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The African Times.

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

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

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

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AFRICAN AGENCY

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

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

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.

OCTOBER, 1872.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The splendid Steamship SENEGAL is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on OCTOBER 1, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th OCT., at 9 A.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar; 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 SEPT., and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to Noon on the 5th OCT. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 8.30 A.M. on the day of sailing. Steamer sails 9 A.M.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship ROQUELLE, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th OCT., at 9 A.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 8.30 A.M. on the day of sailing.

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

Bills of Lading of the Company's Form can be obtained from THOMAS MURRAY and SON, 91, Buchanan-street, Glasgow; and D. MARPLES, 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, LUGGHEAD, and Co., 24, Oswald-street; and in Liverpool, to ELDER, 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.

British and African S. N. Company's Roquette, August 26.
African S.S. Co.'s Lagos, with monthly mails, September 2.
African S.S. Co.'s Biafra, September 12.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Congo, September 12.
African S.S. Co.'s Boudan, from South-west Coast, Sept 18.

DEPARTURES.

African S.S. Co.'s Yoruba, August 24, with monthly mails.
African S.S. Co.'s Africa, August 30, with South Coast mails.
British and African S. N. Company's Bonny, September 6.
African S.S. Company's Calabar, September 12.
British and African S. N. Company's Congo, September 18.
The Lagos will carry out the monthly mail, September 24.

PETITION FOR MEANS OF OBTAINING RELEASE FROM IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

To His Excellency W. H. Simpson, Administrator.

Bathurst Gaol, August 9, 1872.

Sir,—The humble petition of the undersigned sheweth—
1st. That your petitioners, are traders, and men of family from Sierra Leone, and of this place, trying to earn their honest labours in this settlement.

2nd. That your petitioners after years of successful labours to the great advantage of their creditors here, have latterly been exposed, through accidents and unavoidable circumstances, to the miserable lives of confinement in the gaol of Bathurst, there to remain until it shall please their creditors to release them.

3rd. Your petitioners are fully aware that they are suffering from the judgments of Her Majesty's Courts of Law, but they are also aware that the justice which is also provided by the same law, in cases of extreme oppression, will be granted them as a matter of right when their cases are made known.

4th. Your petitioners are men who have been honest with their creditors, but the series of wanton outrages perpetrated by bands of marauders in our places of trade, are the causes of our bad debts and shortcomings. As your Excellency has the petition of the several merchants at Bathurst of the 4th of June, 1872, your petitioners need not describe any of those glaring and unprecedented outrages in defiance of British authority.

5th. Your petitioners, finding that they are not in any position to compensate for the losses thus occasioned, have offered their services in many ways to their creditors, either working or with a grant of sufficient goods, and in time, will be able to meet the debts, or any other way in which they can satisfy their creditors; but your petitioners have been denied these opportunities, and consequently are now in confinement to satisfy the wishes of their creditors.

6th. Your petitioners will ask your Excellency to see the advantages our sister settlements have over us. They have Insolvent Courts, wherein one in such a state as we are can pass through and obtain his freedom, and then combat with the world, again to support his poor family, and not kept in confinement, whilst his family outside are undergoing the privations, of life, and may die from starvation. We ask, if that is the tendency of the legislators who frame the laws in England, or in our sister settlements; if not, why should we, your Excellency, be deprived of similar advantages? Are not the merchants here (comparatively speaking) doing a much more profitable trade than the merchants of Sierra Leone? If so, why should they be over-favoured at the cost of us poor people, who have to go through all the privations in the rivers with their goods? If the European merchants fail in business here, they have the advantages of passing through the Insolvent Court in England, and yet will return to these settlements, and re-open their businesses, with no debts; notwithstanding this, they will oppose our having the Insolvent Courts here, as they have hitherto done.

We really beg and entreat your Excellency to lay this matter before His Excellency Pope Hennessy, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, with such comments as your Excellency may think proper; and we trust that your exertions in favour of justice, and for the good of poor Africans, will ever remain in the memory of us poor oppressed creatures.

Your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

We have the honour to be your Excellency's most obedient and humble servants,

(Signed),

JOHN D. THOMPSON, JOSEPH B. COLE, ISAAC J. KING,
JOSEPH D. SMYTH, RENNY TURNY, CHARLES
GOW, JATIRE NGIE.

THE PROTECTOR OF STRANGERS, ALIAS ASSISTANT INTERPRETER AT SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Freetown, August 14, 1872.

Sir,—I have read a communication in your issue of last month signed "Vox Populi," and I beg to request that you would be pleased to insert in your valuable columns the following, for general information: I concur with "Vox Populi" as to the misapplication of public money referred to in his communication.

1. That the person appointed to this office is truly unfit for the post, and that the salary of 100*l.* per annum which has been estimated for him is an unnecessary waste of public money. It is true, Mr. Editor, that a Protector of Strangers and Assistant Interpreter should understand some of the native languages by which we are surrounded, but the person appointed to hold this responsible office is not a right man in the right place.

2. That Mr. Lawson is the proper man for this work no one in Sierra Leone can deny, and if the Executive cannot add this in conjunction with his office, another, and a competent person,

should be appointed. We all see that whenever Mr. Lawson is absent, and the Court sits, the Protector of Strangers, alias Assistant Interpreter, can do nothing. On several occasions the Court had to employ an Interpreter and pay him out of the Colonial Fund when the so-called Assistant Interpreter is in Court. Truly the public is against this error. They do not blame the Government for making this appointment, but the person appointed to hold the office is unfit for it. The Assistant Interpreter should be always present at the Police-court for actual duties; I don't see what he is doing to satisfy the public. Mr. Grant is always the Interpreter at the Police-court, and draws pay for performing this duty. I don't think that the people of Sierra Leone will be satisfied until this error is rectified. How this man manages to become an Assistant Interpreter, Heaven only knows! No one can be looked upon as a carpenter who knows not how to handle a saw or a jack-plane. If the Assistant Interpreter desires to show himself competent, let him come forward at the next sitting of the Supreme Court and prove himself a man.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EASY WATER.

SIERRA LEONE.

ORDINANCE No. 12.—AUGUST 7, 1872.

House and Land Tax Repeal Ordinance, 1872.

Whereas it is expedient to repeal the law at present in force for raising a tax on lands, houses, tenements, and other buildings within the settlement,—

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, as follows:—

1. The Ordinance dated the 8th day of August, 1854, and intitled "An Ordinance to Amend the Law for raising a Tax on Lands and Houses within the Colony of Sierra Leone," shall be, and is hereby repealed, and no proceedings shall be had, taken, or enforced after the passing of this Ordinance against any defaulters in payment of any tax now due under the said Ordinance.

ORDINANCE No. 13.—AUGUST 17, 1872.

An Ordinance to Amend the Customs Duties.

The substance of this Ordinance (matters of form of procedure, &c., excepted) will be found in the Table of Old and New Tariffs, &c., p. 31.

ORDINANCE No. 14.—AUGUST 17, 1872.

The Harbour Dues Ordinance.

This Ordinance (which, if possible, we will publish in *extenso* in our next number) regulates the light, tonnage, and harbour dues, as under:—

LIGHT DUES.—Entering or leaving, for each and every voyage, 3d. the ton register.

TONNAGE DUES.—Immediately on bulk being broken, 6d. per ton register. A vessel may remain four days (if no cargo landed or taken on board without being subject to these tonnage dues). Colonial vessels to be subject to the light and tonnage dues only once a year.

HARBOUR DUES, per tonnage register.

Vessels 30 tons, and under 50 tons, the sum of £0	7	6
" 50 "	80	" 0 12 6
" 80 "	100	" 0 17 6
" 100 "	150	" 1 0 0
" 150 "	200	" 1 10 0
" 200 "	250	" 2 0 0
" 250 "	300	" 2 5 0
" 300 "	350	" 2 10 0
" 350 and upwards "		" 3 0 0

The Wharfage Dues payable from date of this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE No. 15.—AUGUST 19, 1872.

Whereas by an Ordinance dated 18th September, 1827, and intitled "An Act requiring all Masters of Ships and Vessels to give security in the Secretary's Office, and to provide against the fraudulent absconding of Debtors," it is provided that the master of every vessel trading within this settlement shall give security in the sum of 300*l.*, and that no person shall be carried therefrom on board his vessel without being first furnished with a passport from the Colonial Secretary:

And whereas such a provision has become a hindrance to commerce, and it is expedient to repeal the same—

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, as follows:—

1. The Ordinance passed at a Council held the eighteenth day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven as aforesaid, and intitled "An Act requiring all Masters of Ships and Vessels to give security in the Secretary's Office, and to provide against the fraudulent absconding of Debtors," shall be, and is hereby repealed so far as it applies to this settlement.

SIERRA LEONE.

