

Registered for]

[Transmission Abroad.

The African Times.

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

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

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

VOL. XII.—No. 138.] LONDON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1872.

{PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
Subscription, 6s. per Ann.

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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.

JANUARY, 1873.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The splendid Steamship CONGO is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on DECEMBER 31, 1872, and from LIVERPOOL on the 7th JAN., 1873, at 12 Noon, 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 DEC., and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 P.M. on the 6th JAN. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 11.30 A.M. on the day of sailing. Steamer sails 12 Noon.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship SENEGAL, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th JAN., at 10.30 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 in Glasgow up to 10 A.M. on the 10th, and in Liverpool up to 6 P.M. on the 17th. Passengers will embark at 10 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, LATOHLAND, 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.

African S.S. Co.'s Lagos, Dec. 2. The arrival of this steamer concluded Post-office contract.
British and African S.S. Co.'s Senegal, Dec. 16.
African S.S. Co.'s Soudan, Dec. 17.

DEPARTURES.

African S.S. Co.'s Nigretta, for W. and S.W. Coast, Nov. 30.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Loanda, Dec. 6.
African S.S. Company's Africa, W. and S.W. Coast, Dec. 12.
British and African S.S. Co.'s Bonny, Dec. 18.
Steamer out Dec. 31 will be the Soudan, and Jan. 12, the Biafra.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER S.S. SENEGAL.

Mr. J. MacArthur, Old Calabar; Mr. A. D. Mitchell, Bonny; Mr. W. M. Mollinson, Bonny; Mr. H. F. Witkor, Bonny; Captain Bowmaker, Bonny; Captain Langmade, Lagos; Mr. W. R. Renner, Lagos; Mr. J. Young, Lagos; Mr. J. H. Hemingway, Jellah Coffee; Mr. R. Cliff, Jellah Coffee; Mr. D. Symington, Sierra Leone; Mr. C. Lamoure, Sierra Leone; Mr. M. Scherwensky, Sierra Leone; Mr. G. Sprackett, Madeira; Mr. G. A. Leslie, Madeira.

AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

DIRECTORS' REPORT, LAID BEFORE THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 1872.

Gentlemen,—In conformity with the provisions of the Deed of Settlement, your Directors have now to submit their report of the Company's affairs for the six months ending 31st October last, together with balance-sheet and statement of accounts to that date, duly examined and signed by the Company's auditors.

The last half-year's operations comprise seven voyages under the contract and ten extra voyages, all of which have been performed without any casualties.

The proprietors were informed in the report issued in December, 1870, that notice had been served on the Company by the Postmaster-General to determine the postal contract. The Directors regret to state that their endeavours to obtain a renewal of it had failed. With the arrival, therefore, of the S.S. Lagos on the 2nd instant, the agreement between the Company and the Post-office came to an end. The allowance hitherto received for conveying mails per the extra steamers has also been discontinued, and the Directors have received notice from the Postmaster-General, "That the Lord Commissioners of the Treasury, in deciding not to renew the contract for the conveyance of mails to and from the West Coast of Africa, have directed that the correspondence for the West Coast should in future be forwarded in ship letter mails." The vessels of the Company being thus freed from postal restrictions, their sailings will hereafter be regulated so as best to meet the requirements of the trade.

In the last report the Directors stated that the vessels formerly constructed for the purpose of carrying the mails had become no longer suitable, owing to the altered state of the trade. They have now to report the sale of the Mandingo and Lagos. The former vessel has been handed over to the purchasers, and the latter will follow some time during this or the ensuing month. An arrangement has also been made with the builders of the Ethiopia (one of the three new steamers named in the previous report), under which the Directors have the option of handing over the Calabar in part payment. The termination of the contract with the Post-office has permitted the withdrawal of the mail packets of the 24th of the month, and thus enabled the Directors to dispense with the use of these unprofitable ships. The Company at present despatches two steamers per month to the West and South-west Coast ports, and the new vessels now in course of construction, for the express purpose of working the shallow rivers direct, and thus avoiding the inconvenience and loss arising from transshipment, will be, when completed, applied to that service as soon as circumstances will permit.

Your Directors have to report that since the date of the last meeting they have purchased the S.S. Bentinck (now called the Nigretia). This vessel has made one voyage to and from the coast of Africa, and they have every reason to believe that she will prove a valuable addition to the Company's fleet.

The Earl Balcarras, which for many years has served the Company as a "Receiving Ship," at Bonny, having become unserviceable, the Directors are in negotiation for a vessel to replace her.

The accounts show a balance of 5,508l. 7s. 10d., available for dividend after the usual reserves have been made; out of this balance the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 8s. per share for the half-year ending the 31st October last, free of income-tax. This will require the sum of 5,000l., and will leave 508l. 7s. 10d. to be carried forward.

P.S.—At the meeting held December 18th, the above report was approved, and the recommended dividend declared without dissent.

BISHOP TOZER.—It is stated, on the authority of his relations and friends, that the Right Rev. Dr. Tozer, Bishop of Central Africa, has not been disabled by paralysis, as stated in some of the papers, but that it is true he has been seriously ill from exposure to the recent hurricane which passed over Zanzibar, and unroofed the mission-house, and from distress of mind at the death of his friend and chaplain, the Rev. Lewin Pennell. It is not denied that Bishop Tozer intends to resign his bishopric.

THE MAILS TO THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

The Standard, of December 27, has the following:—

To the Editor of the Standard.

Sir,—As you are always so ready to advocate the cause of the aggrieved, can you or any of your correspondents inform me and my fellow-shippers how and when the mails for the West Coast of Africa go and come, the contract for carrying them by the African Steamship Company having, it appears, expired. We are now at the mercy of the British and African Company, and I should imagine Government arrangements with them are far from satisfactory, inasmuch that the only announcement at the Post-office is that letters will be dispatched "as opportunity offers," and upon application there a day or two since, the clerk who applied was informed that no one could tell when the next mail would be. Before the contract with the African Steamship Company expired, it was no uncommon thing for the mail from Sierra Leone, an eighteen-days' mail, to arrive six and eight days overdue. This was bad enough, considering how we may anticipate letters from Australia, China, or the Brazils to the day—but now not even to know when to look for letters, or, what is worse, to be in total darkness as to when the mails are dispatched hence, it appears monstrous. Our trading relations with Sierra Leone are considerably on the increase, and to have such an effectual check as this placed on our transactions with our friends in that colony, really seems too bad.—Yours truly,

December 24.

A PERPLEXED MERCHANT.

THE FANTI CONFEDERATION AND THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

London, December 20, 1872.

Sir,—Will you send me another copy of your number for August? You have written, and given insertion to, some admirable articles on behalf of the Fanti Confederation. I hope you will not abate your efforts, but continue strenuously to demand from our unrighteous Government the full recognition of their right to organize.

One might naturally suppose that when the members of the late Parliamentary Committee on the affairs of West Africa were informed of the fact of the Fanti Confederation, they would have exclaimed, "Well, this is all that we wished for, and more than we hoped for!" If the Commissioners of the Fanti Confederation had read the report of that Parliamentary Committee, must they not have expected a most cordial reception, with an assurance of entire approbation from the British Administrator at Cape Coast? What must have been their amazement at being denounced as traitors—at seeing in a paroxysm of "ungovernable fury" the man whose duty it was to uphold the administration of justice, and the honour and probity of the Imperial Legislature!

I regard the Fanti Confederation as the chief of the few events of promise in that afflicted land, so misruled by Great Britain; and I consider that the men who exerted themselves for its accomplishment should be rewarded by express approbation of Her Majesty's Government, which ought forthwith to show to the world that they can honour and respect merit, independence, and self-reliance, and welcome its exhibition anywhere, and especially in Africa.

How strange it seems that a State Church bishop and laity, and even Secretaries of State, should suddenly be affected with horror at the ruthless destruction and desolation of our fellow-creatures in Africa, enacted by Portuguese Papists and Mahomedan polygamists, of which they could not have been ignorant during the past ten years! Perhaps still more strange that, when it must be obvious to all endowed with common sense that the Fanti example is the procedure which should be encouraged and aided on every pathway of the man-stealer and the murderer in Africa, a special commissioner should be sent to the ruler of that den of thieves, Zanzibar, instructed, according to rumour, to offer a subsidy to those reprobate Mahomedans whose incurable sloth and insatiable lust originated and pursues the extermination of the native tribes! May the waves rather be lifted up on high, and Zanzibar, and all that is thereon, perish in the depths of the sea, than that we should incur the indelible disgrace! Let us rather subsidise, and that amply, African tribes, conditionally, that they shall prohibit the Portuguese Papists and Mahomedan man-stealers from entering the country, and gibbet all who shall disregard the prohibition. Our heaped-up riches are lavished on states under judgment, that cannot prosper, in exchange for Government securities, so called; and the securities of the most wicked and impenitent seem to be most favoured. Is there not a danger of incurring complicity in their sin, and becoming part-takers of their plagues? Are there no signs that all employment and all sustenance might as suddenly be suspended by an event as special as when the massive granite walls of the warehouses of Boston were consumed by fire?

