leone, at the residence of his cousin, Mr. Israel Hazeley Campbell, Mr. Richard James Hazeley, son of the late Jacob Boston Hazeley, Esq., and only brother of Mr. Jacob C. Hazeley, aged 32 years. His end was peace.

WILLIAMS.—Died, 27th November, 1871, at Lagos, the beloved wife of Samuel Benjamin Williams, aged 29 years.

GOUCH.—Died on the 14th February, 1872, at 7.30 p.m., at Cape Coast, Rachel, the beloved wife of Mr. Ellis E. Gouch, and daughter and only child of Mrs. Lucy Barnett, of Sierra Leone, aged 30 years. Her mortal remains were interred by the Rev. T. Laing, in the Wesleyan Cemetery, at Cape Coast.

MURDER OF A TRADING AGENT IN AFRICA.—The murder of Mr. Arnold, the agent of a Glasgow firm at Brass River, in Africa, is announced. He was engaged in a canoe expedition up the river, with the object of opening direct trade with one of the tribes of the interior, who have hitherto carried on barter through the middlemen on the coast, when he was shot dead and his boat cast adrift in the stream. It is doubtful whether he was slain by hostile natives on the river-bank or murdered by his own disaffected Kroomen, but in the meantime the latter have been apprehended on suspicion of being the delinquents.

The African Times.

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The African Times.

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CAPE COAST CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION.

"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." Exactly so. It is impossible to state a right more clearly than the Earl of Carnarvon has stated one in the above words, which we have continually set forth at the front of our journal from the time at which they were uttered. The right is beyond dispute; but how is it to be enforced, or the benefits promised under it to be obtained? because if the way be edged round with impassable difficulties, it becomes an illusion and a snare; and might as well never have existed at all.

We feel this very strongly at the present moment. In this number of our journal we have put on record the demand made by us for compensation to the victims of the late political persecutions at Cape Coast, and the reply of the Secretary of State thereto. This reply is in the stereotyped official form—the application for compensation ought to come through the local authorities—or, in plain English, through those very officials who have committed the acts and inflicted the injuries complained of, and for which compensation is justly sought. We do not hesitate to say that this rule of the Colonial Service, as it is called—but to which ought to have been added, "as regards Crown colonies"—lies at the very root of the flagrant misdoings of West Coast officials that we have had so often to expose. But for the interference of the *African Times* this rule gives up the people of the settlements, bound hand and foot, into the power of a few British Government officials; men for the most part, as we have shown by exposure of their acts and deeds, quite unfitted to be the depositories of such power. What should we say about the police authorities in our streets if it were laid down as a rule by the Home-office that a man who has been robbed must demand justice only through the man who has robbed him; or if a magistrate, when appealed to for protection and justice against a policeman who had abused the power with which he had been entrusted, should reply, "This demand must come through the policeman, such being the rule of the Home-office"? The thing is monstrous. By refusing to listen to a complaint against a Crown colony official for acts of oppression by him committed, save and except through the medium of that same official, the home authorities identify themselves at the very outset with the official complained of. Their reply to the applicant seems to say, "You had better either submit quietly, or make peace directly with him, for he is a privileged person, whom we can only condemn provided he sees fit to condemn himself." Can any reasonable man wonder, after this, that British officials in the West Coast Settlements, which rank as Crown settlements or colonies, should, by lying misrepresentations, continually seek to draw tighter and tighter the fetters that bind the people over and among whom they are appointed to exercise Crown authority? that every such British official should strenuously impede the creation of an elective legislature, by the existence of which alone that arbitrary rule of the Colonial Service can be overpassed? The colonies or settlements under this atrocious system (Crown colonies or settlements) are happily now but very few in number; and this it is which increases the difficulty with which we have to contend; because if there were many of them we might obtain an associated action that would have weight

in Parliament. Under these circumstances it would be wrong to flatter ourselves or the people of the West African Settlements with the belief that we can directly overcome that justice-barring rule of the Colonial-office. All we can do is to take care that the complaints and demands thus made through inculpated officials shall not be burked. This involves the necessity of a duplicate—an exact copy of every complaint or demand forwarded to the Secretary of State, through the local administrator or other authority—being sent at the same time to us, together with the documents or evidence upon which the complaint or demand is based, which justify such demand or complaint and establish a claim to redress. This is the course which we now advise Messrs. Fynn, Fynn, and Forson, and the lately imprisoned officials of the Fanti Confederation to pursue. We will back up their complaint when it shall have been "forwarded through the local administrator, according to the rules of the Colonial Service," and will do our best in every way to obtain for them a just and liberal compensation.

ADMINISTRATOR USSHER AND CAPE COAST.