OLD AND NEW TABLE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TONNAGE DUES, ETC.
"Table of duties upon goods, wares, and merchandise imported or brought into the Colony, and landed or transhipped therein, either for consumption within the Colony, or for the purpose of being carried up the Sierra Leone River for any use or purpose whatsoever."—*Sierra Leone Ordinance, No. 55, July 12, 1853.*

	Tariff of 1853.	Aug. 17, 1872.
Ale and Beer, per gallon	£0 0 6	£0 0 6
Ditto, in bottles, per dozen	0 1 0	0 1 0
Bacon and Hams, per cwt.	0 5 0	free
Beef and Pork, ditto.	0 5 0	free
Bread and Biscuits, ditto	0 2 6	free
Bricks, per 1,000	0 5 0	free
Brandy, per gallon	0 1 6	0 2 0
Butter, per cwt.	0 8 0	free
Candles (not tallow), ditto	0 9 0	free
Clocks (under 20 <i>s.</i> value each)	0 5 0	free
Ditto (above 20 <i>s.</i> value)	0 10 0	free
Cheese, per cwt.	0 5 0	free
Cigars, per 1,000	0 8 0	2 <i>s.</i> per lb.
Cordials, per gallon	0 1 6	0 2 0
Fish, dried, per cwt.	0 1 0	free
Ditto, pickled, per barrel	0 2 0	free
Herrings, smoked, per box.	0 0 3	free
Horses, each	1 0 0	free
Flour, wheat, per barrel	0 5 0	free
Ditto, other than wheat, ditto	0 2 0	free
Geneva, per gallon	0 1 6	0 2 0
Gunpowder, per barrel	0 0 9	0 2 0
Iron Bars, per cwt.	0 1 6	free
Ditto Hoops, ditto	0 1 6	free
Ditto Pots, ditto	0 2 0	free
Lard.	0 5 0	free
Nails	0 2 6	free
Pitch and Tar.	0 1 0	free
Rum, per gallon	0 1 6	0 2 0
Sausages, Tongues, and other Meats, dried, salted, or cured, per cwt.	0 8 0	free
Soap, ditto.	0 2 6	free
Slates, or Tiles, per 1,000	0 6 0	free
Sugar, refined, per cwt.	0 10 0	free
Ditto, crushed, ditto.	0 8 3	free
Ditto, Muscavado, ditto.	0 6 0	free
Tea, per lb.	0 0 3	free
Tobacco, ditto.	0 0 1½	0 0 4
Whiskey and other Spirits, per gallon	0 1 6	0 2 0
Wine, ditto	0 1 0	0 1 6
Claret, ditto	0 1 0	0 0 6
Wood—viz:—		
Masts and Spars in the average diameter, per inch.	0 0 2	free
Pitch Pine, per 1,000 feet	0 7 6	free
White Pine, ditto.	0 5 0	free
Shooks, each	0 1 0	free
Shingles, Cypress, per 1,000	0 2 0	free
Ditto, Boston or Pyne	0 1 0	free
Staves and Heading	0 5 0	free
Upon all other goods, not included in the foregoing list, for every 100 <i>l.</i> of the value	4 0 0	free
Tonnage Dues:—		
Upon every ship entering or leaving port, for each and every voyage, per ton of burthen	0 1 6	0 0 6

N.B.—*Wharfage dues abolished. Harbour and light dues unchanged. Market dues abolished. Ground nuts, export duty put on, 3d. per bushel from Jan. 1, 1873.*

SHAMEFUL SLAVE-BUYING AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, August 25, 1872.

Sir,—A fearful crime is being carried on daily in our streets here. Creepee, and its adjoining countries (so noted for its fine cotton and peaceful, industrious inhabitants), have been almost desolated by those wretched Ashantees. The grand secret of these fearful calamities is, that the Ashantees should obtain young children from the age of five to ten to sell in the streets of Cape Coast, Annamaboe, Accra, and other places where the British flag is flying. In Cape Coast alone, during the last twelve months, at least 300 young creatures have been sold as slaves. I have just been talking to one, a child about five years old. She says: "They killed my father in the fight; my mother

died because she was too old to walk all the way to Canassie" (i.e., too sick), "so they (the Ashantees) killed her; and my little sister was quite a little baby, so they killed it also, and threw it in the bush." I asked the poor little thing if they did so with all the babies; she told me, "Yes, plenty were killed that same day my sister was killed, and all were thrown in the bush, by the roadside." All that could not walk all the way were killed, and the secret is (as I have above said) in that Cape Coast and other British ports on the Gold Coast supply a ready market to purchase these forlorn creatures. If there were no buyers, there would be no kidnapping, no homes rendered desolate, no murdering of innocent, helpless children, and sick and decrepid parents. Are the English officials doing their duty? Are they not actually finding the money wherewith their concubines purchase slaves? I can put my hand upon at least two officials of high position here who gave their concubines money on purpose to purchase slaves. One of them sat as Justice of the Peace a few weeks after, and sent another black woman to gaol for doing just what he aided substantially his concubine to do! Are such men worthy representatives of Great Britain? You have denounced this shameful thing some time ago. Persevere, I beseech you, that it may be put an end to. Such buying of slaves ought to be punished as a great felony. We may not interfere with domestic slavery here; but surely we may prohibit Ashantees catching our own people at a great distance and selling them in these coast towns to the concubines of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace and others. If Earl Kimberley wants to be told that this is false, let him refer to the inculpatated gentlemen. If he wants to know the truth, I, your correspondent, will prove what I now say. Cape Coast is one vast slave mart; so is Annamaboe, Accra, and all the towns situated on the Gold Coast under the rule of Great Britain; and, I repeat, this curse is fostered by British officials, simply because they don't choose to put it down, and one or two of them encourage it, as I above state and can prove.

Creepee, the fertile cotton country, is now a vast wilderness. Ashantees destroy its aged, sick, and helpless inhabitants, and take the bone and sinew of the place and sell them as slaves, not to Cuba, but to the concubines of officials and others in Her Majesty's settlements.—Yours truly,

THE FANTI CONFEDERATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 24, 1872.

Sir,—On a perusal of our clever local journal of the 31st July last and its Supplement, one's attention is forcibly drawn to the remarks on the Fanti Confederation made in them, and the impression made on one's mind is that it is utterly impossible to effect anything in the shape of improvement in the country, in any way whatsoever, by and through such a medium at present.

Everybody has a right to form his own opinions, and to give expression to them in a fitting way if he thinks proper, but in so doing he must be prepared to meet with counter-arguments, and must be likewise ready to take as he gives.

It is true that men of the stamp of the writers of these articles cannot be picked up here in any numbers, but it is also true that there are men who are sufficiently (in)sane to believe that a Government conducted on the principles of the proposed Fanti Confederation can be managed without a revenue of half a million, and who know that one-twentieth of that sum will suffice for all intents and purposes. (By the way, it would be an exceedingly interesting psychological question to enter into, to ascertain in how far the inveterate or inherent qualities of exaggeration bordering on mendacity is nearly allied to insanity; and whether a person knowingly giving utterance to an exaggeration or a falsehood may not at that time have been labouring under an hallucination, or mental delusion, very nearly akin to, if not, insanity in one of its most interesting phases. Pray, Mr. Editor, could you enlighten us in any way on this subject?) Of course, if the leading members of the Confederation expect salaries such as the Viceroy of India and the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland are paid, then it will require a revenue of not half a million, but half a million times half a million. But if they will be contented with modest salaries for the time being, then there is no tangible reason why the Confederation should not be able to govern the interior of the country, and to make substantial improvements, for the same amount as the Colonial Government has hitherto been able to govern the whole of the Protectorate, or for a sum considerably less. But then, Mr. Editor, I am an (in)sane man, and cannot pretend to the wisdom of the wise men of the East.

Every question has two sides to it, and as we have been, so to speak, challenged on this question, we trust no one will be affronted at the calm and dispassionate manner in which we intend arguing the question, and the means we shall use in endeavouring to support our scheme and the position we have taken up.

We cannot expect to have perfect plain-sailing in the matter of the Confederation; on the contrary, we anticipate, and are convinced, that we shall have a great deal to contend against, what with the perfidy of *friends*, the machinations of enemies, and the thousand-and-one other obstacles that will be placed in our way; yet we are sufficiently "insane" to feel within ourselves that we shall overcome all stumbling-blocks, if a fair trial is given us. When pique and other like feelings are brought to bear by individuals on matters of primary public importance, and there is a settled determination to do all that can be done to thwart the undertaking, then there can be no fear but that "any scheme will end otherwise than in a premature collapse."

I can state authoritatively that King Anfoo Otoo did not leave Mankessim in disgust, and further, that King Eddoo has not been elected King of Fanti; but that votes were taken as to the election of a King-President of the Confederation, in the event of the Confederation being recognised by the British Government, and Eddoo obtained the majority of votes of those present. Had anything beyond this occurred, it would have been immediately communicated to the proper quarters. The election was anticipatory, but not *de facto*.

The annexed list of kings and chiefs of Fanti who gave in their adherence to the Confederation, and signed the Constitution on the 17th instant, at Mankessim, will, we trust, be sufficient and ample refutation of the various "reports" circulated, without foundation, through various mediums. It will be perceived, on inspection, that this list contains names not attached to the Constitution forwarded to the Colonial Secretary. The original, with the additional signatures, is in our possession, and can be inspected by persons having any doubts herein.