I implicitly and literally believe the declaration, "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain!"

Spain, hardened with insensate pride, refuses to concede the claims of the African race and of her colonists in Cuba, and, as *I believe*, her Government and the ruling classes are led by our diplomats, capitalists, and merchants to regard the remonstrance of our Government on the subject as being only a formal concession to appease here an influential but very troublesome sect of anti-slavery agitators; therefore it is that all pretensions to being actuated by "good-will" to man as a motive and a duty, on the part of our Government and nation, are regarded with contempt and derision throughout Europe.

Could you not, in co-operation with the Aborigines' Protection and the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Societies, induce some fearless members of Parliament so to state the prominent sins of omission and of commission on the part of successive Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State during the past twenty years, and as respects Africa, that even a Kimberley and a Huguessen might be made ashamed?—Yours sincerely,

M. S.

THE CREPEE CHILDREN SOLD AS SLAVES AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 24, 1872.

Sir,—A madman writes the following letter from Accra, in our local paper, the *West African Herald*, in reply to the letter headed "Shameful Slave-buying at Cape Coast":—

Accra, October 31, 1872.

"Mr. Editor,—In the *African Times* of September 23 there is a letter dated 'Cape Coast, August 25, 1872,' headed 'Shameful Slave-buying at Cape Coast.' It is therein stated, '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, Anamaboe, Accra, and other places where the British flag is flying.' I have made careful inquiry, and have every reason to believe that no Crepees have been or are being sold in Accra, and I fully believe none are sold at any place in the 'Eastern Districts.' When people set to work to cast blame, they should be careful to fix it on the right shoulders: in this instance, the correspondent of the *African Times* has eaten dirt. For the side-blow at the 'British flag,' would it not have been more honest to have first brought it to the notice of the authorities, who cannot fairly be expected to see and know everything? First mention it in the proper quarter, and if no steps are taken in the matter, then expose the dereliction of duty.—I am, Mr. Editor, yours,

ANOTHER DASH."

To refute this absurd production, pray publish the following extract from Mr. Julius C. Briand's letter published in the same local paper on the 18th May last:—

"I was, as you and everyone else in the Eastern District know, up to the period of the Ahwoonah War, a kind of 'cotton lord,' comparatively speaking. In fact, in those days when the path to Crepee was open for trade, I was sublimely well-to-do in a worldly point of view, but now I am ridiculously reduced in pecuniary matters. How came this about? In the midst of peace, and while trade was flourishing in Crepee as it had never been known before, the Ashantees poured down upon the place like a flood, and spread desolation and ruin all over the district. I had factories at Anum, at Peki, in Ahodomay, and in several other places, and at each factory I had cotton gins, cotton presses, and machinery of all kinds requisite for carrying on the cotton trade; besides large quantities of clean cotton in bales and loose, and also uncleaned cotton, and stores full of goods imported from Europe for the purpose of being exchanged for cotton, gold, and ivory.

"In three days everything was carried off by the invaders, and what they could not carry off they destroyed. My principal factor, Mr. Niels Palm, of Christianborg, with his wife, family and servants, were made prisoners at the same time with the German missionaries, and carried off to Coomassie, where he was when I last heard from him in February.

"I became then and there a ruined man, and my creditors hunted me into the Bankruptcy Court, where I am still, and where there is every probability of my remaining until the day of judgment, although there was no one to oppose my discharge when I applied for it. This arises in consequence of the carelessness of a former clerk of the court, in having mislaid the original documents which prove my having become bankrupt. So that for the fault of this careless official I am doomed to everlasting penury, for no one will set me upon my legs so long as I remain an uncertificated bankrupt.

"But touching my factor Niels Palm, and the rest of my servants, that are now so unjustifiably detained prisoners in Coomassie. Has the King of Ashanti the impudence to demand the de-

livery of those of his subjects in our hands, and whom we took prisoners in the act of invading our territories without any provocation, while he still keeps the German missionaries and a whole host of other innocent Accras and Fantis, to say nothing of the thousand poor Crepees?

"Mr. Editor, is there none to help us in this? Where is our protecting power? Whilst the British Government are forcing us and our allies, the Akims, to give up all Ashantees in our hands under pain of handing us over to the Devil knows who in case of refusal, what measures has it taken to recover Niels Palm, my factor, his wife, and his servants? Perhaps I shall be called upon some fine day to pay some twenty ounces for their ransom. I put my faith in British protection, and see what has become of it. Alas! alas!—Yours,

"JULIUS C. BRIANDT."

One is puzzled to know the object of "Another Dash's" meaning, in writing so stupidly and grossly false. Everyone knows that all of the 300 young slaves sold into the Cape Coast, and other markets on the Gold Coast, are from Crepee, and Crepee alone. Every one of the little sufferers tells the same tale. If falsehood is "eating dirt," the correspondent signing himself "Another Dash" has certainly had his fill.—Yours truly,

TRUTH.

WHY ATJIEMPON, THE ASHANTI CAPTAIN, HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 18, 1872.

Dear Sir,—Although you may have had but too much cause to blame Mr. Salmon's administration, Mr. Salmon has done one thing worthy of great praise. When the Dutch were about to transfer their possessions on this Coast to the British Government, they took Atjiempom away from Elmina and landed him at Half Assinee, very near our own territory of Apollonia. The result was, that he has disturbed the peace of the country there, and the kings of those parts have tolerated him, although they hated his presence in their districts. The report that the Government Commissioners had been seized by him was false, for they have returned all safe. Mr. Salmon lately sent Colonel Foster Foster up in a ship of war, the Coquette, with 25 Houassa police, who landed at Half Assinee, caught Atjiempom unawares, took him on board, and brought him here. From this place he and his followers, about 300, who have been all this time at Elmina, will be escorted to the frontiers of Ashanti, and placed safely on Ashanti ground.—Yours truly,

O.

ARRIVAL OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATOR, COLONEL HARLEY, AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 24, 1872.

Dear Sir,—Colonel Harley, accompanied by Mrs. Harley, arrived and landed here yesterday. They came out by the Steamship Benin. His Excellency was sworn in as Administrator at 3 p.m.; so that Mr. Salmon's mischievous reign is, for the present at least, at an end. There was some intention on the part of the merchants and traders, European and native, of laying their grievances before Colonel Harley in an address of welcome; after much discussion, this was, I think wisely, abandoned; as the statement, to be correct, must have been one so severely condemnatory of the expiring rule, as would place the new Administrator in a very difficult position as regards the merchants and traders on the one hand, and Mr. Salmon, Chief Magistrate Chalmers, and Colonel Foster, on the other. Let us hope that Colonel Harley's administration will be a just and wise one. If so, it will be a strong practical condemnation of what has preceded it for many months past.—Yours, &c.,

MODERATOR.

ATTACKS ON THE FANTI CONFEDERATION AND ITS MEMBERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, November 9, 1872.

Sir,—In our local periodical of the 7th September last another attack is made on the Fanti Confederation, under the flimsy pretence of exposing the doings of certain of its members.