MR. USSHER, as Administrator of the Gold Coast, has not been overpraised in our journal; but he has had no one to blame for this but himself. We have not learned to call evil good, and good evil. He did evil in many, many ways. We exposed and denounced it. He has once more returned to the Coast, to finish his term of service there. We hope he will do well. He shall have fair play on our part. We shall be only too glad to find in him such merit as to justify our drawing the curtain of oblivion over all past misdeeds. We all of us need that curtain drawn for us, more or less. And, as we have often said, we have no such feeling as that of personal animosity. There is nothing, therefore, to prevent our doing him ample justice. The present and future of his administration is now as a clean sheet of paper lying before us. It is he who will trace the characters upon it that must govern us in praise or blame. He has returned to the Coast under very favourable auspices. Mr. Salmon, as Acting-Administrator during his absence, had made himself justly so odious that every one was rejoiced to see Mr. Ussher back again. He thus received a joyous welcome; from the brightness of which Mr. Salmon was but too glad to escape on sick-leave. While Mr. Ussher was absent circumstances have so changed that he has every opportunity now of distinguishing himself that any man could possibly desire. Through the persistent action of the Fanti Confederation the Dutch found their position at Elmina and elsewhere on the Gold Coast no longer tenable. The treaty by which they cede to England the points they have occupied has been signed. The formal cession will soon take place. As a result of that cession there will be a very large increase in the revenue of the settlements. The Fanti Confederation has given to itself a Constitution, a regulated existence, and defined powers of the most moderate character, to be exercised under agreement with the protecting power, now represented once more by Mr. Ussher. The Confederation has formally committed itself in its constitution to such wise and good works—works so calculated to promote the happiness and material development of the whole of the territories and their people—that Mr. Ussher has an instrument ready made to his hand for the noblest and best of purposes. We hope he will know how to use it. Something, of course, must depend on the instructions received by him from the Colonial-office; but, on the other hand, as he was in England when the Secretary of State for the Colonies had recent events at Cape Coast under his consideration, we may be justified in holding him in some considerable degree responsible for the policy, whatever it is, that he may have been instructed to carry out. We wait impatiently to know what it is. We want to see how the Colonial-office has decided as regards what we look upon as Mr. Salmon's atrocious official misdeeds; and the perversion of justice which, under his promptings and exigencies, has brought the tribunals of Cape Coast into merited suspicion and disfavour. We want to know whether the injustice done is to be atoned for; and whether compensation, and what compensation, is to be given to those who have been imprisoned

and persecuted without any just or sufficient cause. And we want to see what is to be the course of action adopted by Her Majesty's Government as regards that great, and useful, and indispensable organisation for good, the Fanti Confederation. We have thus been greatly disappointed at the non-arrival of the steamer *Liberia*, now several days overdue. As we cannot now have letters by her until Monday, the 22nd, at the very time of making up our columns for April, we must necessarily defer all observations on their contents until our next number, how important soever they may be. Our friends at Cape Coast may however feel assured that we shall not be sleeping over their interests; or over those great questions which involve the necessary measures for promoting the social amelioration and material development of the territories of the protectorate and their people.

COMPANY OF AFRICAN MERCHANTS.

At the moment of going to press we receive a report of the annual meeting of the Company of African Merchants. As we were greatly concerned in the formation of this Company in 1863, it is one in which we have never ceased to take a great interest; and we regret that we are not able this month to enter fully on the subject of their report. We were, of course, fully aware that they as well as other merchants trading to the Oil Rivers had made very heavy losses, owing to stoppages of trade, to the extravagant prices for oil ruling in the said rivers, low prices of oil here, and other causes. Their losses do, indeed, seem to have been very heavy. But we are happy to see that this has not in any way diminished the confidence of their highly respectable body of shareholders. These have determined to put in more capital to carry on the enterprise with vigour, and thus to wait patiently for the time, which they know must sooner or later come, when they will reap the reward of their persistence. We see, by a hasty glance at the report (which we think the Company would have done well to have published *in extenso* in our columns), that it was strongly urged at the meeting, that if the reckless competition which has existed of late be continued, and the same high prices be paid for oil, the smaller houses, not having, as the Company of African Merchants have, a large amount of capital to fall back upon, must necessarily be forced out of the trade, which would then assume its old course. We think it right to allude thus briefly to this important point, because if, as we have been informed, some of those traders in the rivers had been hoping that the Company of African Merchants would have to abandon the trade, through their shareholders becoming tired of the enterprise, it is well they should know that there is no chance whatever that this will happen; the shareholders having quietly written off their losses, supplied new capital, and expressed an almost unanimous determination never to be driven out of the field. We will, if possible, allude more fully to the subject in our next number.

THE REPRESENTATION OF LIBERIA IN LONDON.

ONE advantage at least, if we are rightly informed, is to accrue from the substitution of Mr. Roberts in lieu of the late unfortunate Mr. Roye as President of Liberia. The ridiculous farce of representation of Liberia, which began with the retirement of the venerable Gerard Ralston from the post of Consul-General, which he had held from the very infancy of the Republic with so much advantage to it, is to be brought to a close. There are to be no more so-called *Chargés d'Affaires*; in fact, President Roberts affirms that there never was one, the appointment of Mr. David Chinnery by the late President Roye never having received confirmation by the Senate, without which it was no nomination at all. We do not know how far this denial of "excellent dignity" to the leading negotiator of the unhappily celebrated Liberian loan may invalidate the so-called bonds of the Republic, which the foolish subscribers have received in return for their money; especially as we are not informed whether the appointment of Consul-General required a similar confirmation and had received it. We should almost suppose it did require it, as, until Mr.

Chinnery's attempt at "Excellency," Consul-General was the highest foreign diplomatic appointment held under the Republic. And so it is to be in the future, we believe, until Liberia shall attain more weight in the scale of nations than she can boast of at present. We always entertained the belief that Mr. Roberts was a man of too much good sense to tolerate that public breakfast, dinner, supper, ball system of representation which was inaugurated with a view to the loan contract, last August, and which must bring discredit if not loss to the Republic. We understand that the Consul-generalship has been offered to Mr. Jackson, the present Consul, who procured an injunction from the Court of Chancery some time ago restraining the London bankers in possession of a portion of the loan money from parting with the same upon the order of Mr. Chinnery. Mr. Jackson certainly thus rendered a service which deserved recognition; and we are glad to hear that he is likely to accept the offer of President Roberts. In the present condition of the Republic there is of course no salary or allowance of any kind attached to the office of Consul-General; the revenues not being sufficient for paying the salaries of the most indispensable public functionaries at home. We hope, however, that this consideration will not prevent Mr. Jackson from accepting the Consul-generalship if, as we are informed is the case, he possesses those qualities which the possible duties of the office demand in him who holds it; and which Mr. Gerard Ralston formerly possessed in so eminent a degree.