We must solicit the public, through your Journal, not to be easily led away by reports having the semblance of authenticity, till they have heard from other sources the amount of credence to be placed in such rumours, especially where it is readily discernible that hyperbolizing is a second nature at the fountain-head of such news.

I must close this with a promise of more by next opportunity. —I am, Sir, yours truly,

AN INSANE MAN.
List of Kings and Chiefs who gave in their adherence to the Fanti Confederation, and who subscribed to the Constitution, at Mankessim, on the 17th day of August, 1872.

Coffee Ackinney, King of Aikoonlee; Quasie Jandor, King of Gomorrah; Quamin Mooquah, King of Adjumacoe; Chief Arkonkoo of Adjumacoe; Quamin Hammah, ex-King of Adjumacoe; Quabina Orkill, King of Gomorrah Assin (by his representatives, Quacoe Assabil and Wm. J. Fletcher; Chief Sagoo of Adoomadie; Chief Yaikoo of Srafah; Chief Daddie Coomah of Tantum; Chief Yambooh of Aherah; Chief Aisang of Nareor; Chief Woomah of Aidoomafah; Chief Ekwie of Assarfah; Chief Aisarcoc of Aikoonlee Ghananoomah; Chief Assimah of Aicochie; Chief Darbuannoo of Aisam; Chief Seckurry of Gomorrah Assin; Chief Chief Foyow of Attakie Gomorrah; Chief Bentill Coomah of Gomorrah Autehardjie; Chief Baine of Gomorrah Broffoo; Chief Arpo of Ehoosh; Chief Borbor Awoosi of Dagoo; Chief Cowee of Mumford; Chief Acquarfool of Appam; Chief Issu of Sainyah; Chief Assal of Fetteh; Chief Attahkarerah of Yanyarnoo; Chief Buarmah of Assarsau; Chief Egwah of Ampish-Bdjumacoe; Chief Yarnkoo of Ayintaim; Chief Attah of Aintobell; Chief Aisikee of Orkisso; Chief Hamah of Barng; Chief Ayeeah of Ahmiah; Chief Indooarocoo of Appiah; Chief Aisaih of Aicrofull; Chief Andainoo of Quow Petty; Chief Barng of Busardie; Chief Mensah, also of Busardie; Chief Baffoo of Cromaim; Chief Koon of Maadoo; Chief Autchah of Adansie.

Certified a true copy. J. H. BREW.

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE," OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1872.

DOWNING-STREET, SEPTEMBER 12, 1872.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint Colonel Robert William Harley, C.B., to be Administrator of the Government of Her Majesty's Settlement on the Gold Coast, on the Western Coast of Africa. Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Herbert Taylor Usher, Esq., C.M.G., to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Tobago.

THE HONOURABLE GEORGE BLANKSON'S BANKRUPTCY.—We are authorized to state, and we do so with great pleasure, because of the long and honourable career of this gentleman (whose son died a short time ago, one of the victims of Mr. Acting Administrator Salmon's persecutions in the matter of the Fanti Confederation), that judgment was delivered by Mr. Chief Magistrate Chalmers, on the 26th August, in the Court House, at Cape Coast. The Hon. George Blankson was honourably acquitted of all the charges brought against him by Mr. Selby, the agent of Messrs. Forster and Smith, at Cape Coast. Mr. Blankson is stated to have paid to that firm, during his business with them, the large sum of 273,000*l*. Mr. Chalmers's judgment was an able and exhaustive one, and occupied two hours in delivery.

ROADS AND MARKETS TO BE OPENED VERY SOON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, August 15, 1872.

Sir,—Permit me a very small space in your valuable Journal, to inform you of the safe arrival of the messengers who went on a mission to the Egbas, commissioned by his Excellency John Hope Hennessy. Their messages from the Egbas are considered as the last to the roads being re-opened, and they are expected to return back next week (n.v.). We hope that our present Administrator, aided by the advice and suggestions of the mercantile body, will give them a suitable reply, which will tend to the re-opening of the roads. We have learnt from reliable sources that the Egbas and Ijebus are ready for the opening of trade, and we are only waiting for the messengers with satisfactory results. Mr. J. A. Payne, the messenger for Ijebu, has gone already, and we hope soon to hear from him. Many thanks are due to these gentlemen (the messengers)—viz., Thomas E. Buckley, Benjamin Savage, and Isaac C. Cole—who have been endeavouring their very best to see about the opening of the roads. I shall write you fully when the roads are opened. Trade is very dull.—I am, Mr. Editor, your humble and faithful servant,

OLO RUN JU WON LOE.

COMPLAINT OF DISCHARGED CONSTABLES AT LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, August 14, 1872.

Sir,—Allow us to occupy a few lines in your valuable paper. Sometime in the month of July last, there was a great change which took place in this settlement, which took us by surprise—that is, nearly fifty or more constables were discharged from the small number we had. Formerly we had above 100 men, in three divisions; but this was not enough, because of thieves hankering in the town night and day. The worst is, they discharge all civilized men—that is, Creoles; those who can read and write; they are men who can take a message without an interpreter. But the natives, who do not know their right hand from their left, are chosen to be full corporals and lance corporals, and are promoted, whether good or bad. This was done by the two deceiving gentlemen in the force who have been got rid of. One of them always took fees from the natives—I mean from those whom he promoted. But the civilized men will not give fees, consequently they will not be promoted. We know well that the time is fast approaching when the whole force will be filled with civilized men. Mr. Editor, is it possible that these poor constables will have to suffer for the unnecessary debts which Capt. Glover incurred in Lagos purposely to invade Abeokuta and Ijebu? Men who have been in the force six or seven years, were turned out without any cause through Capt. Glover's debt. If such be the case, let things be done decently and in order. Why not lessen the officials' pay—those who receive their hundreds per year? They are the men who always attend to croquet, and enjoy all sweetmeats and drinkables. These should help to pay Glover's debts, but not those poor constables who only receive 1*s*. per day, while it always takes them three or four months before they get their one month's pay. Mr. Editor, Lagos is still confused, and will be so until we have an experienced man to be Governor.—We are, yours, CONSTABLES.

P.S.—Mr. Editor, we shall be much thankful if you will insert this letter in your paper, for we are in great distress.

THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA.

The following extract from the letter of a Cuban officer, dated 15th July, will give our readers some idea of the present state of the insurrection in Cuba:—

"The head-quarters of General Perez are in the centre of a mountainous country, embracing about 120 square miles, which would almost seem to have been intended by nature to form a vast and powerful stronghold. This tract of country is held by some 20,000 men, mostly armed with breech-loading rifles, under the command of General Perez, who, while speaking of his strategic points there, told me that in the course of eight months the Spaniards had attacked him eleven times, and as many times had been easily driven back with heavy losses, the last occasion being the morning of the day of my arrival at his head-quarters. He added that the aggregate loss sustained by the enemy in consequence of the attacks referred to was from 700 to 800 men killed and wounded, while there was comparatively little loss on the side of the Cubans. This account may seem exaggerated in the eyes of persons unacquainted with the nature of the ground, but I see no reason to doubt that it is correct, having myself seen the hardy Cubans, rifle in hand, springing from rock to rock, or leaping across steep ravines, where the enemy, as they remarked to me, was utterly helpless to engage them successfully. The patriots are so strongly posted on the mountain fastnesses of Eastern Cuba that they can well afford to defy the whole power of Spain to