Come from what quarter they may, let the party attacking be ever so high in his own opinion, though he may have at hand such weapons as we may not be possessed of, and have at com-

* Mr. J. C. Briandt is a former and much-esteemed correspondent of ours, who did very much to promote cotton-planting in Crepee, and his statements may be depended upon. We are very sorry to hear of his losses. Surely he cannot be kept for the residue of his life in the Bankruptcy Court because an official has mislaid papers!—Editor of the *African Times*.

mand such means for circulating his opinions and rhodomontade as we do not yet possess (for we doubt, if we had a press at our command, whether anyone would be sufficiently foolhardy to provoke an attack from us), I, for one, having the *real* interests of the Confederation at heart, fear not such attacks. Those who make them from private feelings, and think to blind the public with "cock-and-bull stories" about the public interest, &c., should make sure that there is no chink in their own armour through which they may be mortally wounded. I would like to ask your opinion of the following: A person thinks proper to join in leading a public movement; asks and obtains letters to be written to his periodical; publishes those letters; undertakes the responsibility of such letters voluntarily; revises, and puts a *nom de plume* to one of such letters (not at the request of the writer, but for the purpose of acquiring popularity, and with it the needful accompaniment); and, when he discovers that his game is pretty well played out, turns round and tells the public, in a whining tone, "I am not the writer of those letters. I was made a fool of by someone whom I could not take in. I hope you will see I am not to blame. That man is a dangerous fellow; he made a cat's-paw or tool of me; beware of him." Talk about cowardice, of "wolves in sheep's clothing." Let me conjure you, the public, not to be deceived by such "gammon" for gammon it is, and nothing else. Why did not the party placard the originals with his additions to them. I am sure nothing would better please the writer; and this I have from himself. As to anyone choosing to enter the opposition ranks against the Confederation, that party is at liberty to act as he deems proper. No one will be deterred thereby from acting as he thinks the interests of the country may demand. His assistance will not be solicited, his opposition not feared. It may not be known to such parties that at the outset they would not have obtained the confidence of any of the members of the Confederation but for one who has subsequently discovered that the others knew their characters better than he did. The parties having thus shown that it was impossible for them to act with any consistency in anything excepting it may be in the art of deception, we can safely leave them to public opinion. As to certain parties not having been at Mankessim, and as to the call for them there being urgent and repeated, the statement is of a piece with others emanating from the same source. Before the Governor-General left he had been promised that nothing of an active nature should be done at Mankessim. A promise having been thus given, it remained with those to whom the responsibility would attach to see that it was not broken. When occasion really demands it, they will be found at their posts, ready to lead, direct, and to guide. They are not to be judged by those who can know nothing of the internal machinery of the Confederation, and whose sole desire is to see it fall to pieces. Their co-workers in this grand undertaking are alone capable of judging them at present; time will do the rest.

We trust we shall not have occasion again to trouble you with such letters. We can afford to laugh at them, and be quiescent.—I am, Sir, yours truly, "No HUMBUG."

EBUTE META, PALMA, AND LECKIE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, October 30, 1872.

Sir,—The blockade is not yet removed. The question of Ebute Meta, Palma, and Leckie (places not at all belonging to the British Government), are in the way. Lagos, as I believe you are aware, is an island; and before its cession to the British Crown, Ebute Meta, &c., never paid tribute to Akitoys, the then King of Lagos; and after its cession, these places never entered into any treaty with the British Government. How is it, then, that the British Government has claimed them? Ebute Meta, Ogba, Agege, &c., formerly belonged to Otta. The Egbas subsequently waged war with the Ottas, and conquered them. Does it not necessarily follow that those places which were subject to Otta, legally became so to the Egbas by right of conquest? The Lagos Government feels it hard to give up Ebute Meta and the other places. Why? Simply because lots of fine houses have been built there by Governor Glover, and nothing more. Governor Hennessey has withdrawn the constables stationed at Ogba, Agege, &c., and I believe, if the deputation had informed him fairly of Ebute Meta not belonging to the British Government, he would also have withdrawn the constables from that place, and the roads would have been opened long ago. It is to be deplored he did not give more time to these important matters. I am writing you the true sentiments in the minds of the Egbas. I know their grievances. The merchants of Lagos derive no commercial benefit from Ebute Meta. I had almost forgotten to say that Governor Glover sold a good many acres of land at Ebute Meta against the wish of, and unknown to, the Egbas. You may safely believe what I write, for I write no-

thing that might be found to be untrue. I am informed that letters from the Egba Government state that "the roads will not be opened unless the Lagos Government give up Ebute Meta, part of Egba lands."—With kind regards, I am, Sir, "EGBA."

THE LAGOS MISSION OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, West Africa, Nov. 19, 1872.

Dear Sir,—I beg you will allow me space in your columns to give one more instance in support of your frequent endeavours to point out the disadvantages to which the educated Africans on the West Coast are subject by their more favoured European brethren, be they missionaries, merchants, or Government officials. The African is to make no suggestion, or say anything beneficial to his country, when that suggestion or saying appears in any way likely to affect the interest, directly or indirectly, of his European brethren. This is what makes it always difficult to get people in England to believe your assertions in the *African Times*; because the majority of all European classes on the Coast do all they can to contradict those assertions, and very often some African is employed to assist them in the contradiction. In this case, however, I feel that, the facts being so true and plain, none but very unscrupulous persons in the body concerned will attempt to contradict what I shall here relate.

Some few years ago, the Church Missionary Society (to whom, with the Wesleyans, we owe much gratitude for the education and Christian teaching we have received) sent out to Lagos an English clergyman and his wife, to establish a Female Institution. He was welcomed with gladness by the educated Africans here, and soon hired temporary buildings and commenced work in earnest. Such was the appreciation of the institution by the people, that within a few weeks about sixteen young women, who had been considered too much grown up to attend the ordinary day-schools, became daily pupils, and would have become boarders in the institution had there been accommodation in the temporary buildings. Within a few months, however, this reverend gentleman and his wife were both so prostrated by illness that they were recommended to return to England. The institution would, for this cause, have had to be closed up, as the other few missionaries in the place had more than their handful of their own station duties, had not one of our educated African ladies volunteered to carry on the institution till another, or other agents, could be sent out from England. At the same time the Female Institution was established, a "Young Men's Training Institution" was also set on foot, under the superintendence and teaching of another most useful clergyman, who took great interest in the education of the young; and in consequence of that gentleman being obliged also to return to England for the benefit of his health, the other clergymen had to overtask and burden themselves with the duties of the institution. It was this, I believe, which led the society to contemplate sending out an assistant, who would carry on the work when the principal might be ill or absent. Upon its being known here that an assistant was to be employed, the educated Africans, and others interested in the education of the young, thought it desirable to petition the Church Missionary Society, and urge upon that worthy body the necessity of employing an African to be the assistant, and so save not only expense, but the health and lives of good men, whereupon the petition (copy of which is sent herewith) was addressed to the Church Missionary Society, which petition was duly posted, and, it is believed, duly reached its destination.

Well, Mr. Editor, will you believe it, the European clergymen in Lagos, except one, were so annoyed and indignant at this, that they all combined, it is believed, to write and request that worthy body, the Church Missionary Society, not to listen to the prayers and arguments of the petitioners; therefore, up to this moment not so much as a simple acknowledgment of the petition has reached Lagos from that body. Any private individual would have replied "Yes" or "No" to a communication addressed to him. Is it not strange that a body composed of Christian men of standing, like those of the Church Missionary Society, could have been so prejudiced as not to do even what an individual would have been bound in honour to do? Now, I beg to ask, what harm was there in this petition? Could the expressions therein be taken to mean that we had wished an European clergyman to be put out of employment to make room for an African? This is what the European clergymen made of it here; and these are the men employed to civilize and enlighten us, so that we may hereafter become self-dependent in everything; and yet they are the very men who do not wish us to express our opinion when they fancy it will take employment from them. This feeling ran so high, that a clergyman, last Sunday, even alluded to the subject from the pulpit, where he

knows no one can answer him; he says, "Africans don't know, they are yet too ignorant not to desire the white man." This gentleman only knows who ever said that.

Apologizing for occupying so much of your valuable columns, I am, dear Mr. Editor, yours truly, Vox Populi.

COPY OF PETITION TO THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Lagos, West Africa, March 14, 1871.

To the Secretary and Parent Committee of the Church Missionary Society, Salisbury-square, London.

Reverend and Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned, residents and inhabitants of Lagos, beg most respectfully to submit to your kind consideration this, our humble request, trusting that it will meet with your favourable consideration.

The Rev. Henry Johnson, the African clergyman, who has but recently returned to this country from England, where he has been under the kind tuition of your Society, is by birth a Yoruba, descended from parents who are of the Yoruba nation; and as there is an extensive field for clergymen in these countries, he will be a most useful person in these parts if your Society will permit him to be sent to this country.