THE BANK OF WEST AFRICA.

The Bank of West Africa! Such, we are informed, is the title of a projected bank, for which an Ordinance of Incorporation has been obtained from the Legislative Council at Sierra Leone. So badly had we been served by our friends in Sierra Leone in this matter, that the first intimation of such a banking project having passed through the preliminary Sierra Leone stage, was made casually to us in London on the 17th inst. We felt immediately that it was a matter which, in the interest of the people of West Africa, and of those connected with trade and commerce there, would demand our close attention. Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., of Manchester, were named to us as the organizers of the project, demanders of the Incorporation Ordinance at Sierra Leone, and now of the approval of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, without which the project must fall to the ground. But this, with even a little more which we shall presently mention, was not by any means that full information which, in justice to the parties concerned, and at the same time to the West African interests and people we ought to be possessed of. It seemed to us that the proper course was to write to Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co. for that full information which, as it was no doubt a honest project, they would only be too happy to bring fully under public notice, through the medium of our journal. We regret to have to state that this idea of ours, as to their readiness to give information, was not a correct one; and that we were doomed to disappointment and mystification. We have no secrets, and can have no secrets in this matter. It is essentially one of such vast and vital importance for good or evil to the West African countries and their peoples, and to all connected by trade and commerce with that part of the world, that we have only one course to pursue, and that is thoroughly to ventilate it. Of course we can only do so at present to the extent of the partial information we possess; and if we fall into any error prejudicial to the project or the interests of the promoters of the bank, they can have only themselves to blame for it. This position is fully established by the following correspondence, which it becomes thus our duty to publish. Here it is:—

African Times Office, London, 121, Fleet-street, E.C.,
April 16, 1872.

* Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., Manchester.

Gentlemen,—I shall feel obliged by your having the kindness to forward me per return of post copy of the Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone for the establishment of a bank of deposit and issue at that place, with branches, &c. At

the same time, as I should regret being led into error from lack of proper information on so important a matter, which seems likely to be of interest to the whole coast, I should be glad if you will inform me on what basis the said bank will rest; what amount of capital is available for it, and whence derived; and who are the parties who are to manage it and direct its operations in Africa and in this country.

You will, I am sure, excuse my thus applying to you, as I am informed that the Ordinance was passed on the application of your Mr. Mills: and further because in the position in which I stand to the West Coast of Africa as Editor of the *African Times*, it is advisable that I should be fully informed before committing myself to the support or condemnation of such an institution as the proposed bank of deposit and issue for the West African Coast. As my paper will be finally arranged for the present month on Saturday next, I should be glad of your earliest possible reply.—Yours, &c.,

F. FITZGERALD,
Editor of the *African Times*,
Manchester, April 17, 1872.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of yours of yesterday, asking for information on the subject of the recent Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone, for the establishment of a banking institution at that settlement, and for a copy of such Ordinance.

We have been favoured by the promoters with a copy of the Ordinance referred to, but as yet we are not aware that the same has been legally confirmed, and until that is the case it would be undesirable to give any particulars beyond what are already known to the public.

You are misinformed as to the "Ordinance" in question having been granted or passed on the application of our Mr. Mills. He has had no part in the matter other than as a member of this firm.

We may inform you that the Ordinance is due to an application supported by a large number of influential houses having extensive trading interests on the coast.

We shall at all times be happy to afford you any information in our power relating to the West Coast.—We remain, Sir, yours very faithfully,

CHILD, MILLS, & CO.
F. Fitzgerald, Esq., Editor of the *African Times*, London.

African Times Office, London, 121, Fleet-street, E.C.
April 18, 1872.

Messrs. Child, Mills, & Co.

Gentlemen,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of 17th in reply to mine of the 16th re the projected West African Bank.

I beg to express my regret that you should have declined to give me "any particulars beyond what are already known to the public." I cannot understand why there should be any secrecy if the projected institution is one for the benefit of the West Coast of Africa, more especially as you say that the Ordinance is due to an application supported by a large number of influential houses having extensive trading interests on the Coast.—I remain, gentlemen, yours truly,

F. FITZGERALD,
Editor of the *African Times*.

We cannot help feeling that this is eminently unsatisfactory. We consider that as journalists of eleven years' standing, and as the only press guardian of West African interests, we were entitled to ask for the information we sought, and ought to have received it. Of course if the project has any weak points, dangerous to West African interests, that would be a cogent argument against our being furnished with it. We shall know whether this is the case when we become more fully acquainted with it through other channels of information. We have not yet had time to seek in these. It is now Saturday night, 20th April. Our April number must necessarily be arranged for press on the morning of Monday, the 22nd, for issue the 23rd. To allow a matter of this immense importance to stand over for another month is impossible. That would amount to a virtual abandonment of our duty. We must, therefore, proceed in our observations by the light of the partial information above alluded to. The Bank of West Africa is, if established, to be a bank of issue; that is, it will issue bank-notes payable to bearer on demand. What regulations are proposed to govern this action we can only know when we obtain possession of a copy of the Sierra Leone Ordinance. The peculiarities of the West African people, and of their trade, will have to be very seriously considered by the Secretary of State, with reference to this power thus demanded to issue bank-notes, under what is certain (take what precautions the authorities may) to be considered by the people at large as a Government guarantee. This is not the first time the question of bank-