conquer them, and therefore any assaults made upon them there must end as those mentioned have done. They are extremely self-reliant and confident of success. Hence they are at all times desirous of engaging the enemy, and the more so as they expect to thereby increase their stock of arms and ammunition, which expectation is warranted by the fact that fully one-half of the breech-loaders in their possession have been taken by them in their encounters with the Spaniards. Whites and blacks mingle together in perfect harmony, nearly one-third of the force under General Perez being composed of sturdy negroes. The officers are white, with the exception of several coloured men who have distinguished themselves and been promoted from the ranks. Most of the negroes in arms are native Cubans, the remainder being Africans. They vie with each other in hatred of the Spaniards, and this, coupled with their bravery, renders them dreadful foes in the field against the persistent enslavers of the black man. Brigadier-General Perez is under Major-General Maximo Gomez, commanding in Eastern Cuba. The latter has under his immediate command over 3,000 men well armed, and as the former is at the head of 2,000, the aggregate Cuban force in that department exceeds 5,000. Moreover, General Gomez keeps quartered within his lines some 2,000 unarmed men from Central Cuba, where the patriots, severally commanded by Generals Vicente, Garcia, Carrido, Modesto, Diaz, Ignacio Agramante, and other officers, are very active and numerous, but not so strongly situated as their compatriots of Eastern Cuba. This comparative weakness of the centre arises chiefly from the want of sufficient war material, but a good supply of such material was expected to arrive soon at the department of General Gomez. The men unfit for military service on the field are detailed by General Perez for agricultural labour on the land cleared for cultivation within his command. Of such land I saw nearly forty plots of from twenty to thirty-three acres each, teeming with wholesome vegetables of various kinds. The marvellous fertility of Cuba, even on her mountains, keeps in store for the struggling patriots other vegetables which they have found to grow wild there, in the shape of farinaceous roots, to which they have recourse whenever cultivated vegetables become scarce with them. They also devour the jute, or Indian rate, which being twice as large, and almost as good food, as the hare, and very abundant throughout the mountains, has taken the place of beef and pork; cattle and swine in Eastern Cuba having been partly slaughtered and partly driven away since the war broke out. Their substitute for lard is cocoa-nut oil, there being within easy reach thousands upon thousands of cocoa-nut trees, from which the ripe fruit drops abundantly. It can be gathered by tens of thousands, not only for oil, but also for milk, which is manufactured from the snow-white meat of that generous fruit, as another substitute for cow's milk. Of the last substitute I may say that while at the head-quarters of General Perez, I drank several times milk mixed with coffee, and found it as palatable as cow's milk. The patriots being in one of the best coffee-growing regions in the world, that article, together with other family groceries, reaches them occasionally from the neighbouring plantations, and even from Spanish camps themselves. But generally they have to manufacture their own sugar from the cane which they can get from abandoned sugar estates. From the leaves of the yarey tree and inner fibres of the majagua tree's bark, they make cloth for their own dress, which wears well, as the majagua fibres are comparatively tough, and from the jute's hide tanned by them they make shoes, which also wear tolerably well. They have a gunsmith's shop, and another shop where hundreds of thousands of percussion-caps have been satisfactorily manufactured. But as even the grossest negro in the ranks of General Perez dislikes muzzle-loading fire-arms, and these could be fully replaced with breech-loaders wrested from the enemy if the corresponding ammunition were at hand, they had early in view the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of metallic cartridges in their mountain fastnesses. Such is the state of affairs with the struggling Cubans, according to what I saw during my stay at the head-quarters of General Perez, and what I was told by himself and officers as regards other quarters in 'Free Cuba.' There whites and blacks are terribly in earnest; their motto is 'Liberty or death!' And this is the reason why they endure all the hardships of the savage war waged upon them, and without a murmur continue to struggle, now ragged or naked, now barefooted or with bleeding feet; for

"The love of liberty with life is given,
And life itself the inferior gift of Heaven."

THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT BUXTON CHAPEL, SIERRA LEONE.—A religious service was held in Buxton Chapel (Wesleyan), Sierra Leone, on 22nd August, "in connection with the great relief, resulting from the recent legislation introduced by his Excellency, Governor Pope Hennessy, C.M.G., regarding the taxation and tariff arrangements of this settlement."

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER S.S. ROQUELLE, ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL, AUGUST 27.

Captain Darling, Old Calabar; Captain Bannerman, Bonny; M. Jean Maria Poochard, Lagos; Mr. and Mrs. Auer and servant, Cape Palmas; Mrs. Ware and Master Gibson, Cape Palmas; Captain McKellar, Monrovia; Mr. W. Deans, Monrovia; Mr. W. H. Randall, Sierra Leone; Mr. J. Shaw, Sierra Leone; and three steerage passengers, Monrovia.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP "LAGOS," ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL, SEPT. 8.

Miss Victoria Davies, Lagos; Mr. R. T. Goldsworthy, Lagos; Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Lagos; Mr. H. F. Mills, Lagos; Captain Shippard, Cape Coast Castle; Mr. J. M. Turner, Monrovia; Captain Forbes, Sierra Leone; Mr. Carter, Sierra Leone; Mr. J. Price, Sierra Leone; Mr. Buhot, Sierra Leone; Mr. B. Tamer, Bathurst; Mr. W. Goddard, Bathurst; Mrs. Mills, Madeira; William Rittrey (2nd cabin), Madeira; and Candido Feneira, Madeira.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER S.S. CONGO, ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL, SEPTEMBER 12.

Mr. A. Reece, E. W. McCall, Mr. T. Hilliard, Mr. R. H. Woodward, Mr. F. Palliser, and one deck passenger from Bonny. Mr. J. Hunter and Mr. J. Gabrielle from Lagos. Mr. L. Lyon from Cape Coast Castle.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

AUGUST 17 TO 24.

BENIN-SEED.—100 bags, 53*s*. 6*d*. to 54*s*. per quarter.
GROUND-NUTS.—368 bags at 14*l*. 10*s*. per ton.
PALM-KERNELS.—200 bags and 80 tons, at 12*l*. 5*s*. to 12*l*. 10*s*. per ton.
PALM-OIL.—Owing to large arrivals, rather lower prices have been accepted; 650 tons sold; irregular at 29*l*. 10*s*. to 35*l*. 15*s*.; Bonny at 36*l*.; Accra at 36*l*. 5*s*.; Old Calabar at 36*l*. 10*s*. to 36*l*. 5*s*.; Benin at 37*l*. to 36*l*. 15*s*.; New Calabar at 41*l*. to 40*l*. 15*s*.; and Brass at 42*l*. per ton.
COTTON.—Market, weak and variable; and last week's quotations barely supported.
Sales of week, 60,000 bales.
Price, as last week.

AUGUST 24 TO 31.

GROUND-NUTS.—30 bags Curacao at 9*l*. 10*s*.
PALM-KERNELS.—10 tons at 12*l*. 5*s*.
PALM-OIL.—Prices are somewhat easier; 1,230 tons sold on the spot and to arrive; irregular at 30*l*. to 35*l*.; Bonny at 36*l*. to 35*l*. 15*s*.; and 35*l*. 10*s*. to arrive; Pram-Pram at 36*l*.; Old Calabar at 36*l*. 5*s*. to 36*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.; Benin at 37*l*.; Brass at 41*l*.; and Nun River at 41*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*. per ton.
COTTON.—Market quiet throughout.
Sales of the week, 75,000 bales.
Price, Lagos quality, 7*d*. to 8*d*.

AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 7.

PALM-KERNELS.—130 bags at 12*l*. 5*s*. per ton.
PALM-OIL.—Very steady; 600 tons sold; irregular at 31*l*. to 35*l*. 15*s*.; Bonny at 33*l*. 15*s*. to 36*l*.; Cameroons at 36*l*.; Old Calabar at 36*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.; and 36*l*. 5*s*. to arrive; and Brass at 41*l*. per ton.

COTTON.—Better demand, with slightly advanced prices.

Sales of the week, 105,000 bales.

Price of African (Lagos) quality, 7*d*. to 8*d*.

SEPTEMBER 14 TO 21.

PALM-KERNELS.—50 tons, at 12*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*. per ton.
PALM OIL.—The supply has been only moderate, and prices have advanced 10*s*. per ton in all positions for most descriptions; sales, 900 tons, including Bonny at 36*l*. 5*s*. to 36*l*. 15*s*.; Old Calabar at 36*l*. 10*s*. to 37*l*.; Lagos at 37*l*. 5*s*. to 37*l*. 10*s*.; Nun River at 39*l*. 10*s*.; all faults, New Calabar at 40*l*. 10*s*.; Brass 41*l*.; and Irregular at 29*l*. to 37*l*. per ton.

COTTON.—The market continually depressed throughout the week. Sales of the week, 68,640 bales; prices, 1*s*. 8*d*. under last week.

A STRIKE IN THE POTTERIES.—A fortnight since, the china saucer-makers at Longton demanded an immediate advance of fifty per cent. in wages. The masters said they were willing to give a reasonable advance at Martinmas, when the trade year closes. The workmen, however, persisted in their demand, whereupon the masters all stopped work in the clay departments, and 4,000 hands were locked out. These locked-out operatives have issued a very vigorous protest against the saucer-makers, denouncing their demands as unjust and altogether unreasonable. The body whose conduct has led to the lock-out cannot number 200. Martinmas is looked forward to with great anxiety.

The African Times.

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The African Times.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1872.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

T. J. Sanger, 5s.; E. J. Scotland, 5s.; W. Z. Neville, 5s.; Matilda Swada, 5s.

THE LATE FISCAL CHANGES ON THE WEST COAST.

THERE has been joy in Sierra Leone. Our columns are too much occupied to allow of our doing justice to the fiscal changes introduced on the West Coast by Governor Pope Hennessey. We publish in this number the text of two, and a synopsis of other two ordinances passed last month at Sierra Leone. They could not be other than very pleasing to us, seeing that we have long since denounced the house and land tax, now happily repealed, and shown how indispensable it was that the oppressive tonnage duties should be reduced; while to throw the whole burden of revenue—to which, we presume, they are equal—on articles that are mainly deleterious and demoralizing, instead of aids to civilization, is a change that gladdens our heart. We purpose (D.V.) to enter fully on the grateful subject in our next. Meanwhile, we tender our thanks to Earl Kimberley and Mr. Knatchbull Huggesson and to Governor Pope Hennessey; and must at the same time express the hope that the poor and wretched who have been relieved by the repeal of the iniquitous house tax will not have forgotten that Mr. Rainy was with us in denouncing it, and demanding that it should be either equalised or abolished.