Besides this, there is another strong reason why we now address your Committee on this subject, and that is, your Committee have already established in Lagos an educational institution for the training of young men, superintended by a European clergyman, who, from the effects of this climate, is very often prostrate with illness, and deterred from carrying on his work for any length of time before he is again laid up; and although this gentleman has been a very active person, and willing to do, and has been doing, his utmost in the performance of his responsible duty, yet constant prostration from illness must weaken his energies to a great extent, and has obliged him to return to England for a change, for the benefit of his health. This state of things has obliged your Committee to consider the necessity of sending out another clergyman to assist this superintendent; and as a European assistant will and must be subject to the same effects of the climate, and not diminish the difficulties and drawbacks to which the institution is subject from these causes, as these two gentlemen might at times be laid up at the same time, your Committee will agree with us that it is apparent that the appointment of an African clergyman to such a post might not only diminish the disadvantages to which such an important institution is subject, and will always be subject, but will save your Society the constant necessary medical and travelling expenses of a European agent.

Under these circumstances we trust that your Committee will be pleased to consider the subject, and grant that Mr. Johnson be sent to Lagos, where he can be very useful to his own people.—Awaiting your Committee's kind and favourable reply, we beg, &c.,

John H. Glover, Commander B.N., and Administrator, J. P. L. Davies, Charles Foreyth, Walter Lewis, S. Aug. Lewis, W. C. Pratt, John A. Payne, Annie J. Rubs, W. R. King, J. H. Willoughby, T. F. Cole, Benjamin Savage, Samuel Crowther, jun., B. I. Gilpin, W. J. Maxwell, J. W. Smith, Charles J. George, J. W. Cole, Thomas Joe, J. C. Taylor, Joseph C. Taylor, J. S. Buckner, S. J. Wellington, Chas. Pike, Henry Pratt, Thomas George J. S. Leigh, R. B. Blaize, T. W. Johnson, J. Crowther, J. E. Williams.

Note by the Editor of the African Times.

We have given insertion to the above because we think our Lagos friends, justly surprised and irritated at no reply to their memorial having been received by them—for which we are unable to account, although certain it must have been owing to an accidental omission—have allowed themselves to fall into error as regards the feeling of the Committee of the Church Missionary Society relative to the employment of competent Africans in the noble mission work of West Africa. The Native Pastorate at Sierra Leone is an unanswerable proof of their desire and hope to see all their mission-fields in West Africa placed as soon as practicable under native pastors. As regards the Rev. Henry Johnson, whom the Lagos people were so desirous to fix among them, we are not surprised that they have felt disappointment at their non-success. The Rev. Henry Johnson is a very dear friend of our own, and every way worthy of their affectionate regard. But a special mission had been entrusted to him by the Church Missionary Society—viz., to translate the Testament into Meudi; and it would very likely have been difficult adequately to replace him in this work. It may be that after that work is finished the Church Missionary Society will accede to the Lagos desire as regards Mr. Johnson, should he wish to accept the Lagos charge.

CHILD, MILLS, AND CO., JOHN WIKE AND SON, AND BANK OF WEST AFRICA.

The *Manchester Courier* of the 24th has the following:—

"The circulars that were issued and appeared in the *Courier* a week ago, announcing the failure of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., and Messrs. John Wike and Son, both of this city, attracted some attention in consequence of each firm charging the other with being the cause of their failure. Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co. regretted that, 'owing to the sudden disappearance of the managing partner in a well-known and old-established house in this city, with whom we have had large financial relations, we are compelled to suspend payment.' On behalf of Messrs. John Wike and Son it was announced 'that their stoppage is in consequence of heavy liabilities for other parties which were entirely unknown to Mr. George Wike, the senior partner.' In connection with the first-named firm the recollection has in consequence been revived of a scheme put forth in the early part of the year for the commencement of a bank in West Africa. The *African Times* in April got scent of the scheme, and took a very proper course with a view to insure the project either being abandoned or placed on a satisfactory and sure basis, and their action seems to have had the desired effect. Attention was first drawn to the matter in the *African Times* of April 23 last. In an article on the subject, the editor stated that having heard of the project of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., of Manchester, as the organizers and 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, he wrote to that firm for information, and received a reply that 'it would be undesirable to give any particulars beyond what are already known to the public.' Commenting on this reply, the editor of the *African Times* said:—

The *Courier* here reprints our leading articles of April and May last, and then adds:—

"The precious document thus alluded to was actually passed by the Governor of Sierra Leone at that time; but it would seem that the strictures of the *African Times* produced their effect, for in the copy of the subsequent Ordinance of Incorporation issued on the 7th of September last, the marginal note of the 6th clause reads, 'Company not to commence business until capital has been subscribed and half paid up,' and the clause itself states that it shall not be lawful for the company to commence or carry on the business of banking until it shall be made to appear that the whole capital of 200,000*l.* has been subscribed for, and that one-half of such sum of 200,000*l.* has been paid up.

"We deem it our duty to re-publish these particulars now, in order to show how important it is that the commercial interests of our dependencies should be guarded by the exercise of a vigilant and jealous eye, and wise discretion, so as to prevent any ill-devised or ill-digested banking or other scheme receiving such countenance from the local authorities as may induce the embarkation of capital in it, either in our dependencies or at home, or the intrusting of funds to the keeping of such an institution as that which this West African bank scheme in its first conception undoubtedly was."

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

DECEMBER 7 TO 14.

PALM-OIL.—The demand continues moderate, the stock is nearly exhausted, and the sales in all positions reach 500 tons. Irregular at 3*l.* to 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, Benin at 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 3*l.* 15*s.*, Old Calabar at 3*l.* 7*s.*, New Calabar at 3*l.* 10*s.*, and Brass and Niger at 3*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

CORROX has been in good demand throughout the week, and prices of almost all kinds have advanced.

Sales, about 89,000 bales.

Prices: Lagos quality, 7*d.* to 8*d.*

Dec. 14 to 21.

GROUND NUTS.—117 bags East India, at 14*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

PALM OIL in fair request, and from 600 to 700 tons sold; Irregular, at 3*l.* to 3*l.* 4*s.*; Accra, at 3*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.* 6*s.*; Benin and Old Calabar, at 3*l.* 15*s.*; Bonny, at 3*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.* 6*s.*; Grand Popo, at 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; New Calabar, at 3*l.* 10*s.*; and Brass, at 3*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

CORROX in demand, and prices gradually hardening. Sales of the week, 112,000 bales; price, Lagos quality, 7*d.* to 8*d.*

Dec. 21 to 28.

PALM KERNELS.—70 bags, at 12*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

BRONT.—About 10 tons, at 13*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

PALM OIL.—100 tons sold. Prices unchanged.

CORROX.—Market firm; prices well supported. No official return of sales this week; prices as last week.

Until further notice the "African Times" will be published the 29th of each Month, for Steamer of the 30th, there not being any Steamer on the 23rd.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

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

The African Times.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1872.

1872 AND 1873.

THE year now ending has been pre-eminently one of much disappointment and disaster on the West Coast of Africa. The Gambia and Sierra Leone have suffered severely by sickness, which has been especially fatal to the European portion of their populations. The small-pox has not ceased its ravages in the Gold Coast territories; though it has in many parts been limited, if not stayed, by vaccination, often performed with peril of life to the operators, who have had to contend at the same time against the fell epidemic, and the prejudices of an ignorant population, inflamed by native medicine-men or native priests. The Fanti Confederation has not yet been either denounced or recognized by Her Majesty's Government; nor has any recompense been made to its officers, who were illegally imprisoned and detained on bail at Cape Coast, or to other persons who were persecuted and prosecuted by erring officials. Those officials, though odious to the people, have been continued in office and power, although it is understood that Her Majesty's Government is about to withdraw the few troops which have been lately kept there; which seems to us to be a very questionable sort of policy. Lagos, which should be nothing but a commercial settlement, has had the interests and fortunes of its traders sacrificed by the obstinate persistence of its British Executive in a course of policy, irritating, unjust, and hurtful to the neighbouring native countries on which it depended entirely for customers and produce. Nothing has been done—no real effort has been made—to put an end to those troubles in the Bonny River, which have cost the Liverpool merchants some half-million pounds sterling, risked them in faith and reliance on Her Majesty's Government, which had so bound the native rulers by treaties, as to guarantee, it was thought, permanent trading facilities and security; but which has been urged in vain, for between two and three years, to interpose its authority for re-establishing that freedom of access to the interior oil markets from Bonny, which had been the great object of stipulations in successive treaties with the kings and chiefs of Bonny. We have thus, in a few words, glanced at events and occurrences, actions and inaction, which have brought disaster, disappointment, and sorrow to the West Coast of Africa and those connected with it, during the now almost finished year. With the exception of the Bonny River troubles, we have treated, from time to time, of all these matters, in so far as human agency was visible in them; and we therefore purposely abstain, in a notice necessarily brief, from further comment on them. We are on the eve of a new year, and we always enter on a new year with hope, though there may be heavy clouds around and before us; and though 1872 has been pre-eminently a year of disappointment and disaster in all the British settlements on the West Coast, in Liberia, and at Bonny, it will not have passed away without leaving behind it a record of other events, which, although not all looked upon with favour at the moment, may conduce to happiness, prosperity, and beneficial progress, even in the almost immediate future. Under the temporary Governorship-in-Chief of Mr. Pope Hennessy, important changes have been introduced. At Sierra Leone the house and road taxes (the iniquity in the mode of levying which, we, with others, had persistently exposed) have been repealed; the oppressive

