

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.

MARCH, 1873.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The splendid Steamship LOANDA is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on MARCH 1, 1873, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th MARCH, 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 28th FEB., and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 P.M. on the 5th MARCH. 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 BONNY, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th MARCH, 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 6 P.M. on the 11th, 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, LATHLAND, 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 Yoruba, Feb. 8.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Loanda, February 18.
African S.S. Co.'s Nigretia, Feb. 21.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Bonny, Feb. 25.

DEPARTURES.

British and African S. N. Co.'s Roquelle, February 6.
African Steamship Co.'s Yoruba, February 12.
British and African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer Volta, February 18.
African S.S. Co.'s Nigretia will leave 1st March.

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

LIVERPOOL, FEB. 7.—The African Royal Mail steamship Yoruba arrived in the Mersey this evening with the mails from the West and South Coast of Africa, Teneriffe, and Madeira. She brings twenty-eight passengers, and 300 ounces of gold dust. The news from the coast is unimportant. The dispute between Ja Ja and Oko Jumbo had been settled.

LIVERPOOL, FEB. 25.—The British and African Steam Navigation Company's steamship Bonny, Captain Sullivan, arrived in the Mersey this evening with the mails from the West Coast of Africa, Teneriffe, and Madeira. Trade was quiet, but health good. The Cameroons were healthy, but trade was stopped. The Mohican, Ceres, and Ciroko were in the river. H.M.S. Pioneer was at Fernando. Health was tolerably good at Bonny, but trade was quiet. Other news unimportant.

RIVER GAMBIA.

ATTACK OF NATIVES ON BRITISH SETTLEMENTS.

The *Manchester Examiner* receives the following intelligence through a merchantile house in that city:—"Intelligence has just reached Bordeaux by the French mail from Goree, that one of the English settlements in the River Gambia had been attacked by the natives, the buildings and property destroyed, and that the Mahomedans were meditating an attack upon Bathurst, the principal town of the colony, and the seat of the British Government. The Europeans, having been left for some time past entirely without protection, immediately dispatched a messenger to Goree for help from the French Government, and it is reported that on the 27th ult. a gunboat had been dispatched from Goree to protect French interests in the English port of Bathurst. The English merchants were in great anxiety for their lives and property."

[The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies has denied in the House of Commons that any English Settlements had been attacked, and stated that means of protection had been sent to the Gambia.—Ed. A.T.]

CAPE COAST OFFICIALS.

Mr. C. S. Salmon, Collector of Customs, has come to England on leave. During Mr. Salmon's absence, Colonel Foster Foster will act as Collector of Customs, Colonial Secretary, &c., in addition to his other offices.

It was reported that Mr. Chief Magistrate Chalmers had been appointed to be Queen's Advocate at Sierra Leone. Some such change seems to have been desirable, as there can be no doubt that since the arbitrary proceedings against the officials of the Fanti Confederation and the trial and acquittal of Messrs. Fynn, Fynn, and Forson, Mr. Chalmers has not enjoyed that confidence of the people at Cape Coast which he had previously acquired. In one of the communications we have received by the last mail steamer it is stated that there are above one hundred cases ready to come before the Court, but that the plaintiffs hesitate to proceed with them in Mr. Chalmers' Court. Of course, if this be true, it induces a strong feeling against him.

The new Administrator, Colonel Harley, has not yet given any evidence of activity. There is said to be a dead-lock everywhere, and rumours of Ashanti wars are continuous.—Ed. A.T.

REMOVAL OF MR. CHALMERS FROM CAPE COAST TO SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, January 25, 1873.

Sir,—Mr. D. P. Chalmers, our Chief Magistrate, received a few days since, his appointment as Queen's Advocate at Sierra Leone. The change of magistrate, petitioned for by the educated portion of this community nearly twelve months ago for reasons then set forth, will thus be now effected. It was very necessary it should be so; as, from being once, and deservedly, popular, he has been, since the events of November, December, and January, 1871-2, as deservedly odious and unpopular; and no man, be he who he may, can satisfactorily dispense law and justice in a community by whom he is looked upon with suspicion and dislike.—Yours, &c.,

FANIL.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER YORUBA.