ing in West Africa, and the issue there of bank-notes payable to bearer on demand, has come before us for consideration. The late Mr. Rosenbush, of Sierra Leone, opened a bank; was ready to receive deposits with or without interest; and issued bank-notes payable to bearer on demand. We do not know to what extent the people availed themselves of the accommodation thus offered, or what amount of circulation the notes obtained. We never interfered in the matter. It was a private operation depending upon the credit Mr. Rosenbush might enjoy among the Sierra Leone people. It was open to Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., as African traders, to adopt a similar course. We should not, nor would any one else, have interfered with them in it. But when they seek an Ordinance of Incorporation, thus identifying the Government with their proceedings in the eyes of the people of Africa, while the Government will really be in no way responsible, the position and our duty are altogether changed. Without any evil intention on the part of the promoters of the bank thus established, the African people may become deplorable victims of a dangerous delusion. Mere legitimate banking operations, as understood in England, will not support a bank of deposit and issue in West Africa. Whether such be the intention of its founders and directors or not, the bank will be forced, by the necessities of its position, into such connexion with trading operations as may prove largely unsuccessful, and involve it in ruin, to the loss of depositaries and noteholders, and the grievous injury of West African interests generally. Our convictions and feelings are very strong and decided on this point; because we foresee the possibility of any error committed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in this matter leading to most serious results, which we are sure he could not observe, whether in or out of office, without great pain and sorrow. Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co. have declined to proceed in the modest course entered upon by the late Mr. Rosenbush; they demand incorporation for the bank which they project, and in so doing assume a public position, which takes from them the immunity they would otherwise possess as African traders. They place themselves before the public for examination and criticism. The first question which necessarily presents itself is, do these people possess and offer such guarantees as the Government, the public, and their guardians have a right to look for in an operation such as they contemplate? There are three classes of guarantee which force themselves upon us in such cases as this. These are, known or reputed wealth; a long-established high position as traders; the possession of sound judgment and great discretion. We say nothing as to character for honour and probity, which, of course, are indispensable, in addition to the above. Without intending any disrespect to Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., we feel it to be our duty to say that they do not possess either of the two first-named qualifications. They are doubtless very honourable, upright men; but they are not men of known or reputed wealth; nor can a house which has existed only some two, we believe at most three years, enjoy a long-established high position as traders. We are thrown back, therefore, on the third class of qualification—viz., sound judgment and great discretion. Have they previously established a reputation for, or given evidence in the present instance of such judgment and discretion? We cannot say so. We have heard them spoken of as bold and adventurous; qualities which may possibly in the West African trade lead hereafter, under favouring circumstances, to great commercial eminence; but we have never heard them praised for sound judgment and great discretion. And what evidence have they given of the possession of such guarantee, in the preparation of the project which has forced us thus to allude to them? Does it shine forth in their arrangements for carrying on this important business of banking on which they now seek to enter? Our information, as we have before remarked, is very limited, much more limited than it ought to be; but it extends thus far. The promoters are Mr. Child, Mr. Hornby, and Mr. Mills, the three partners of the firm of Child, Mills, and Co. These, with other persons who may join, are to form the Corporation; and they, Mr. Child, Mr.

Hornby, and Mr. Mills, as promoters and first members of the Corporation, appoint the Directors. These Directors, we are informed, are to be not less than three nor more than seven. And who are the three they have nominated in the Ordinance? We are informed that the three are Mr. Child, Mr. Hornby, and Mr. Harris—that is, two of themselves and an agent or partner, acting for or with them, at Sherbro, in Africa. Mr. Harris has been very long known to most of the persons connected with the trade of West Africa; and in a matter of this importance we must be allowed to say that whatever merit he may have as a trader in the eyes of Messrs. Child, Hornby, and Mills, he has not established that sort of reputation on the coast that should have induced, or would have justified, persons of sound judgment and great discretion to nominate him as a Director until the end of 1875, possibly one of a body of only three directors; since the bank, if we are rightly informed, need not necessarily have more than three. It is not our fault that we are thus compelled, *prima facie*, to pronounce against the Ordinance of Incorporation, which the Legislative Assembly of Sierra Leone has hastily enacted, and which now lies before the Secretary of State for the Colonies for approval. We think we have at least shown cause, even with the imperfect information we possess, why the Secretary of State should pause and take counsel with others than the said promoters, as to the propriety of confirming the said Ordinance. We must confess that whenever a bank of deposit and issue at Sierra Leone may become indispensable, we should expect far higher qualifications in a directorate, and far more solid guarantees than appear in the present application to the Colonial-office. It must be borne in mind also that this may be but the prelude to applications for an Ordinance to the Legislative Councils of Cape Coast, Lagos, and the Gambia, for similar powers of issue of notes payable to bearer on demand. It may be urged in reply that the question of sufficient guarantees being given by the three nominated directors, is rather one for those who may be induced to become shareholders in this projected Bank of West Africa, with a capital of 200,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares, of 10*l.* each (liable, however, to the extent of 20*l.* each share). We do not view it in this light. We have nothing to do with the protection of shareholders who choose to go blindfold into investments. We have had an instance of late how uninformed people may be gulled and netted. Our *exposé* of the Liberian Loan did not prevent some people from going into that extraordinary investment. What we have to do with is, the people of West Africa, their interest and welfare, and a healthy condition of trade on their coast; and so far as we are able to judge at present these seem to us to be menaced with great and serious danger by the project of which we have been treating. It is possible that our opinions may undergo a change whenever we shall have the Ordinance before us, and be enabled to examine it in all its details. This we shall no doubt (D.V.) be able to do before our May number is issued. But we do not think any restriction in the Ordinance, or any other consideration, could overcome the objections we have urged as regards the directorate, &c.; and—at least until we see reason to change our opinion as above expressed—we feel it our duty to urge respectfully on the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies not to give his sanction to any such Ordinance; at least until after very full and exhaustive inquiry. We observe that Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co. inform us that "the Ordinance is due to an application supported by a large number of influential houses having extensive trading interests on the Coast." It seems strange that we never heard of it. We must, of course, see who these houses are; and have at least the hope that the Secretary of State will furnish us with the information which is thus hinted at. We shall be able to judge what weight ought to be given to their support of such a project. At all events this is not a matter which can be carried through in the dark; although it seems to us to have been so supposed, when a copy of the Ordinance was refused to us by Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co. We shall find out, sooner or later, what influences were brought to bear upon the Sierra Leone Legislative Council to induce them to pass such an Ordinance. It is well known that