harbour dues, which were driving the regular steamers from the ports, have been reduced. All this has given great satisfaction to the people. After a very brief preliminary stay at Sierra Leone, Mr. Pope Hennessy went down the Coast to Elmina, to take over that place and the other Dutch towns for Great Britain; thus bringing the whole seaboard of the Gold Coast under one only European flag and protectorate. Commencing at the Gold Coast, and adopting the same policy later at Sierra Leone, he has introduced a great and long-desired change in the fiscal system. All duties on British manufactured goods have been abolished, as well as on provisions and other articles of prime necessity; the whole burthen of revenue being thrown on spirits, powder, fire-arms, tobacco, &c. The new duties on these, more or less, injurious superfluities, are not such as to check consumption; but should the revenue produced by them not suffice for the public service, it will not be difficult to re-introduce duties now repealed. Of course such a change could not be made at Lagos, because if the duties were made heavier there than they are at present, spirits and such articles would be landed entirely on Porto Novo beach, and at other points where they would not have to pay the Lagos duties. At Lagos, Mr. Pope Hennessy found the native roads and markets closed against the Colony—the ruinous result of Administrator Glover's unjustifiable and irritating policy. On his second visit in June, he gave Mr. Administrator Glover immediate leave of absence; which, as his period of service there was just about expiring, or had already expired, was tantamount to a dismissal from the post he had occupied too long for the commercial health and prosperity of Lagos. And although the irritation in the native mind produced by Administrator Glover had not, at the date of our last advice, sufficiently subsided to induce the Egba and Jebu authorities to re-open the roads and markets, it was hoped this much-desired result would soon be obtained; while we further hope that by a future policy, such as we last month recommended, Her Majesty's Government will so change the native feeling in the produce countries on which Lagos entirely depends, that we shall never again have to deplore such commercial disasters as Administrator Glover's reckless and ambitious policy has brought upon the Colony. We hope 1873 will see this great and happy result of the entire and permanent reconciliation of Lagos with the neighbouring mainland countries, fully accomplished. Not less ardent is our desire to see Her Majesty's Government accept native assistance in the internal administration and government of the protected territories on the Gold Coast, through the agency of the Fanti Confederation. Mr. Pope Hennessy seemed to give encouragement to the hope (at least, so we have been informed) that this would be the case. We shall do all within our power here in England to hasten the accomplishment of this, which we look upon not only as just and desirable in the interests of civilization, but as indispensable, if the policy of an entire withdrawal of the West Indian troops is to be persisted in. Although suffering at present under heavy depression, we have therefore bright hopes for West Africa in 1873, and wish that it may be to all our friends a happy and prosperous year.

WEST AFRICAN POSTAGE.

It may have become necessary for the Post-office authorities to economise the revenue of their department of the public service at the expense of those facilities of postal communication between this and the West African countries which have been until recently enjoyed. We shall not enter now into that question of necessity, much less of justice. But one thing is quite clear,—viz., that such public economy ought not to be attended with a private wrong. And a gross wrong is now being committed by the Post-office authorities. When a mail service between this country and West Africa was subsidized by the Post-office, with appointed days for departure and arrival of at least one mail per month, the charge for conveyance of letters to and from West Africa was fixed at sixpence per half-ounce. The subsidy has been withdrawn; the regular monthly mail, as a consequence, been discontinued;

there are no Post-office agreements with the steam companies for fixed departures and arrivals; all letters now sent out or home by the steamers are classed as ship-letters; instead of a subsidy, the Post-office now pays one penny for each letter to the steamship companies. Is it just that, under such circumstances, the Post-office should still continue to charge, as it does, sixpence postage per half-ounce letter, with double postage if the letters be sent on board the steamers at any of the West African settlements where there is a post-office, instead of being passed through the post-office there? To us it savours very much of injustice. If sixpence per half-ounce was the maximum regulated charge when the Post-office paid a subsidy of some twenty thousand pounds a-year, surely that rate of sixpence ought not to be now maintained when the Post-office has only to pay one penny per letter instead of such subsidy. We feel sure that this must have escaped the attention of the Post-office authorities, or a reduction of postage would have been made; since they could never desire to swell the Post-office revenues by an act of injustice to the West African trade.

THE FAILURE OF MESSRS. CHILD, MILLS, AND CO.

It is impossible for us to avoid noticing the painful event of the failure of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., of Manchester, and of Child, Hornby, and Co., the London branch of the same firm. The daily journals of the 14th instant communicated the fact of preliminary steps in bankruptcy having been taken on the 13th. The liabilities of these gentlemen were stated in some papers at from 250,000*l.* to 300,000*l.*, in other papers at from 350,000*l.* to 400,000*l.* Even the smaller of these amounts seems to us very large for the liabilities of houses so recently established, and trading, as we believe, only with the British settlements on the West Coast of Africa. We therefore think there must be some exaggeration in the statements that have been published, and shall be glad to find that this is the case. The real amount will, of course, be made known at the first meeting of creditors, which has been appointed for the 13th January. The causes of failure will, we doubt not, be then also shown; and beyond the expression of our deep regret at the event, we abstain, with some slight exception, from all further comments until after that period. The exception we make is this—whatever may have been the inherent fault in the operations of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., which may be supposed to have led up to this painful result, it would be most unjust to close our mind against the belief that this result would not have now occurred had there not been that disastrous stoppage of trade at Lagos, under which everyone connected with it has been more or less suffering since the 18th of March last. Until we see or know of proof to the contrary, we must and shall consider this failure of Child, Mills, and Co. as another of those triumphs of Captain Glover's proceedings and policy so eulogized by Mr. Charles Leigh Clare before the Chamber of Commerce, at Manchester, and, as we are entitled to suppose, subsequently in large type in the columns of the *Standard*. We feel in our own mind the conviction that this is another of the late Administrator Glover's victories; and Captain Glover and Mr. Leigh Clare are entitled to rejoice accordingly. It is well known to everyone connected with the West Coast of Africa that the trade with Lagos was undertaken by Child, Mills, and Co. on a very large scale; and that since the stoppage of trade at Lagos, owing to Administrator Glover's most ruinous policy and official proceedings, which led to the closing of all the roads and markets by and from which Lagos receives African produce, they have made the greatest possible efforts, and with great sacrifices, to obtain returns from Lagos to assist them in meeting their heavy obligations in England. Until we have evidence to the contrary, we feel therefore justified in believing that whatever may have been the immediate cause of the present failure of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co.; the radical unavoidable cause has been in the stoppage of the Lagos trade and in the consequent impossibility of obtaining in due time anything like adequate returns in produce for their large

shipments to Lagos. This is a contingency on which Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co. could not have been reasonably expected to calculate when they entered into their engagements. It has been the result of a ruinous error in Downing-street; and an obstinately and persistently ruinous hostile and aggressive policy on the part of the British Local Executive in Lagos, over the decisions and actions of which the mercantile interests of the colony had no sort of control whatever; and which contemptuously turned a deaf ear to all their remonstrances. We have throughout maintained, and shall never cease to maintain, whatever Captain Glover and Mr. Charles Leigh Clare may assert to the contrary, that if there ever was a righteous claim against a Government on the part of a mercantile community, a claim on the British Government by everyone connected with the trade and commerce of Lagos for all losses which have been directly or indirectly sustained, and may further be sustained through that stoppage of business, is such a claim. We point this out for serious consideration by the creditors of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., at their meeting on the 13th January, and shall be glad to have their co-operation in formalizing that claim and pressing it on Her Majesty's Government, both directly and through the House of Commons, in the session which will commence on the 6th February. We feel that one of the first notices placed on the order-book of the House of Commons on the 6th February ought to be one on this important subject of the liability of Government for losses which they unnecessarily, and without any adequate imperial interest being involved, bring upon innocent traders by their ruinous mistakes.