Messrs. Alfred Sellar and Charles Jeannet, Kinembo; Messrs. John Miller (engineer), Manuel Ulas, Antonio Ulas, Deodori Tudela, Juan Fernandez, Jose McLopez, Miguel Granes, Jose Santor, and Juan Toda, Fernando Po; Messrs. C. S. Salmon and P. W. Howe (R.N.), Cape Coast Castle; Messrs. A. Phillips, H. H. Spencer, S. A. Stonewehr, J. M. Harris, and Rev. J. Trotter, Jose Garcia, Jose Marcia Tasa, Pedro Juan, and Ellis Edwards, Sierra Leone; Mr. Edward Muller and Captain Jones, Madeira.

THE ASHANTI RAID, OR INVASION.

VERY IMPORTANT.

To Messrs. Amissh and Brew, Cape Coast.

Askrampah, January, 29, 1873.

My dear Grandsons,—With glad to inform you to tell his Excellency R. W. Harley, C.B., that the Ashantis having crossed river Prah, of which I received a bearer from the Asim Kings, who informed me that the Ashantis have taken several parts of their country, and after that another came with a head of Ashenti man, and also informed me that the Ashantis were coming; therefore, I wish to know his Excellency's opinion about this matter. Please tell his Excellency to give me six short cap guns, the second hand of the policemen, as I wrote him the former time. With my best compliments to you and his Excellency, I am, your faithful grandfather,

(Signed)

Amroo Oroo (X, his mark).

NOTE FOR EDITOR.—The above came last night, addressed to J. F. Amissh and J. H. Brew, of Cape Coast, from Amroo Oroo, the principal and most influential King in the Protectorate. So there is now no doubt that we are in great trouble again with these cursed Ashantis. If the Fanti Confederation had been organized, we should have met the Ashantis, and thrashed them in a month; but now the country may be ruined. How blind they must be at Downing-street not to have recognized and availed themselves of this splendid combination!—Yours, &c.,

A LOOKER-ON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gomocah, Fanti, Gold Coast, January 15, 1873.

Sir,—The other day Quabina Fuh, King of Western Akim, sent very expressly to inform Quasie Taudor, king of this district, that the Ashantis had invaded a village belonging to him, and had captured and carried away about sixty of his people.

His Majesty King Quabina Fuh further stated per the messengers that, to all appearance, the Ashantis are preparing to make war against us. But you will, no doubt, hear this better from your abler correspondents.

Yesterday, a subordinate officer of Ammooakoon Attah, King of Western Akim, calling upon Mr. Bentill on business, stated in answer to a question that Quabina Fuh has since made the circumstances known to Ammooakoon Attah, and whereupon, Attah has besieged and surprised a village belonging to the King of Ashanti, and taken away about 100 Ashantis in retaliation.

That they have resolved at a meeting held lately with the King, to co-operate with Quabina Fuh and the Fantis, should Carie Carie, King of Ashanti, mean to make any hostile movement against us.

We never have any palaver with them, but they always must find palaver with us!—Yours obediently,

A GUINFAMAN.

CLASPETER AND SAWYER'S CASE.

[COPY OF LETTER OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.]

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape Coast,

3rd January, 1872.

Sirs,—I am directed by his Excellency the Administrator to acknowledge the receipt of your petition.

His Excellency has carefully considered your complaint.

You will receive your pay up to the date of your commitment for trial before the Supreme Court by the Assistant Magistrate.

You will receive employment in the armed Police Force, if you are willing to join it.—I remain, your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. S. SALMON, Colonial Secretary.

Messrs. Claspeter, Sawyer, and Orlee, Cape Coast.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Jan. 10, 1873.

Dear Sir,—So ends the case of these persecuted, ill-used men. If they are fit to go into the Police Force, surely they were fit to be reinstated as turnkeys. If they were unlawfully kept in prison by their prosecutor and judge, and afterwards acquitted, surely they are entitled, in all common reason and justice, to their pay. But it is the Gold Coast; therefore we wonder at nothing, having been long accustomed to very extraordinary official decisions here.

SPECTATOR.

WHEAT CULTIVATION IN WEST AFRICA.

Mr. T. B. Freeman to Mr. Fitzgerald.

Jamestown, Accra, December 16, 1872.