our opinion of that Council is not at all a high one. There is one member of it, however, who possesses an acute and solid judgment; and a most intimate knowledge of West Coast affairs. Was Mr. Heddle, although absent, consulted by any of his colleagues in the Council relative to this Ordinance, or to another about which we hear something, of a subsidised line of steamers between Sierra Leone, Sherbro, and the Gambia, proposed to be organised also by Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co.?

CAPTAIN GLOVER v. LAGOS, ABEOKUTA, AND PORTO NOVO.

HAPPILY for us we are not too proud to learn. We never dispute the evidence of facts when they are forced upon us. Some years ago we do not hesitate to confess that we doubted the wisdom of the Colonial-office regulation limiting the number of years during which a governor or administrator could be allowed to remain in charge of any one particular colony or settlement. Our reason might be found in our disbelief that every man whom it might please the Colonial-office, for any one of the many considerations which influence there, to select for these offices must necessarily be a heaven-born ruler. We thought, therefore, that after a few years experience a man would be better qualified to rule the colony or settlement placed under his charge than he was at the outset. And so he doubtless would be, were not the value of that increased knowledge outweighed by the evils too frequently gaining strength while it is being obtained. Pride and vanity are not unfrequently more opposed than even inexperience to beneficial rule. Captain Glover has shown us that the regulation of the Colonial-office above alluded to is a sound one, by the evils that have attended the setting it aside in his case. He has not gained wisdom by experience; his pride and vanity, which never registered very low in the barometrical tube of human character and passions, have dangerously increased, and prevented him from profiting by the lessons of the past. He seems to think that Lagos was created for him, instead of his being merely nominated to a temporary connexion with it. In no other way can we account for his present conduct. He set out with a desire to annex Porto Novo, to humble Abeokuta, and establish a claim to as much territory as possible on the mainland in the direction of that town. Although the British Government disapproved the intended annexation of Porto Novo, we have seen that of late he has allowed an address to be promoted by his creatures, and signed and presented to him at Lagos, asking him to annex that place; and he has made threatening demonstrations, by his armed steamer, his Houssa troops, and the firing of guns and rockets, against that place. Although his open antagonism with Abeokuta produced so much commercial ruin at Lagos in 1865-7, and without doubt had achieved no good whatever, we have seen him at a later time in the affair "Tui" venturing in the same direction; subjecting thereby many of the merchants and traders in Lagos to great loss and inconvenience, without any beneficial public object to be thereby attained. And now, again, in the most unjustifiable, because unnecessary, "prohibition of export of arms ordinance," by irritating and insulting messages to the authorities of Abeokuta; and by permitting that same ill-omened "Tui" to recommence his manoeuvres for creating troubles with the Egbas at Iseri, he has proved his unfitness for the post he occupies, because he prefers to listen to the pernicious dictates of his vanity, pride, and hatred, instead of to the voice of the important commercial interests of Lagos. The greatest and most valuable commercial relations of Lagos are with the Egbas, whose chief town is Lagos, and with Port Novo and its neighbourhood; yet has he persistently surrounded himself with the bitterest enemies of the Egbas. It has always been a saying in Lagos that a sure path to his favour and patronage is to show hatred to the Egbas; so fond is he of seeing his own passion and prejudice reflected in those around him. This is again becoming a very serious matter. The yearly commerce of Lagos with Europe, and principally with England, counts by hundreds of thousands of pounds; and with all due respect to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for