LAGOS AFFAIRS.

We cannot say what may be the news now on its way to England from Lagos. We cannot defer the preparations for our paper until the day of its publication, and are therefore under the necessity of commenting on what is known to us at the time we write. We hope, and have reason to believe, that before our present number goes to press, we shall have received the long desired intelligence of the difficulties with Egbas, Jebus, and others being all removed; and of the long desolate markets of Lagos overflowing with produce. We have not any such news at present; but what we have, affords additional proof of the heavy responsibility that rests upon all concerned in the Government of a trading British settlement or colony, when they, through ignorance or malice, pursue a course which is calculated to bring on a commercial paralysis. By inexcusable ignorance on the part of a Secretary of State, and the very wantonness of official evil on the part of an Administrator, the trade and commerce of Lagos was arrested in its course on the 18th of March last. The authorities of the native interior countries from which Lagos draws its commercial supplies, had been goaded by repeated and incessant insults and wrongs, into a condition of mind which led them to refuse all further trading intercourse, until the official author of those insults and wrongs should be removed from the office which gave him power thus to outrage them and their people. At the first glance it would have seemed as if trade would be immediately resumed, from the moment such removal were made, and the obnoxious measures repealed and abolished; and we must confess that, although our knowledge of African thought and action is derived from the varied experience of many years, we fell into the error of believing that such would be the case in this instance. We thought the Egba authorities and the King of Jebu, knowing as they did that the grievances of which they had so much reason to complain were the unhealthy spawn of

one diseased official mind alone—that the quarrel really was between them and the late Administrator of Lagos only, and not really between them and Great Britain, would have hastened to show their satisfaction at the removal of their official enemy from his post and power, and have at once set free the fettered hands of commerce. It has not been so. Captain Glover was sent away from Lagos by Mr. Pope Hennessey, on the 15th June—and all obnoxious decrees, irritating and injurious to the Egbas and others, were at the same time repealed; but yet, up to the 6th August at least, the Egbas and Jebus had not removed their interdict on trade. The venom was still rankling in the veins of those who had been stung, and a sense of offended dignity prevented the due consideration of the evils resulting to their own subjects and territories, as well as to Lagos and its traders, from the prohibition to export that produce on which the wealth and progress of both the one and the other depend. Lagos and its native traders and merchants especially have been thus doomed to a prolonged continuance of those evils to which we briefly alluded in our last; and in the paralysis of all available means for paying debts and obligations, the law—British law—has handed the unfortunate fish to the greedy cormorants who are ever ready to seek their unjust gains among the necessities of their fellow-men. British officials spear the fish—British magistrates net them—and British cormorants devour them. We feel it to be our duty, therefore, to repeat the protest we made in our last, against the uninterrupted action of commercial law, through British legal authorities and tribunals, at periods when the British governing power has chosen for its own ends, or in its own ignorance or wickedness, to cut off from the trading masses of the community, those means by and through which alone they could be enabled to meet their commercial engagements. During the perturbation caused by the late French and German war—during the siege of Paris, and the reign of the Commune, and for some time after, no creditor was allowed to put the machinery of law at work in France, for the enforcement of civil contracts, to despoil and ruin his fellow-citizen. And thus it ought to have been in Lagos during this suspension of trade, which resulted entirely from acts of Government, and not from any acts or errors of individual traders, or from any cause which any one individual of the trading community, or the whole body of them combined, could suspend or control. They did what they could by remonstrance, by petition, by communication to the Home authorities, and through the *African Times*; and having done this, they are none of them morally, however they may be made legally, responsible for the results against which they petitioned and remonstrated. We do not need any spirit to come from the other world to tell us that these remarks of ours will not produce the effects they ought to produce. The duty of a public writer is not limited by the extent of his power to procure the justice to which he may establish a claim. It is his duty to hold aloft the lamp of truth, and leave the results of his so doing to others. It is at least a consolation to victims, if the light thus diffused, shall enable every observer to see that the wheels which are crushing the poor victims of commercial misgovernment, are official ones; that they have not voluntarily thrown themselves under them with suicidal intent, but have been thrust under them by an erring Secretary of State, and the malicious wantonness of official power in his delegate, to whom the victim was bound to yield unresistingly. The light thus diffused may, and often does, serve also to prevent the recurrence of errors and wickedness of a similar kind, and thus gradually helps on changes which conduce to an enlarged general security against the errors and aberration of constituted authorities.

The latest news from Lagos shows the situation unchanged for the better, and therefore, necessarily, much changed for the worse; the elements of evil among traders unable to trade were continuously at work. Greed and oppression and wrong were being successfully employed by the crafty and the strong, to ruin and despoil the weak; aided as they were by the ever-ready action of the legal tribunals; which, as we have before observed, administers

the civil law in all its stringency between man and man, as if there had not been any disturbing cause thrown into the before prospering island by the British authorities. It cannot be wondered at that, under such circumstances, men otherwise devotedly attached to Great Britain, begin to detest both British authority and British institutions; and more especially the oppressive operations of British laws. If to be cursed by a community can make a man happy, ex-Governor Glover must be in the enjoyment of a high degree of felicity. Curses loud and deep are sent after him by the labourer and the trader, from the foodless hovel and the deserted store. We do not know what may be the intention of the authorities at the Colonial office; but we know that at Lagos it will be felt as if insult were added to injury, should he be gazetted to another Colonial Governorship. All his previous good deeds are obliterated from men's despairing minds, as they see month after month go by, and the flow of produce for commerce arrested through his most wicked and unjustifiable official proceedings, still unresumed, still ruinously stopped. A large number of vessels, which had been sent out for produce, were reported as still on demurrage, and charterers who had their vessels to load, and their engagements in England to meet, were competing at ruinous prices for the small supplies of produce coming in from Porto Novo; prices that must leave them a loss eventually of 30 to 40 per cent.; the only advantage derived by them through such ruinous transactions, instead of at once sending away the vessels in ballast, being that they get something home to meet the pressing demands in England. When the last steamers left, the trade had been stopped *five months and two or three days*. The losses of the commercial and trading classes generally, in and connected with Lagos, must have been very large; and all through Earl Kimberley's error, and the wicked advantage taken of it by Administrator Glover, for carrying out his peculiar views and predilections in favour of Mahometanism; and gratifying that rooted dislike of the Egbas and other neighbouring native peoples, which had been distinguishing marks of his rule from the very outset of his administration. We are informed by our correspondents that there could not be a doubt of the regular course of trade being resumed about the 30th August. We hope this may prove to have been correct; but we had almost equally positive assurances for the 30th June, the 15th and 31st July, and the 12th August. Meanwhile we ask, once more, who is to compensate the victims of official ignorance, error, and perversity, for the heavy losses which they, without fault on their part, have unavoidably sustained? Crushed victims under the heavy wheels of the misguided official car—alas! for them there is, we fear, no possible redress. They have been smitten down and mutilated by irresponsible authority, which has neither a heart to feel, an eye to pity, nor a hand to relieve.

LEGAL RELEASE FROM DEBT AT BATHURST.

THE success and opulence of the European merchants at the Gambia, and the very slow progress made by that colony in general, whether as regards wealth or civilization, have often been subject of remark among people connected with the West Coast of Africa. These, no doubt, had their influence also in determining those schemes of cession to France, which were well-nigh successful a couple of years ago; and would, we believe, have quite succeeded, but for our determined and unrelenting opposition. Since that danger was got rid of, we have heard but little of the settlement. Africans are not proverbial for gratitude; and though the merchants were glad to avail themselves of the *African Times* when they were in danger of being transferred to France, or compelled to leave without compensation, our Journal never stood high in their favour. We are not, therefore, surprised that they did not forward to us a copy of their petition to the Secretary of State of the 4th June last, in which they set forth their grievances, as being subject to increasing native outrages up the River, in contemptuous defiance of British authority. For some time past, "The Gambia," or "Bathurst," has scarcely been seen in our columns. But at last a cry comes to us