LAGOS AFFAIRS.

AGAIN our hopes have been disappointed. Another month, with the year 1873 also close upon us, without any news of the actual re-opening of trade at Lagos. Month after month brings us a repetition of the same hopes and beliefs—a repetition of the same disappointments. Where is all this to end? When are the reasonable hopes of the merchant and trader, based on an estimate of human wants and desires, to be fulfilled? Alas! we know not. Had the British policy at Lagos been a reasonable one, the native people around would have been encouraged, long ere this, to appoint someone to represent them in England—to make known their complaints and desires, and to seek satisfaction for them—instead of resorting to the barbarous system of cutting off communications, and annihilating trade, to the loss and inconvenience of their own people, as well as those of the Government with which they disagree. But, unfortunately, the British Executive in Lagos has been accustomed to represent itself to the native countries around as so immediately deriving its power from the Queen of Great Britain, and so essentially reflecting the feelings and views of the Queen respecting them, that any attempt on their part to appeal against its decisions and acts would be altogether vain and fruitless. Hence it has come to pass that, instead of referring to the British Government in England against the injurious acts and hostile policy, and aggrandising encroachments, of the local British authority, they have, to the great injury of themselves as well as of the traders of Lagos, met the injurious acts of the Lagos Executive with reprisals, and closed their roads and markets against us. What is to be done under these circumstances? The British Government either desire territorial aggrandisement for the Colony of Lagos, or they do not. They either wish that Lagos should be a territorially expanding colony, with all the necessary commitments as regards Imperial expenditure, or they do not. If they do not, nothing can be more easy than to give such assurances, and make such changes, as shall convince the Egbas and Jebus that there is not only no desire on the part of the British Government that Lagos should usurp power and dominion over them, and wrest from them their territory, but that they are entirely opposed thereto, and look upon Lagos solely as a commercial colony, the only conquests of which are to be those of trade and commerce—a promotion of the material development of their countries, and the spread of civiliza-

tion by means of example, and of wealth created by industry, and the exchange of useful commodities. Egba and Jebu are the great highways to the interior from Lagos. It is through them that the products of the interior must necessarily come to Lagos—through them that European commodities must pass from Lagos. Any pretension on the part of Lagos to dictate to Egba and Jebu the terms on which and the routes by which they shall permit such traffic through their territories, must be futile, and attended with constant interruptions to trade and commerce with them, unless Great Britain be determined to enforce such dictation by the unjust and costly employment of military power, against which of course the natives would be unable successfully to contend. England might, no doubt, at the expense of elastic millions of pounds sterling, and a proportionate sacrifice of human life, make a little East India of Egba, Yoruba, Jebu, Dahomey, &c., the limits of which should be the protected territories of the Gold Coast (with Ashanti until this also should be annexed), on the one side, and the Niger and the Ocean on the others. But *cui bono*? The present age is pre-eminently a commercial one, and its conquests are the peaceable conquests of science and commerce (would that we could add, of Christianity). No persistent military action and expenditure, to found a great British African State, would be tolerated by the Parliament and people of England. Why, then, should Her Majesty's Government permit its officials at Lagos to pursue an irritating and aggressive policy, which cannot have any grand ulterior results as regards dominion, civilization, or human progress, but which must necessarily embitter our relations with the neighbouring mainland countries, and expose the trade and commerce of Lagos to such ruinous interruptions as that by which they are now visited. The course we have pursued is unworthy of a great nation. It would have been all very well had there existed a predetermination to make a conquest such as we have described; but when there is not only no such predetermination, but an authoritative parliamentary decision against it, it is stupid as well as disastrous. At the same time that we thus condemn the course pursued by the British Government and authorities, which has led to the present dead-lock, we feel it our duty to urge upon those whose counsels sway the native authorities, to do all in their power for the immediate renewal of trading relations between the native countries and Lagos, and to induce those authorities to refer all matters in dispute to the British authorities in England. They might do this in full assurance that they will be treated with consideration as regards their prejudices, and justice as regards their rights. It is well known throughout West Africa that we are the advocate of West African rights and interests, and that we would never counsel what might be prejudicial to these. We have, therefore, some title to hope that such counsel on our part will not be without fruit, should the trade of Lagos with the interior be still unhappily closed.

THE PROPOSED WEST AFRICAN BANK.

THERE are some things we have done to which we can look back with unalloyed pleasure. The course which, in the discharge of our duty, we pursued as regards the proposed West African Bank, is one of them. If we had never done anything else to entitle us to (what we never expect to receive) the substantial gratitude of the people of the West Coast, and especially the merchants and traders in and connected with the British settlements there, our *exposé*, in April and May last, of the defects in the Sierra Leone Ordinance of March, as regards guarantees for public security, would give us a great and lasting claim on them. We ask our readers to consider what might have been the state of affairs on the Coast under these circumstances, of the failure of Messrs. Child, Mills, and Co., and of the bank, which, if it had been established under that ordinance, must inevitably have failed with them, if we had not in the Press, in Parliament, and at the Colonial-office, entered the lists on their behalf against the ordinance, and thus defeated it. The bank as pro-

posed would only have been Child, Mills, and Co., under another name; and would have been exposed, with all the public and private moneys that might have been attracted to it, to all the risks inseparable from such a business as that of the gentlemen above-mentioned. We happily prevented the possibility of this. The discharge of our duty in such a case was painful to us, but we dared not flinch from it; nor could we desire a more complete justification of what we did than is afforded by the amended ordinance since passed, in which the main objections urged by us against the March ordinance have been attended to. We had proposed inserting in this month's *African Times*, in juxtaposition, those portions of the first and the second ordinance above alluded to, so that all who might read should see the beneficial results of our opposition to the first ordinance. But as it now seems to be extremely questionable whether the gentlemen in whose favour the amended ordinance has been passed will be able to proceed with the proposed bank, we defer doing so. The West Coast trading interests, and possibly the Colonial Government chests, have, through our action, escaped a great peril, and we are satisfied. Banks of deposit and issue will, no doubt, become as necessary in the British settlements on the West Coast of Africa as they are in other parts of world; but we do not see that there is at present any such need; and it would be a great misfortune that such useful establishments should be discredited there in the future, by a premature and inevitably unsuccessful experiment.

DEBTORS IN BATHURST AND LAGOS.

WHEN we drew attention to the petition of the debtors in prison at Bathurst, for the extension of English Bankruptcy or Insolvent Laws to the Gambia settlement, we stated in our remarks that these laws had been introduced at Sierra Leone, Cape Coast and Lagos, and were in force there. It seems that we were in error as regards Lagos. A letter from prisoners in gaol there, and copy of a petition sent by them to the Acting Administrator, appear in this present number. So far as regards the condition of persons incarcerated for debt at Lagos, it would almost appear that they are worse off than those similarly confined at the Gambia. Equally hopeless of release except by favour of their detaining creditor, their nourishment allowance seems to be inferior. We are not aware of any good reasons why the laws which regulate such matters in England, and at Sierra Leone and Cape Coast, should not be applied also at the Gambia and Lagos. If any such reasons can be alleged, we shall be glad to consider them; but as it seems to us that such reasons can scarcely exist, we beg again to press the matter on the consideration of Earl Kimberley and Mr. Huguessen. There can be no doubt of it being desirable, that as far as possible there should be uniformity of laws in Great Britain and her colonial settlements and possessions, especially where these latter depend for their laws upon the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as in the case of the West African settlements.

THE FANTI CONFEDERATION.