the Colonies, it is our duty to affirm and reaffirm, that it is a scandalous abuse of power for the Colonial-office to allow a trade and commerce so important to be made the sport of an insane hatred of the Egba people—a morbid vanity that craves for constant flattery from unworthy sycophants—a pride that seeks for gratification even at the expense of ruin to those whose interests it is his especial duty to watch over, to guard, and to promote. It is, perhaps, ungrateful in us to write thus of one who has lately paid us a very high compliment. We felt it to be our duty, during the month of December last, to bring Captain Glover and the course he was then pursuing at Lagos, to the great disturbance of the public mind, under the special notice of Earl Kimberley. The correspondence appears in our January number. In reply to our representation relative to the "prohibition of the export of arms ordinance," his lordship informed us that the said ordinance was passed by the Lagos Council in pursuance of his lordship's instructions. Copies of these letters, it would seem, were sent off to Lagos by the Colonial-office, and Captain Glover did us the honour to print them and placard them in Lagos (at the public expense, of course), and even to send copies of them to some of our best known friends, thus anticipating the publication of them in the *African Times* (vide letter, p. 119). It would have been difficult for the Administrator of Lagos to have given a more convincing proof of the importance, in his estimation, of our intervention in Lagos affairs. We for a long time abstained from any such intervention, except to praise Captain Glover for certain sanitary and other measures calculated to improve Lagos. We knew but too well, from occasional indications, that the old disease was still in the Administrator's mind, and that the long enjoyment of uncontrolled power in Lagos was making him imperious and arbitrary. It was only, however, when the said disease came once more to a head, and even some of his most devoted admirers were filled with alarm and apprehension, that we felt it to be an imperative duty on our part to interfere; and that interference, we believe, will not be without fruit—aye, and good fruit too. Captain Glover's policy, or rather impolicy, dangerous and full of the elements of destruction, will not bear the official and public scrutiny to which we are subjecting it. The strong light of truth which we direct upon it will show it in all its criminal error; for such administrative errors are criminal. There cannot be any such secrecy in the political relations of Lagos with the adjoining countries—a commercial emporium, with its sale and supply markets—that a grave complication, justifying such measures as we have referred to the consideration of Earl Kimberley should exist without the merchants and traders of Lagos knowing all about it. So far as our information extends—and its sources are many and reliable—no merchant or trader at Lagos whose opinion is worth a moment's regard, can find any complication to justify them. If it exists, therefore, it must be that it is the creation of the Governor's own mind, or has been created expressly for his mind by the wretched flatterers who surround him, and have fastened themselves by his favour, like birds of prey, upon the revenues of Lagos. The propaganda of trade and civilization from Lagos must be an entirely pacific and conciliatory one, if it is to have any success; and such distribution in hot haste of 1,000 muskets, as is described in the letter above referred to, is neither pacific nor conciliatory; but, on the contrary, an insane, wasteful, and dangerous expenditure of Colonial revenue, that cannot be too strongly condemned. As we know, however, that our counsel has weight with the Egbas, we venture to express the hope that they will shame the intemperate folly of the Administrator of Lagos, by their wisdom and patience. They have only to wait a short time; and, in the natural course of events, a beneficial change will assuredly come—a change that will establish the peaceful relations of Lagos with all the interior countries, and, above all, with Abeokuta, upon a firm and sure foundation.

REV. ROBERT MOFFATT, THE AFRICAN MISSIONARY.—During Her Majesty's brief stay at Gosport, whilst en route to Windsor, the Rev. Robert Moffatt was presented to Her Majesty by Colonel Ponsonby, Equerry-in-Waiting.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MARCH 26, 1872.

THE SLAVE-TRADE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

MR. EASTWICK had a notice on the paper to ask the Under-Secretary of State for India whether the slave-trade had been suppressed in the Persian Gulf; and, if not, whether any vessels engaged in that trade had been captured there since 1864; and, if so, whether he would lay upon the table of the House the particulars of their capture and of the adjudication upon them. The hon. Member postponed the question to a future opportunity.

APRIL 12, 1872.

MR. EASTWICK asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any vessels carrying slaves had been captured in the Persian Gulf since the 1st of January, 1864, as no such captures appeared in the return dated 13th of June, 1870; and, if not, whether that was owing to the suppression of the trade in the Gulf.

LORD ENFIELD said that only three slave vessels had been captured in the Persian Gulf since Jan. 1, 1864, and these three were captured by Her Majesty's ship *Maggie* in June last. The fact of so few captures arose, not from the suppression of the trade, but from the circumstance that in the autumn, when slave ships were mostly engaged in this traffic, Her Majesty's ships were mostly engaged in watching the African ports or a point in the ocean which slavers had to pass.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

SLAVERY.

MR. T. HUGHES called attention to the incidents of the civil war in Cuba, in connexion with the question of slavery; and moved "that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty praying Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to urge upon the Spanish Government the fulfilment, without further delay, of those treaty obligations in respect to the slave population of Cuba which have been so long neglected." It might be said that matters of this kind did not now much interest the House of Commons, and that the country was tired of the expense of the West African Settlements, and of keeping up a squadron for the suppression of the slave-trade. If that were so, he should consider it a great misfortune, but he by no means believed such to be the case. He should not have approached the subject had not the hands of this country been clean in the matter. What was the opinion in Spain at the present moment? By the last papers he had had the opportunity of seeing he found that public meetings had been held in Barcelona, Leon, Salamanca, Badajoz, and Madrid, at which the Government had been called upon to carry out the principles of the Revolution of 1868 and to emancipate the slaves in the Spanish colonies. The popular feeling in Spain and in the Spanish colonies was in favour of emancipation. What was the state of things in Cuba at the beginning of the revolutionary war? The revolution which had had the effect of changing the dynasty broke out in September, 1868, and in the course of a few months a new government was formed, and on the 11th March, 1869, the Assembly of Cuba declared that slavery was abolished. The immediate effect of that declaration was the liberation of 100,000 slaves, of whom the Spanish Government took possession, and worked them for the benefit of that government, and the amount realised by them in 1871 was 15,000,000 reals. Early in April a proclamation was issued to the effect that every man above the age of fifteen, in the districts subject to the National Assembly, who might be found absent, should be summarily shot, and that the troops should burn all the unoccupied houses. He was not aware that any remonstrance had been made on the subject, but hoped that some notice of the matter had been taken by Her Majesty's Government. The real government of Cuba had now got into the hands of those Spaniards who were called Cuban Volunteers, who tyrannised over the whole population, and in December last a number of medical students were murdered at the Havannah. It appeared that the Volunteers met and asked the Captain-General to have all the students tried by court-martial, that forty-four of them were arrested, that eight of them were ordered to be shot, that thirty were sent to the chain gangs, and that on the following morning the sentence was carried out. The only reason for the escape of six other students was that they were connected either with English or American families. The defence of the Captain-General was that if he had not ordered the execution of the eight students the whole of the others would have been butchered by the Volunteers. When seventy-seven members of the Cortes in Madrid entreated the King to interfere in favour of the thirty students the King telegraphed to Cuba in order that they might at once be released, but the Captain-General declared that he dared not release them, because if he did so they would be murdered, and rivers of blood would flow. It had been said that the rebellion was almost at an end. But the fact that 30,000 troops were to be despatched to the island in the present year—