from it; not from merchants trembling on the verge of transfer to France, but from small native traders held prisoners by these merchants in gaol for debt, and dreading a life-long incarceration at their hands. We do not wonder at this cry; our only wonder is that we have heard so little of it until now. There seems to be no form of legal release from debt in the British Settlements on the Gambia. The British laws for release, by insolvency and bankruptcy, have been extended by ordinance to the other West Coast Settlements; but Bathurst, it would seem, remains under the old British laws, by which a man may be held a prisoner for debt, until his creditor wearies of his burden, or death comes in to the rescue. We think we have heard that one at least of those Gambia merchants who have managed to retain this hard oppressive power in their hands for so long a time, has been more than once indebted to the more humane legislation of Great Britain at home for release from debts and obligations he had not the power to discharge. But like the man in the parable, to whom a huge debt had been remitted, this does not seem to have softened his heart, or the hearts of his fellow-merchants on Gambian soil, towards the poor man who owed to him or them a paltry fifty pence. They shut him up in a hopeless captivity. He is their slave, their bondsman; and the law, as administered in the Gambia, British law, allows them to hold him, body and soul, in thrall, if it so please them, unto his life's end. Surely this cannot be any longer allowed, now that publicity is given to it in our columns. What is sauce for the goose, says the old proverb, is sauce for the gander; and the petitioners in Bathurst Gaol, whose petition to Mr. W. H. Simpson, the Administrator of the Settlement, we have inserted (p. 30), are fully alive to this important culinary truth, which has a moral application also. They say, with great reason, "If the European merchants fail in business here, they have the advantage of passing through the Insolvent Courts in England, and yet will return to these settlements, and re-open their business with no debts; notwithstanding which, they will oppose our having the Insolvent Courts here as they have hitherto done." Now this is to the point; no equity lawyer could have put the case stronger, or have shown it more clearly to be one of oppression. We cannot for one moment believe that Earl Kimberley will turn a deaf ear to such a telling argument. His lordship may be misled into a fatal error (as in the case of the Lagos ordinance for "promulgating the export of arms, &c."), that may bring misery and ruin to hundreds of before flourishing homes; but we do not believe that he will allow a system any longer to exist in a British settlement by which A. or B., a merchant, may come to England, and be whitewashed from twenty, or thirty, or forty thousand pounds of debt, and then go back to Bathurst, and shut up in gaol for long, long years, a man who may owe him twenty or fifty or a hundred pounds. The thing is monstrous. And the petitioners in Bathurst Gaol show how they have come under duress. They say, "We are men who have been honest with our creditors, but have been the victims of outrages perpetrated by bands of marauders in our places of trade, and to these our bad debts and shortcomings are owing." A brief statement of the way in which trade is carried on in the Gambia will explain this. A., B., C., D., E., F., G., are merchants at Bathurst. They have large stores, and import goods from England and elsewhere. These goods they deliver from time to time to native traders, who establish themselves one or two hundred miles up the river, to barter these goods there for wax, ground nuts, &c., which they deliver, at the end of the season, at his store in Bathurst, to the merchant who supplied the goods. There are great risks in the trade thus carried on at places beyond British jurisdiction, or effective British protection; and to compensate for these, the merchants, as is well understood, debit the trader with goods, and credit him with produce, at prices which scarcely ever allow him a surplus more than sufficient for his bare subsistence, and that of his family. When the natives become troublesome and daring up the river, as they most likely now are, since the troops and gunboat have been withdrawn by Her Majesty's Government from Bathurst and the river, those

poor hard-working traders, who go forth year by year with their lives in their hands, while the employing merchant lives *en prince* at Bathurst or in Europe, are exposed to plunder—are, no doubt, plundered—come down with produce not equal in value, at the merchants' receiving price, to the value of the goods he furnished them with at his delivering price; the balance is against them—disputes arise; the trader, perhaps, complains of prices, or talks of trying another factory, to see if he can do better with a new employer; and then the tipstaff is incontinent upon him, and he finds himself a hopeless inmate of Bathurst Gaol. Now we do not hesitate to say, that while this power is retained by the Bathurst merchants, there is very little hope of advancement for the poor native trader. While he is shut up thus by a pitiless creditor—pitiless, at least, towards him—his family outside, as these men say in their petition, may die of starvation. All the other British settlements on the Coast have adopted the British laws for the release of debtors, when insolvent, from their debts. Why should it not be the same at Bathurst? There are but a few merchants; they are opulent; they feast and entertain needy officials; they do pretty well as they like, except when they happen to get hold of a Tartar like Admiral Patey; and they have, up to this time, prevented any law for relief or discharge of insolvent debtors being adopted and put in force at Bathurst. We do not believe that we shall call in vain upon Earl Kimberley to instruct the Administrator at Bathurst to have an ordinance passed immediately by his Legislative Council, for adopting the same British laws in the settlement, with regard to debts and debtors, that are in force at Sierra Leone, Cape Coast, and Lagos. This is not the age when any British Colonial Minister will sanction the shutting up a man hopelessly in prison, and leaving his wife and daughters at the mercy of his creditor. The thing would not bear five minutes' discussion in the House of Commons, and we do not doubt that, now attention is thus called to it in our columns, the remedy applied will be speedy and effective.

CAPE COAST—THE IMPERIAL AUTHORITIES THERE—AND THE FANTI CONFEDERATION.

It seems as if Red Tape had got hold of the important question of the Fanti Confederation. We hope it will not strangle it; with its manifold twisting and turning by the practised hands in the Colonial office. It is lamentable to see vital interests—all the hopes of progress of a large population—all the hopes of development of rich and extensive territories, played with, if we may allow ourselves the comparison, as a kitten will play with its ball of thread. It is now above ten months since the Constitution of the Confederation was discussed and settled at Mankessim, and brought down to Cape Coast to stir Mr. Acting Administrator Salmon to ungovernable fury; and lead him, Mr. Chalmers, and Colonel Foster into official and judicial excesses which will not be readily forgotten or forgiven by those whom they especially persecuted; and those who are bound up with them in the Federal pact throughout the Protectorate. It was on this ground that we have felt dissatisfied with the course pursued by the Governor-in-Chief in appointing Mr. Salmon to be Acting Administrator when Mr. Ussher left for England—in so entirely white-washing Mr. Chalmers, whose *entire* conduct during the last twelve months we defy Mr. Pope Hennessy, or any other official authority, to justify, whether aided or not by letters in the *African Times*; and in promoting Col. Foster Foster to greater authority and higher emoluments after the course pursued by him in the affair of Fynn, Fynn and Forson. The reports sent us by Mr. Salmon's lately imprisoned and persecuted "traitors," of interviews with the Governor-in-Chief, and of the Governor-in-Chief's utterances during those interviews, led us to believe that he would help forward the matter of the Fanti Confederation; that he disapproved of Mr. Salmon's illegal and arbitrary acts, and of Mr. Chalmers' and Colonel Foster's complicity therein; and that we were on the eve of an official purification, that would conciliate the wounded

feelings of the kings, chiefs, educated natives, and people in general; and confirm them in their old love and attachment to Great Britain. We have reason to believe every word that was written to us as to what passed at the interviews we have alluded to, and the official utterances there and then given. How, then, are we to account for what we have since seen of promotion, confirmation, &c.? Many of our correspondents, it is true, agree in attributing it to a certain religious, or rather Creed, influence. They say Mr. Pope Hennessy is a Roman Catholic, and Mr. Salmon, Mr. Chalmers, and Col. Foster Foster are all Roman Catholics; that there is an active Roman Propaganda down the Coast, and that therein is the whole secret. If this be true, it is not creditable to Mr. Pope Hennessy, of whom we have been inclined to think, so far, favourably. He was sent out, not for a Creed Propaganda, but for official inquiries; and to remedy evils that had been caused by official errors and misdoings. We are not, however, disposed to begin a campaign against Mr. Pope Hennessy on Creed grounds, as some of our correspondents desire. We are pleased to see in them so much zeal for Protestant doctrines and principles; but although no one can deplore more than we do, that under the present Government so large a Roman Catholic official element should have obtained appointments on the West Coast, and, as it would seem at Cape Coast, monopolized place and power under the Crown, still we are not disposed to import this element of Creed into our strictures on official men and things on the West Coast. We do not, and will not, condemn any servant of the Crown because of his creed. It is not his fault that he is an official on the Coast; but the fault—if there be fault—of the higher authorities at home, who have placed or sanctioned his being placed there. We look upon the introduction of the Roman form of worship, and Roman religious observances and practices, as a very great misfortune for the Africans of the West Coast; and deeply deplore that this element of disturbance should have come in to mar the work of the Church and Wesleyan Missions. But we cannot allow this question of Creed to be mixed up in any way with our work for the African people. Mr. Pope Hennessy seems to us to have done much good. He has, as most men do, committed errors; and faults also, if it be indeed true that considerations of Creed have warped, or overruled his judgment, as regards Messrs. Salmon, Chalmers, and Foster, and induced a favouritism that is injustice to the people of the Coast. But we await the publication of Mr. Pope Hennessy's despatches, which we shall get sooner or later, before condemning. We can the better afford to do this, because a new Administrator for Cape Coast has been gazetted, and will soon be at his post; while Mr. Pope Hennessy's mission as Governor-in-Chief *pro tem.* is drawing to its close, and the new Governor-in-Chief will also begin his reign at Sierra Leone. But what we cannot afford to do, in the interests of the Fanti countries, is to allow this question of the Fanti Confederation—its constitution, its settled action, and its revenues—to be shelved. We have waited patiently, and we still wait; because in a change of so great importance as that of authorising the kings and chiefs and educated natives combined to administer the affairs of the interior, govern and defend the country, carry on public works on which the future of the country depends, and organise a system of universal education for the people—all subject, of course, to the British authority as supreme—great care must necessarily be taken to prevent a clash of jurisdictions which could not be productive of good. But this does not excuse in our eyes the long delay that has taken place. With a good hearty will on the part of Earl Kimberley and Mr. Knatchbull Huggesson, we should not have had to wait twelve months for information as to whether the Government of the Unprotected Protected Territories is to be carried on as heretofore, with a perpetuation of all its abuses and its hideous shortcomings; or whether a spirit shall be allowed to enter the dry bones of a skeleton rule, and stir them to useful life and action. A nation is waiting to be born. At present there are only scattered bodies of peoples. By the Fanti Confederation, with its organization sanctioned, its consti-