THE future of the Gold Coast countries seems to us to be at stake; and it is therefore natural that we should be getting impatient for some decision of the Colonial-office as to the Fanti Confederation, and the Constitution sent by its officials for the consideration and approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Nearly fourteen months have passed away since Mr. Acting Administrator Salmon exploded in a fit of "ungovernable fury" at the temerity of those African officials in daring to present to him copies of that Constitution for transmission to the Governor-in-Chief and the Secretary of State, for their approval; and no decision whatever of the Downing-street authorities has yet been made known. The same number of months have passed away since Mr. Salmon threw those officials into prison, and subjected them and their friends to many indignities and much loss and suffering; and no regret at the error, no compensation for the wrong, has yet

been uttered or decreed in Downing-street. Surely twelve months is sufficiently long as a period of incubation for the hatching of any colonial egg, however hard-shelled a one; and we fully expected that, ere this, we should have been officially informed, whether this Fanti Confederation and Constitution egg, thus submitted to the hatching process in Downing-street, had been found to contain a serpent or a bird of promise. To us it seemed certain that the egg contained in embryo a brilliant bird of promise; and we longed, and still long, to see it hatched, and its real life of usefulness entered upon. But whether it contained bird or serpent, we cannot conceive any justification on the part of the Colonial-office authorities for not having applied adequate incubating warmth, to have long ago determined this very important point. It ought to have been borne in mind, that the Fanti Confederation consists of all the principal native authorities, kings and chiefs, within the protected territories, in union with educated natives; that a body so composed is at least entitled to some respect and consideration, unless it be the intention of the Home Government to trample these people entirely under their feet; and govern the so-called protected territories by brute force. Certainly, it seems very inconsistent on their part thus to treat all the native authorities; and at the same time to withdraw the whole of the British armed force, by aid of which the Local British authorities have hitherto upheld their dignity and power. We limit ourselves, at present, to this mere glance at the actual position of things at Cape Coast as between Great Britain and the protected territories on the Gold Coast, because we have lately heard of the arrival (on the 23rd November) of the new Administrator, Colonel Harley, at Cape Coast; and further, that the new Governor-in-Chief, Mr. Keats, will leave Liverpool for Sierra Leone on the 12th January, to relieve Mr. Pope Hennessy. It can scarcely be deemed credible that these gentlemen, thus sent out to administer the government of the West African settlements in general, and that of the protected territories in particular, should have been sent out without a full account of the Downing-street hatching. There must surely be utterances speedily following the arrival of those gentlemen on the West Coast; and we will therefore endeavour to control our impatience for yet a little while; especially as the Parliamentary Session is to open on the 6th of February. We shall therefore only add that whenever the Colonial-office decision is made known, we hope it will be such as the Cape Coast people are entitled to expect from a British Government.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—CONSTANTINOPLE, NOV. 9.—An English steamer arrived here on Wednesday from Malta with 20 slaves on board. The trade in slaves between Tripoli and Constantinople *via* Malta is very brisk.

THE SPANISH NEGRO SLAVERY QUESTION.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN PORTO RICO.

Madrid, December 25, 1872.

The Bill for the immediate abolition of slavery in Porto Rico was read in the Congress yesterday, and was received with loud cheers. A Commission is to be appointed to determine the amount of the indemnity to be awarded, the State paying 40 per cent., the province of Porto Rico another 40 per cent., and the owners sacrificing the remaining 20 per cent. Section 1 of the Bill provides that slavery is totally and for ever abolished in Porto Rico. The slaves become free at the expiration of four months after the publication of the present law in the *Official Gazette* of Porto Rico. Section 2 provides that owners of emancipated slaves shall be indemnified within the period mentioned in the preceding section. Section 3 provides that the amount of such indemnity shall be fixed by the Government on the recommendation of a Commission composed of the Civil Governor of Porto Rico, who will act as President, the Director of the Financial Department of Porto Rico, a judge of the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, three persons nominated by the deputies of Porto Rico, and three persons nominated by five of the largest slaveowners in the island. A majority of this Commission will give validity to its decisions. Section 4 provides that 80 per cent. of the sum fixed as indemnity shall be paid to the slaveowners. Half of this amount will be paid on account of the State, the other half on account of the Colony, the residue

of 20 per cent. remaining at the charge of slaveowners. Section 5 authorises the Government to arrange by arbitration for a settlement of questions that may arise, and to take all necessary measures for strictly carrying out the present law within the period fixed by Sections 1 and 2.

ANOTHER CASE FOR REDRESS AT CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Nov. 22, 1872.

Sir,—I hope you will publish the following plain and simple statement of what we look upon here as a sad case of oppression and wrong.—Your obedient servant,

FANTI.

Statement.

On September 13, 1872, two of the prison turnkeys, Haffener Sawyer and James Classpeter, whilst in the performance of their duty, were arrested under two warrants signed "Foster Foster, Assistant Magistrate," on charge of larceny of two turkeys from Government-yard, the property of the said Foster Foster, and were accordingly locked up. The next day Colonel Foster Foster, who had issued the warrant, and whose turkeys the prisoners were charged with stealing, sat as Assistant Magistrate to hear the case in the absence of the accused. When he had heard all that he could hear against the accused from the mouths of convicts, he sent for the accused (Sawyer and Classpeter), read over to them what had been taken down by him (the prosecutor and judge) in their absence, and asked them if they were guilty or not guilty. Both prisoners replied that they were not guilty. Mr. Foster Foster then told them that he had been informed by two convicts that on September 8 they saw two turkeys come into the gaol yard; that they heard Classpeter say to Sawyer, "There are two strange turkeys come into the yard;" that Sawyer replied, "Let us keep them," and immediately Sawyer took one, cut its head off, and cooked it for his breakfast. (This statement, or deposition, was alleged to have been made by the convicts privately to Mr. Foster Foster in the absence of the accused.) The prisoners declared the statement was false, and that it ought to have been made in their presence, so that they might have had an opportunity of cross-examining their accusers. Upon this (without calling on the accused for any further answer to the charge), Mr. Foster Foster committed them for trial, and refused bail. The two prisoners were placed in close, solitary confinement, and so kept from September 13 until November 8, when they were brought to trial. On the 1st of November they obtained pen, ink, and paper to prepare their defence. Mr. Foster Foster, however, ordered all to be taken away; and this was done by Sergt. Smith. No one, not even the wives of the prisoners, was allowed to see them, and instead of their being confined, as usual, in the prison where all untried prisoners are kept before trial, Mr. Foster Foster confined them in a cellar under his own residence, and allowed them only two hours daily for exercise, so that they underwent fifty-eight days' solitary confinement before their trial, at the hands of their prosecutor and judge. On November 8 the trial came on. A jury, composed of two European gentlemen and ten educated natives, were sworn to try the case. Strange to relate, Mr. Foster Foster made no appearance, but employed Mr. E. Bannerman to prosecute for him. After hearing nine witnesses for Mr. Foster Foster, seven of whom were convicts, the others policemen, one of whom is Colonel Foster Foster's private and confidential servant, not a little of evidence could be elicited to prove even a shadow of suspicion against Sawyer and Classpeter, and on November 9 the case of Foster Foster v. James Haffener Sawyer and James Classpeter for the larceny of two turkeys, was closed, and the jury, without the least hesitation, honourably acquitted both prisoners, and they were discharged from the prosecutor's clutches. They immediately proceeded to resume their duties at the gaol-yard; but, on their going there the chief gaoler, Mr. Peters, informed them that Colonel Foster Foster (their late prosecutor and judge) had ordered him not to allow them to resume their duties until he gave orders to that effect. The next day, Sawyer and Classpeter applied to Mr. Foster Foster for their pay. He told them that they must wait until he had their vouchers made out. When the vouchers were made out Sawyer and Classpeter perceived that Mr. Foster Foster had ordered his clerk to write on the face of the voucher the following memorandum, for the signature of Sawyer and Classpeter: "We have been suspended for larceny of two turkeys in Government-yard." This request they both declined to accede to, as they could not understand why they should verify by their signatures what had been proved by the verdict of twelve sworn men to be a lie. They were then told that they would not get their pay until they had subscribed this memorandum, and were accordingly forcibly turned away by four policemen. Sawyer and Classpeter, failing to obtain any redress from Colonel Foster Foster, addressed a respectful letter of complaint to his Excellency Acting Administrator

Salmon, but he refused to take any notice of their complaint. Sawyer and Classpeter are still without their pay, nor are they reinstated. Sawyer was for thirteen years a steward in H.M.'s Navy; James Classpeter was for twenty-four years and six months a soldier, discharged on May 11, 1869, with the best character that any soldier could bear, besides having five good-conduct badges, and a pension of 1s. per diem for life.

These are the exact words on his discharge paper, dated Horse Guards, May 11, 1869: "His character has been exemplary; he is in possession of five good-conduct badges."—JOHN DESBOROUGH, Colonel Commanding Royal Artillery, Jamaica.

Copy of Sawyer and Classpeter's Letter to the Acting Administrator, which he has refused to take any notice of.

Cape Coast, Nov. 13, 1872.