that in the island there were 59,000 rank and file, 60,000 Volunteers, and on the coast some fifty vessels carrying 205 guns—were sufficient to show that there was no great probability of the war ending very speedily. The loss of life among the Spaniards and Cubans had been frightful, and of 100,000 who had left Spain for Cuba 50,000 had died. With respect to the question of slavery, during the late rebellion a new form of slavery had been established in Cuba—the slavery of the Chinese. The rule was that they were to serve for eight years at the rate of 4½ dollars a month, but in December last an edict was issued altering the state of the Chinese in Cuba, and a second compulsory service of eight years was imposed on every Chinaman in the island, and on their refusing to agree to the terms of servitude they became the slaves and property of the Government. The new Captain-General had established the absolute slavery of every Chinaman now in Cuba. Two companies had been formed in Havannah for the special purpose of importing Chinese coolies into Cuba, and advertisements lately published by those companies in the Cuban journals showed that four vessels containing 1,900 of those unfortunate slaves were on their way to Cuba, and that 850 of them would be offered for sale by the one, and 950 by the other company. It might be asked, "Supposing all this to be true, what right has any other nation to interfere in the matter?" But certainly England had a right to interfere on two grounds. The first was that the Government of Spain were pouring Cuban refugees, who were utterly destitute, into our islands; sending them to Jamaica, for instance, and instructing the captains of the vessels that conveyed them to land them anywhere on the coast. But the second and strongest justification of our interference was afforded by the fact that Spain had bound herself by treaties with this country to put down the slave-trade in her colonies. Under a treaty made in 1817, we had paid 400,000*l.* as compensation for the loss they would suffer in the abolition of the slave-trade, and a second treaty was made in 1835, as the first was not found to work successfully, and in the second treaty the slave-trade was declared on the part of Spain to be henceforth entirely abandoned in all parts of the world. Of course those treaties did not apply to those negroes who, when the first treaty was made, were in captivity in Cuba, but they applied to every other negro who should be thereafter landed; and since then the number of negroes who had been imported into Cuba had increased at least five or six fold. It was quite clear, therefore, that the greater part of the black population now existing in Cuba had either been imported since 1820 or were the children of those who had been so imported. But the fact was that both the treaties had been neglected by the Spanish Government. Over and over again the late Lord Palmerston had applied to the Court of Spain peremptorily insisting on the fulfilment of these engagements, but the state of things had not been altered. The question then arose, what could Her Majesty's Government do in the case as it stood at present? It was said that Spain was almost in a state of revolution, and that it would be an act of unfriendliness to press our claims at the present time. But he felt that the time must come when such claims must be pressed, and he did not think that such a course would be an unfriendly act, or that it would at all imperil the throne of the young King Amadeo. On the contrary, it was his conviction the throne would be better secured by a pressure from our Government if it should lead to emancipation in Cuba. Other powers had already intervened to a certain extent in the matter, and the United States had made stern protests to the Government of Spain, and it therefore could not be an unfriendly thing to urge the young King of Spain to proclaim emancipation at once. He believed most sincerely that if emancipation were proclaimed, it would give by far the best chance of terminating the rebellion in Cuba without separating the island from the Spanish crown. He thought that our Government should press at once and firmly for the fulfilment of Spain's treaty obligations, that all negroes not native born who were now in the island of Cuba, and all the children of negroes who were not in the island in 1820, should be at once emancipated. The Spanish Government should also be urged to allow the appointment of our Consul-General, or some other competent person, as a Commissioner for the Chinese on the island, and he was certain that nothing but some such arrangement as that would put a stop to the new slave-trade from China, which had been in operation since the beginning of last year. The hon. and learned gentleman concluded by making the motion which he had placed upon the paper.

MR. GILFILLAN, in seconding the motion, expressed his belief that there was in the Foreign-office, and in this country generally, a strong desire to see slavery abolished and the engagements which Spain had entered into fulfilled, and he hoped the House would that night give authority to the Government to say to Spain, in terms that could not be misunderstood, "We are tired, after the sum of money we have paid you for the abolition of slavery, of seeing the present state of things going on, and we must press upon you the fulfilment of the engagement which you entered

into with us." We had a right to ask Spain to fulfil her contract with us if we could satisfy ourselves that the Cuban insurrection had grown out of the question of slavery. This insurrection was an anti-slavery movement, as was shown by the fact that slavery no longer existed in Cuba, except where the Spanish Government maintained its influence. (Hear, hear.) It would be a friendly act to urge the Spanish Government to abolish slavery. The rejection of the motion would not express the true feeling of the House, and he hoped the effect of this debate might be to stir up something of that old anti-slavery feeling which was one of the finest characteristics of our better nature. (Hear.)