tution approved, its action regulated and defined, and its revenues apportioned, and all its doings subject to the approval of the British Government, as sovereign protector, acting through a sympathetic, benevolent, and enlightened Administration at Cape Coast, we should soon hope to see the country entirely free from, and guaranteed by its own organization against, Ashanti aggression, and every other hostile disturbing influence; and civilization and Christianity making some real progress, to the certain large increase of production and commerce. Time, too, is precious. Whatever our philosophers and men of science may think of the matter—although, as predicted by the Apostle, they may say, "Do not all things remain as from the beginning?"—yet assuredly that wondrous end is approaching, when our LORD shall take upon Himself His great name and reign. And we, as Christians, desire, with all our heart's might, to see peoples prepared for His coming who have never yet even heard of Him by the outward ear, much less received Him into their heart. It is this which makes the present time at Cape Coast so deep a source of interest to us. It is this which causes us to wait with impatience for the decision of the Colonial office, and this which invests the appointment of a new Administrator to the Cape Coast with added importance in our eyes. We do not know anything of Colonel Harley. We have purposely forbore to make inquiries about him, because we would not have our mind and judgment in any degree biased. We shall soon see whether a wise, honest, benevolent Christian ruler is now given to the Cape Coast, or whether the profligate incompetency of the last ten or twelve years is to be continued, to the injury of the Fanti and other countries of the Protectorate, and the disgrace of Great Britain. And what we find we shall record, as hitherto, without fear or favour, with impartiality and truth.

INNOCENCY OF THE FANTI CONFEDERATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, December 11, 1871.

Sir,—Not understanding as yet what could be the reasons, or rather objections, to the formation of the Fanti Confederation, and my mind being still denied this knowledge by its opposers, I make no hesitation in imploring your usual kindness for a space in your next number for this my letter, to continue giving you the sentiments which pervaded the meetings we had at Mankessim respecting it, and also the course which they dictated.

II. In my last explanations I remarked what caused my coming out with those explanations—viz., to check, if possible, the misrepresentations the enemies of this Confederation make, and to invite the sympathies of its interested parties. I may as well now give you the reflections of those meetings on the bands of our connexion with the British Government, as there appears to have been no proper regulations formed out with the Fantis, or rather between them and the British Government, that the friends of the Confederation may know how to defend it.

III. In my line of duty there, and the majority of the members composing those meetings being illiterate, I kept a very close, watchful eye over their impulses, and wrote my communications without misrepresentation of their spirit. The following, then, will present just the aspects, which, if we had time, might have been brought before his Excellency the Administrator for discussion: 1. That the Fanti Confederation is to be placed under the protection and guidance of the British Government, and that there be a written document defining the manner and extent of the protection it can afford to give it. 2. That there may be no other person to represent the feelings of the Fantis in the council of the Governor but one approved of the Confederation or its federative diet. 3. That the periodical president and the plenipotentiaries of the states composing the Confederation being the real and proper representatives of the Fantis, all and every communication with the Confederation, or affecting it in any way, must be made through them only, and nobody else. 4. That the Confederation being represented by this body, the British Government should acknowledge them in the titles of president and representatives. 5. That for the encouragement of the Confederation and institution of self-reliance in the Fantis, the British Government, as protector and guide, should, on the occasion of their being presented, grandify the season as an acknowledgment. 6. That there may be no communication with the African enemies of the Confederation on any affairs affecting it without consultation with its diet. 7. That, so far as no oppression is exhibited toward any state or individual person, the

British Government guarantees every encouragement it can to assist the keeping order in the Confederation. 8. That matters being properly regulated between the British Government and the Confederation, the former may supply the latter with money out of the coast revenue when needed. 9. That the Confederation shall be allowed to lay certain duties on the exports, and a poll-tax also, should it become necessary. 10. That arrangement be made for the promotion of agriculture, &c.; that certain amount of money be advanced, on the security of the Confederation, to a body of people that may take up some industrial engagement, such as purchasers and sellers of corn, or some other vegetables, in the principal towns on the coast, or some other kind of engagement, to improve industry in the country. 11. That all expenses for improvement of the country, such as good roads and the like, shall be borne by the British Government, but the labour, such as may be understood by the natives, shall be entrusted to the care of the Confederation. 12. That there may be periodical meetings instituted, either six-monthly or so, in some appointed place, for mutual good understanding between the Administrator and the kings, &c., at which time subjects on the improvement of the country might be brought for discussion. Such, Mr. Editor, was the disposition intended, or to which the Fanti Confederation directed its course; but there was no chance given by the enemies of this patriotic work. Several reports were carried to the Governor, several misrepresentations were made; so much so, that ill-feelings were kindled against some of us, as being instigators; consequently, menaces of transportation were employed, and it required, Mr. Editor, such minds destitute of fear and unactuated by ill motives to have had to meddle with this work to this day. The kings, &c., were advised not to listen to the educated natives, who, to promote their own ends, are leading them to a point they are immature to attend it; but, as God would have it, it has stood somewhat to this day, still having lively enemies hard at work to suppress it.

IV. Appealing, then, to reason, Mr. Editor, I see no bitterness that could have been dictated by the impulse of that season, being told to fight our own battles; protection not extending beyond the reach of a cannon ball from the forts. Many indications of this nature being previously given, and the interchanges crowning everything, by the giving over to our enemies our brethren and allied tribes, one quite dead even would be aroused by this to seek his interest. Mr. Editor, observe, also, the care taken to show no disloyalty on this occasion, which is perceivable from the drift of the given accounts. The opinion had no deviation from the idea implanted in us, of training us for eventual self-government. And if our gracious Queen's Government has not waived this intention concerning us, I see, then, no reason why encouragement ought not to be given to a Confederation like what we have been trying to have established, especially when no intimation has been given us yet of this intention being changed. I beg, therefore, to say, that none but one unacquainted with the habits of the Fantis would disrecommend such association.

V. We are to wait for matured season, Mr. Editor; and to what period have we to look for this? (I must here beg to interrupt, with entreating pardon for this bold question, being governed by no spirit of arrogance, but heated only by that patriotic zeal to plead the interest of my country, which benefit, I believe, is a common privilege, and I embrace with profound respect and great humility, having no other end but that of seeing if it be the will of God, my country rise to a state of civilisation.) Can this season come without epochs, or can it be established in a country without the agency of that country's own sons? I feel rather puzzled on these points. I believe if this kind of Confederation were taken in hand, and freely guided by the agents of our gracious Queen's Government, with the feelings entertained in England for us poor benighted people, civilisation will be thriving rapidly in this country, to the joy of the bestower and receiver together—much more to the former, as there will be also reward for him in heaven. The season immature! Yes, it was season immature enough during the time of Sir Charles McCarthy to have had a Confederation like this in the country; yet he made a beginning by asking the kings, &c., to give their children to be educated. He went so far as to say that, "I want your children to become like me." It was a season dark enough even in late Governor M'Lean's time, but he undertook to lay foundation for this in his policy. Yes, a season dark enough to have taken the guidance of a Confederation like this, when there was not a fourth of the present knowledge amongst the natives. It was a season immature indeed, for this kind of Confederation, when no answer from England could be got to a communication during months together. But we are living in a different age now, and I think, if it be allowed to take its epochs, Christian England will never have to repent it. I am here reminded of a remark made at a missionary meeting in the Cape Coast Chapel, I believe few weeks previous to the interchange. The rev. gentleman said, "The

ther of a child grows weary and careless about it when that child delays walking at a season when it should." This is true enough; but here, a child at some good age is attempting to lift itself by holding the legs of the father, and not only is attempt made to keep it down, but menaces of transportation are employed; and how am I to understand the meaning of our parent, or rather the nurse? I do not think the position of our nurse here could be compared to anything better than a schoolmaster; if so, why is his course not adopted with us? A schoolmaster may be very strict, but not too severe; his experience would not dictate too severe a measure with his docile scholars; his greatest delight is in the improvement they make; and having his eyes invariably fixed on their advancement, does he not coolly guard them, and, by his experience of studies, bring them through the easiest course to attain higher and any particular branch of education? A course of this nature will, no doubt, guide our dimmed eyes to see the particular interest taken in our future usefulness. I do not suppose it to be a mean work on the part of a schoolmaster to call an assistant-teacher who may be seen guiding the scholars in a wrong course, and that the evil be pointed to him, and the right direction be given him for the better instruction of the others. But if menaces must be employed to disengage the enlightened sons of the country from the formation of a Confederation like this of Fanti, it would appear like the demand made to the Athenians for their orators, which Demosthenes applied to the fable of the wolves and dogs: "The wolves one day told the sheep, that in case they desired to be at peace with them, they must deliver up to them the dogs who were their guard." But Alexander had a different object to what our schoolmaster has towards us; he was seeking his own interest there, but our master is seeking ours, and not his; hence you see where I am puzzled.