Sir,—We, the undersigned, first and second turnkeys in the Colonial Gaol of this settlement, beg most respectfully to approach your Excellency, in order to lay before you, in as brief a manner as possible, certain circumstances and grievances relative to our position, as above stated. That whilst in the discharge of our respective duties, a warrant was, on the 13th Sept. last, issued for our apprehension, charging us with the larceny of two turkeys, said to belong to the Honourable Colonel Foster Foster. That we were accordingly apprehended, and kept in strict confinement at the police station for a period of one month and twenty-seven days, before the hearing of the case, which took place before his Honour the Chief Magistrate and a jury of twelve, on the 8th and 9th instant, on which latter day we were acquitted.

That our writing materials were taken away from us, all visitors debarred from seeing us, and we had to provide subsistence for ourselves during the period of our confinement.

That the principal witnesses in the case on behalf of the prosecution, were criminal prisoners, who had combined together in order to seek our ruin, we being their taskmasters.

That immediately after our release we proceeded forthwith to discharge our duties, but to our surprise we were told by the gaoler that the Honourable Colonel Foster Foster gave a verbal order not to admit us into the gaol until further orders from him.

That, as innocent men, whose reputations have been vilified, and not having been suspended from duty by your Excellency or the Colonial Secretary, we trust that, with this plain statement of our grievances, your Excellency will restore to us our positions, and mete to us the justice which our case demands.—We have the honour to be, your most obedient servants,

J. H. SAWYER.

JAMES CLASSPETER.

To his Excellency Charles Spencer Salmon,
Acting Administrator, Cape Coast.

EXTRACTS FROM A LECTURE BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES ON COLONIAL GOVERNMENT.

DEAL, October 23.—Mr. E. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., Under-Secretary for the Colonies, delivered a lecture on 23rd October, to the members of the Deal and Walmer Institute, on "The Colonies, and their Government by the Mother Country." First, he desired to say how entirely he agreed with the opinion implied in the question, "What would Great Britain be without her colonies?" There had been from time to time statesmen who had let fall words from which it had been inferred that they rated colonial possessions at a low value. They had talked of the evils contingent upon such possessions, the vulnerable point for assault which they afford to an enemy in time of war, of the difficulty and delicacy of the relations between a mother country and a dependency daily increasing in wealth and population; and they maintained that our trade and commerce would be equal in magnitude and extent if each great colony were an independent country. For his part, he differed entirely from such views as these. He thought—nay, he maintained, as an undoubted and incontrovertible fact—that our colonies had been, and still are, of immense service to us; that by their means the name, the credit, and the prestige of England had been heralded throughout the world; that trade had followed the flag; that new markets for our commerce, new fields of labour for our surplus population, new channels of enterprise for our active spirits at home, had been opened to us through our colonies; and that it was the duty of every patriotic Englishman to cherish the colonial connection, and to do his utmost to strengthen the tie which bound and united together the mother country and the colonies, to their great and mutual advantage. (Cheers.) . . . They might depend upon it there could only be one colonial policy which any government in this country could venture to follow. Any government which rightly interpreted, and desired duty to represent, the feelings and wishes of the British people, must seek to cherish and cement the bond of union between Great Britain and her colonies. The question was one which never ought to be made the battle-field of

party at home, and it was little less than a crime for speakers or writers to insinuate that any government desired to alienate our colonies. Such insinuations were only made to serve the object of political partisans, and they might depend upon it that whatever occasional difference there might be in the management of details, any and every British government, from whatever political party it might be chosen, had only one and the same general colonial policy to pursue. (Hear, hear.) Having spoken of the number and position of the British colonies, the manner in which they came into the possession of Great Britain, and the different forms of government which they enjoyed, the honourable gentleman, when dealing with the West Coast of Africa, referred to the somewhat curious fact that while those settlements were originally founded principally for the purposes of the slave trade, they were now, under a wiser and more human policy, made use of for precisely a contrary object—viz., a station from which our efforts might be directed towards the suppression of that cruel and nefarious traffic. These efforts had been attended with very great success. Moreover, these were African settlements which had been centres from which good and brave men had gone forth into the interior of the continent of Africa, and by their agency a trade had been created along the coast by no means inconsiderable; and what was more, the blessings of Christianity and civilization had reached those nations who, but for these British settlements, would have still remained in dark and heathen ignorance. (Cheers.) The good work, however, was not yet half done, and there were many obstacles in the way. The missionaries and the civilizing traders had much to contend against, besides the natural difficulty of overcoming native ignorance and prejudice. A committee of the House of Commons sat in 1865 "to consider the state of the British establishments on the Western Coast of Africa." After a long and careful inquiry, the committee reported that "it is not possible to withdraw the British Government wholly or immediately from any settlements or engagements on the West African Coast." But it went on to say "that all further extension of territory or assumption of government, or new treaties offering any protection to native tribes, would be inexpedient, and that the object of our policy should be to encourage in the natives the exercise of those qualities which may render it possible for us more and more to transfer to them the administration of all the governments, with a view to our ultimate withdrawal from all, except, probably, Sierra Leone." The main object of that committee, which was doubtless actuated by the best possible motives, was to save this country the expense of these settlements, and the complications with native tribes which had occasionally taken place. For his part, however, he could not look forward to any such contingency. He hoped that, in spite of this report of the House of Commons Committee, settlements which had already effected so much good, and through whose agency so much more might still be done, would never be abandoned by Great Britain; and he believed, moreover, that eventually an increasing and developing trade would make their continued occupation more and more desirable on commercial grounds, while there was good reason to hope that before long they might become entirely self-supporting. (Cheers.) . . . Having given a description of the institution of the Colonial office in London, and remarking that on all the departments able and experienced men were employed, Mr. Hugessen went on to deal with the duties of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, and, replying to a statement that had been made to the effect that such was a sinecure office, he mentioned that during three weeks, last session, when members of the Government had to stay up in the House of Commons until one, two, or three in the morning four days out of the seven, the average number of despatches that passed through his hands was 84 a-week, or 14 a working day. . . . The Colonial office, however, was not the only channel through which communications were interchanged between the mother country and the colonies. There were two very important gentlemen called the Crown agents, whose office was in Spring-gardens. They were appointed by the Secretary of State at fixed salaries, and the numerical strength and cost of their clerical staff was fixed by the Treasury. Their office was, in fact, a branch of the Colonial office, and was most valuable to the colonies. They made no personal profit whatever from their agency, as other agents did, but received either a small fixed annual sum, calculated on the average amount of the value of the business done for the colony, or a small percentage on business transacted. The duties performed by this branch of the office were of a most important and varied character. . . . In his concluding remarks, Mr. Hugessen said that he had shown how colonial matters were treated in Downing-street, and he was glad to say that he believed such matters were regarded by the public with greater interest than was formerly the case. (Hear, hear.) He earnestly desired to encourage the interests of, and did all in his power to do justice to, colonial subjects in the House of Commons, and thus to foster and stimulate public interest in colonial affairs.

THE CONDITION OF SAN DOMINGO.—The following is an extract of a letter received by the last mail from Mirebalais, in San Domingo, giving a gloomy account of the state of affairs in that part of the island: "Your wife and her sister came to us in great alarm. St. Pablo was in a ferment, and several murders, mostly of white people, had taken place. After discussing the matter, and considering the expense the step would entail, I came to the conclusion to send them and my wife to Luern (Jamaica), where for a time they will be safe. All the signs of 1861-2 have re-appeared, only in a more serious and alarming form. You know I am no alarmist, but I believe we are living on a volcano; there is no saying when the negroes will rise. Honest Tom has left us; the only explanation he would give me was that he was 'a patriot.' Numerous arrests have been made, but with no other effect apparently but that of aggravating the people, and matters must soon come to a crisis. It is widely supposed that the eldest son of the old President, Señor Don Pedro, is at the bottom of it all. Certain it is that he had consulted about raising funds in England; the old man, I am told, would not listen to him. The same gloomy news reaches me from St. Louis, Leoganes, London, St. Jago, and our friend at Seibe has left his head clerk in charge of the counting-house and gone to Cuba. In case of any necessity, all the whites are to meet at Moss's store, where we have our fire-arms. The Government are dishonest, and divided amongst themselves, and one half of them would join the Pretender, or any one else. The salaries are all in arrear, and the Government treasury is empty."

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[Ed. A. T.]

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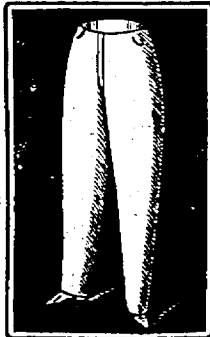
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