Sir,—I am glad to inform you that the tin of wheat has come safely to hand. The steamer arrived on Friday last, the 14th inst., and, on my arrival here yesterday morning, I found the package safely landed and awaiting me. I have just now had it opened, and find the seed in good condition; and I will now attend to its immediate and judicious distribution, for which

purpose, at noon to-day, we shall have a committee meeting of our Agricultural Association.

We shall get it tried at several of the interior stations of both the Basle and Wesleyan Missions, and among sundry persons of enterprise in farming, and having plantations; and I shall, of course, try it on my own grounds at Beulah Gardens.—Yours ever sincerely,

T. B. FREEMAN.

From the same to the same.

Beulah Gardens, December 27, 1872.

Sir,—A delay in the arrival of the homeward steamer in Accra-roads allows me an opportunity of adding to my acknowledgment, herewith enclosed, of the receipt of the Egyptian wheat seed, the interesting fact that I sowed some beds of it on these grounds on Saturday last, the 21st inst., and that on Christmas day—the fourth day after sowing—young plants were produced having blades an inch in length above ground.

There can be now, therefore, no question about the successful vegetation of the seeds.—Yours ever sincerely,

T. B. FREEMAN.

Mr. Fitzgerald to Earl Granville.

African Times Office, 121, Fleet-street, E.C.,

February 10, 1872.

My Lord,—I have the honour and great pleasure to enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of a letter received yesterday by me from Accra. This letter gives the most gratifying intelligence that some of the Egyptian Bouchy wheat which you so kindly obtained for me, with the object of introducing, if possible, the cultivation of wheat in Her Majesty's West African settlements, having been sown in beds at Beulah Gardens, Accra, on the 21st December last, had germinated and sprung up so rapidly, that on the 25th December—only four days later—the young blades were one inch in height above ground.

I am sure your Lordship will be pleased to hear that this important experiment for introducing wheat cultivation in West Africa has been so far successful.

I take this opportunity of respectfully acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's letter, dated the 15th November last, informing me that, in compliance with my request contained in my letter of the 9th of the same month to the Right Honourable Earl Granville, Her Majesty's Consul at Alexandria has been instructed to send home eight gallons of Bouchy wheat of the present year's crop.

I beg to offer my most grateful thanks to your Lordship for the kind promptitude with which Her Majesty's Consul at Alexandria was thus requested to secure this additional supply of Bouchy wheat for continuing the experiments in cultivation now so happily commenced in West Africa, and which, if crowned with success, may have an influence on the future of the West African countries, and on their relation with Great Britain, too important to be at present estimated.

In further reply, I beg also to assure your Lordship that I shall be quite willing to pay the expenses that may be incurred in obtaining the Bouchy wheat, should Her Majesty's Government desire me to do so.—I have the honour to remain, my Lord, your Lordship's obedient and humble servant,

FERDINAND FITZGERALD, Editor of the *African Times*.

To the Right Hon. Earl Granville.

DEGRADED STATE OF ACCRA.—FEMALE SCHOOL WANTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, January 21, 1873.

Sir,—It is now many years past since the establishment of the Gospel in this place, and it is shameful to notice the very little progress which is made towards Christianizing the people of Accra. As yet, no material progress has been made among the greater mass of the people as regards Christianity, in spite of the efforts of the missionary agents, and in a population which is numbered by thousands. The number of true Christians in it is comparatively small indeed; the greater part of the people still remain in utter ignorance and darkness, and most of the upper and intelligent portion, who should show a noble example to others, do rather manifest a natural antipathy to religion, or are too proud to go to the House of Prayer.

The Sabbaths here are vilely profaned, and very often are weekdays, when drum-beating, singing and dancing are loudly carried on, even in front of the House of God, during Divine service. I have never heard of any people on the West Coast settlements, boasting as we do of civilization, and having the advantages of becoming a more Christian and enlightened people, in whom the natural propensity to worldly pleasures and enjoyments is so powerfully predominant. The aged and the young, parents with their children, males and females, are to be seen in crowds in different quarters of the town, night and day, abandoning themselves to

revelry and licentiousness which it is truly painful to behold. Here are large preparations making for a grand country ball which all must attend, and at which grey-headed dames are to be seen teaching the young ones how to dance; there, in the next street, is a host of men and women, boys and girls, drinking and rioting—a funeral custom for a relation who died months ago; and in most cases of this kind a family is put in deep distress and pained afterwards, to pay for the ruin consumed on the occasion. In another quarter of the town is a great noise of drums, and a large crowd of people gathered, to witness the wild pranks of a professional Fetish female dancer. All this is but a faint description of Accra life and pleasure.