VI. The scope of my letter, I trust, will explain my having no other intention more than that of humbly pleading the cause of my country; and, being a stranger to the language, if any of my expressions in any way appear leading to improper spirit, I humbly beg to say it is contrary to my meaning. What I want to be understood is, that the meetings we had at Mankessim, and their impulses, which resulted in the formation of this Confederation, were quite free from impure motives.

VII. I must, however, lastly say a word or two to my fellow educated Fantis. I cannot understand why some of you not only hold aloof, but appear as enemies to this work. Why, if you think your friends and brethren are manifesting a disloyal spirit, is it not your place to go and talk to them? If you are afraid to do it publicly, can't you see this or that person having hand in it and lay things before him? Instead of this, you show a good face to both sides. This would never civilise your country. There is no excuse whatever for you. If you also show your true interest in the welfare of your country, you can check any wrong spirit assumed by any engaged in the work. May God grant that you and I may make ourselves useful in our day and generation is the prayer of your unworthy servant,

ALWAYS ONE OF THEM.

Note.—This letter was intended for publication in our February number. It has been crowded out of our columns by other matter of pressing importance; but as we are still waiting for H. M. Government's approval of the constitution of the Fanti Confederation, while its enemies are busy at work, we are glad to have now found room for its insertion.

Our contemporary, *Vanity Fair*, has found a formidable rival in the matter of caricatures, where it could least have expected to meet one—a rival which unites practical usefulness with its sly humour, and provides with facts as well as with fancy. The Illustrative Portrait Groups, by means of which the well-known tailors, Samuel Brothers, instruct the world how to measure itself, and to choose its garments, are really very ingenious pieces of chaff in their way, and contain an amount of quiet fun which one does not usually look for in trade handbooks. The device consists in portraying some forty public characters as lay-figures, to display various frock-coats, reefers, and Chesterfields, whilst the fun lies in the manner in which the models are chosen for insertion into the different suits. Thus, the Hon. Acton Smee Ayrton is exhibited in a "smart" overcoat, resembling that of a fashionable Hansom cabdriver, whilst our bland and foppish Premier is, of course, to be seen in that frock-dress-suit which one associates with the ceremony of marriage. When we noted the name of Mr. Disraeli amongst these dummies, we wondered what the joke would be here, and soon discovered that the ingenious artist had clad the great Conservative magician in an oriental dressing-gown at 25s. The same crafty hand has turned the familiar high-collared coat of the Earl of Derby into a knickerbocker suit, and has given to the cheerful Robert Lowe a garment which is described as "a favourite style with stout gentlemen." Curiously enough, however, the enterprise of Messrs. Samuel has

not supplied us with the name of the *distinguis*-looking groom, whose likeness concludes this interesting series. Altogether, it would seem that the art of the tailor, when transferred to paper, is a very amusing one indeed.—*Figaro*.

A NEW KNIGHT.—We are pleased to see that the honour of knighthood has been conferred on Colonel le Couteur, Adjutant-General of the Jersey Militia, and A.D.C. to Her Majesty, who has done so much for the improvement of wheat cultivation in Great Britain, and to whose kindness we have been indebted for the information as to the species of wheat most likely to succeed in the West African countries.—*Ed. African Times*.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILROAD IN NATAL.—A contract has been recently entered into by the Crown agents for the colonies, on behalf of the Government of Natal, and Mr. Welborne, Sir James Anderson, Lord William Hay, Mr. Koppers, and Mr. M'C. Torrens, for the construction of 345 miles of railroad in that colony. The Colonial Government, when the requirements of the contract have been fulfilled, is to pay to the company a subsidy of 40,000*l.* per annum (for twenty years), and to make a grant of 2½ million acres of land; the latter is subject to the condition that the company introduce within a certain time 7,500 immigrants.

LAMPLUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE.—The following is an extract from a letter to Mr. Lamplugh from Rawal Pindie, Punjab (East Indies), March 28, 1871: "On the recommendation of several officers, who had some of your Saline in the West Indies, all of whom speak in the highest terms of your Pyretic Saline, we were induced to try it for the first time in this province. From the ascertained merits of your preparation after use in the *fever-stricken districts* by which we are surrounded, we firmly believe that the use of your Pyretic Saline will do more to *prevent* fever than all the Quinine ever imported can cure. We write thus strongly, because both from personal experience and observation we believe we have at length found a *remedy* against the ever-present fevers of these parts, which cost the *British nations* hundreds of valuable lives in Peshawur alone. We are now willing to enter into special terms for large and continued supplies," &c.

THE COTTON CROP.—It appears that there are now 663,654 bales more afloat than there were at this date of 1870. Two years ago, from the cotton in sight and the new American crop, of the world had a supply, from August 1 to September 1, 1871, of 5,885,000 bales. This year, should the crop prove equal to that of 1870-71, there will be a supply for the next thirteen months from these combined sources of 6,550,000 bales. If it be said that we cannot count upon a crop equal to that of two years ago, the answer is that, having 663,000 bales more in sight than at this period of 1870, we should be in a position equal to that of two years ago, even if we counted upon a yield of only 3,687,000 bales. Taking all the facts of the situation into account, there is strong probability to sustain the supposition that the supply of cotton during the coming crop year may exceed that of all former years. It is difficult to reconcile these prospects with the present market value of cotton and cotton goods, especially after we have so recently seen what effect an American crop of over four million bales has upon prices.—*New York Daily Bulletin*.

TRADE COMPLICATIONS.—The colliers in the West Riding are agitating for another advance of twenty-five per cent. The following notice has been served upon the owners of the various collieries by Mr. John Dixon, the Secretary of the West Yorkshire Miners' Association:—"The workmen employed at the various collieries in the West Riding of Yorkshire, after carefully considering the present high price of coal and the great demand for labour in the collieries, have unanimously decided to ask for twenty five per cent. upon the present wages of all men and boys employed in and about the collieries, such advance to be paid on the 7th of September."

THE WELSH COAL AND IRON TRADE.—The same excessive demand continues for coals. Supplies are getting less and less, owing to the great agitation among the men for higher wages and less work. The steam coal workers demand an advance of 15 per cent. from the 1st of September, and a large number of the bituminous coal workers in the Rhondda Valley have been on strike for a rise of 4*d.* per ton in the price of cutting coal. The coal exports during the last month reached the following totals: Cardiff, 184,550 tons, against 89,905 tons in July last year; Newport, 25,519 tons, against 31,728 tons; Swansea, 45,450 tons, against 58,958 tons; and Llanelly, 9,456 tons, against 12,978 tons. The great increase in the Cardiff exports is explained by the fact that in July last year the steam coal workers were on strike. The shipments of coal coastwise were as annexed: Cardiff, 106,818 tons, against 61,156 tons; Newport, 69,409 tons, against 65,969 tons; Swansea, 23,205 tons, against 14,843 tons; and Llanelly, 20,131 tons, against 13,912 tons. The iron trade continues brisk, and the unfavourable signs

which were noticed at the beginning of last week seem to have disappeared. Buyers have it not in their power to affect the trade to any extent by assuming to withhold contracts, because the fact is they are only too glad to get the orders placed. It is true that large engagements such as were formerly entered into are now rare, which is the result of the unsettledness of prices and makers being unwilling to commit themselves to large forward engagements. The total quantity of iron cleared to the foreign markets from this district last month was 52,143 tons, of which Cardiff exported 28,343 tons, Newport 20,287 tons, and Swansea 3,513 tons. The works are occupied on American, colonial, and European rail, bar, and plate contracts. The tin plate trade continues active, and prices high.

STATISTICS OF IRON.—The total annual production of iron is estimated at about eleven and one-eighth millions of tons for the whole world in 1869, and must have increased greatly in more recent years. At that time England produced over five millions; the United States of America over one and a half millions; France nearly one and a quarter millions; Prussia rather more than one million; Belgium not quite half a million; the Austrian Empire a third of a million; Sweden and Norway nearly 400,000; Russia and Zollverein nearly half a million tons between them, of which four-sevenths came from the former. Spain and Italy made up nearly 100,000 tons, two-fifths from the latter. The increase in the production of the United States in the five preceding years was nearly sixty-four per cent.; in Prussia, thirty-six per cent.; and in England, in six years, 26 per cent.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

BE IT KNOWN, that from and after this date I, JOSHUA BLACKHALL BENJAMIN, will not be responsible for any Debt or Debts contracted by my wife, HANNAH MATILDA BENJAMIN. J. B. BENJAMIN. Lagos, July 30, 1872.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

BE IT KNOWN that from this date, I, SAMUEL CROWTHER, will not be responsible for any Debt or Debts contracted by my wife, MARIAN CROWTHER. SAMUEL CROWTHER, Jun. Lagos, July 16, 1872.

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[Ed. A. T.]

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September, 1872.

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