MR. SERJEANT SIMON having a personal knowledge of Cuba, he was able to tell the House that for at least forty years the Cubans had held the government under which they had lived in detestation. The highest appointments in the island were given to men sent out from Spain, not so much to administer important functions as to enrich themselves. He knew an instance in one important city of a collector of revenue who had been three times dismissed for peculation, and as often reinstated by the influence of his family at home. It was a well-known fact that governors who went out to Cuba mere soldiers returned to Spain rich men covered with decorations. The strong desire of the Cubans for amelioration in the management of their affairs had widened and deepened, until at last they arrived at the conviction that they could only achieve liberty by the means to which they had lately had recourse. The leading men of a country must be expected to take part in a great national movement, and the unfortunate gentlemen described as living a luxurious life in New York had employed the only means open to them as exiles of protesting against the oppression of the military rule of Spain. He could never forget the hideous spectacles that he had seen in the prosecution of this horrible traffic. The cost of fitting out several vessels was comparatively small, and was likely to be recouped by the chances of escape. It was of great importance that this country should keep a sharp eye lest a similar trade should be brought into vigorous activity, or at all events to see that adequate protection was afforded against the infliction of cruelty. He repudiated the general doctrine of interference in the affairs of other nations, but in such an interference as this there was nothing which was opposed to the comity of nations, besides which this country and Spain had entered into treaty obligations on the subject.

MR. R. N. FOWLER wished to say that his honourable and gallant friend the Member for Hereford (Major Arbutnot) had been misunderstood in the observations he had made. He (Mr. R. N. Fowler) wished to express his thanks to his noble friend opposite for his production of the papers which had been moved for some weeks ago. He desired to direct attention to the great disparity of the sexes in the importations of Chinese into Cuba, the proportion being 34,025 males to 25 females. He did not wish to go into the state of things which existed at present in Cuba, but he hoped the result of this motion would be to strengthen the hands of the Government in using the power of England in putting an end to the lamentable condition of things at present existing.

SIR C. WINGFIELD regarded the conduct of the Spanish Government in this matter as inadequate and illusory. The system of "patronage" was still to continue, and the most stringent regulations were in danger of becoming inoperative when their execution was left to unwilling agents. As to the condition of the Chinese coolies in Cuba it seemed that they were absolutely sold on their arrival. Asiatic colonisation in Cuba bore a strong resemblance to perpetual slavery. With all deference to the right honourable Member for North Staffordshire (Sir C. Adderley) he (Sir C. Wingfield) entirely differed in opinion with him upon this question. Macao was the great centre of the emigration trade, but that emigration was voluntary in name only. Within the last few days they had had placed in their hands a correspondence which revealed fresh horrors in this species of traffic. Their rules might not be bad so far as they went, but they were not carried out in good faith, for Macao was deeply interested in the emigration trade. If the authorities desired that no coolies should be sent away without their own consent, why did they not dispense with the armed guard? (Hear, hear.) But the Portuguese Government expressed no horror, or even regret, at what had occurred, but made the allegation, which seemed rather impudent, that the trade carried on from Hong-Kong was quite as bad. It was difficult to imagine a more disrespectful reply to the remonstrances of the British Government. He would suggest to the noble lord the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Lord Enfield) to devise some measure, in conjunction with the American Government, for stopping this emigration. Very few of those who emigrated were allowed to return from Cuba, but those who did would recount the horrors through which they had passed. He hoped that the Government would take some more decisive steps against a government which had shown itself so indifferent to human suffering.

Lord ESFIELD expressed his sympathy in the spirit of the observations with which the hon. Member for Frome had brought forward this motion. But the question was really one of the fulfilment of treaty obligations. Disturbances in the Island of Cuba, having reference to this general question, had broken out so far back as 1823, and there had been a renewal of disturbances up to the present time; and although opinion was very much divided among the political factions which had sway in that country, there was unfortunately one feeling which united them all, and one determination which influenced their action, namely, that until the insurrection was suppressed they refused to carry out their treaty obligations to this country at all. Unpalatable as this was they must sympathise with the peculiarities of the position in which the Spanish Government was placed at the present moment. They would be only acting fairly if they kept in mind what was the exact state of the treaty obligations between Spain and this country. The principal treaty on which reliance was to be placed in any representation they might make to the Spanish Government was that of the 28th June, 1835. By that treaty the Spanish Government declared that thenceforth the slave-trade should be abolished in all parts of its dominions, that Spanish subjects should not be concerned in carrying out the traffic, and that the Spanish flag should not be employed in it. The treaty was designed for the effectual stopping of the African slave-trade, and for the better regulation of the captured negroes who might be taken out of the cruisers. But that treaty gave no right to this country to interfere with the status of slavery in the Spanish possessions. That should be borne in mind by the House. By that treaty this country obtained clear and definite stipulations that Spain should suppress the traffic, that the captured negroes should be humanely treated, and that they should be restored to their country. Spain, however, had complete liberty to say whether or not she would retain slavery throughout her possessions. It would only be right for him to say that the treaty obligations with Spain, so far as regarded the African slave-trade, had been fairly and honestly fulfilled. There was no authentic record of any slaves having been landed in the Spanish dominions during the last five years.

(To be concluded in our next number, together with some comments on this most unsatisfactory debate.)

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December 22, 1870.

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