In looking on at what passes here daily, the idea of the kingdom of Satan naturally presents itself to the mind; and truly Satan is hard at work in this quarter.

The ignorance and want of proper training of the female portion in this our community is another calamity: and contributes to the torrent of evil which now flows in this place. The few of them who have been partially taught to read, by mixing with bad company, become very much corrupted; and any civilized and Christian stranger who comes here will be rather astonished at the great number of intelligent-looking young women, most of whom cannot repeat the Lord's Prayer. Born and bred up in all worldliness, without any moral restraint, and not knowing anything by which to benefit themselves, they are prepared and seem destined to be the concubines of captains of vessels, Government officials, and European traders, who invariably abandon them and their offspring entirely after a time. But this sinfulness of parents giving their daughters to white men for the sake of their money is an original practice encouraged here up to the present time; and for now a long period, Accra has won the reputation of being a place where all sorts and conditions of white men can come and take one of these as a concubine, to go anywhere he may choose, at a moment's notice.

This state of things induced us lately to petition the Government to establish a school here, for the education and moral culture of the rising generation of Accra; and I earnestly pray that the Lord will put it into their hearts to do this.

Accra is not only very healthy, but was once a most prosperous place, with a very brave and independent people. We now begin to see that things are altogether changed with us. We have become so demoralized, that we ourselves are ashamed of our condition, and the Almighty is continually giving us the most terrible warnings, too. In our public meeting here lately, one of our own able countrymen, in a very forcible speech, assured us that no nation ever got on without Christianity. The distinction between Christianity and civilization was fully drawn by the rev. gentleman who is now sent here to be the head of our Church. He is disappointed to find in a large community like this only a few Christians. Though civilized to some extent, as we apparently are, yet we must be Christianized. Civilization and Christianity must walk together, or dire will be the evil.

It is earnest and sincere prayer to the Almighty—not mere surface civilization, not fine dress, and Addonkim party, with all its concomitant evils—that can elevate and save us from the ruin and destruction which now threaten us.—Yours truly,

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

P.S.—I beg the Editor, for the love and interest always shown by him towards Africans, to put this subject in a more forcible light. We are in great danger; the people here do not care, and despise the warnings of some good men. Perhaps, when the Editor of the *African Times* talks to them, they will begin to consider.

A NEW ADMINISTRATOR FOR LAGOS.

Her Majesty has approved the appointment of Captain George C. Strahan, Colonial Secretary and Acting Governor of the Bahamas, to be Administrator of the Settlement of Lagos.—*Times*, 29th January, 1873.

WHY TRADE HAS NOT BEEN RE-OPENED AT LAGOS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Lagos, January 13, 1873.

Dear Sir,—This is a serious time indeed; and all who have interests at stake are greatly anxious about the opening of the roads. It is the fact, that when most traders and people were hoping to make something good, our late Administrator always planned to destroy all their prospects; and the seed that has been sown by interfering with the natives began to tell—alas! to the ruin of the merchants; to our profound grief. What we have all been trying to pass over and forget gradually, and the natives were allowing to die off, was once more raised up by Glover. He knows the trouble it will take to set matters to rights. I assure you we have done, and are doing, our best to get the roads opened for trade and produce. I must give you the position in which the matter now stands. I presume the

Abeokuta friends will enlighten you on their side. I will tell you about the Jebus, although all are the same. The Jebus and Egbas complained particularly of two things; and they wanted the Government to decide and give a definite reply, so that a mutual understanding might be come to for the future—viz., "the boundary question" and "the domestic slave question." The King of Jebu said that as King Docemo ceded Lagos to the British Crown, let Docemo point out the limits of his territory that he ceded, as there was a recognized mark between Lagos and Jebu; that the Jebus have never ceded any portion of their territory to the British Crown; that it was out of charity they permitted the late King Kosoko and his chiefs and people several years ago to live in their territory at Epe when they were expelled from Lagos; and also, out of charity, the Jebu King and Government permitted Kosoko and his chiefs to collect the dues at Palma and Leckie in their (i.e., the Jebu) territory, for his and his chiefs' maintenance; and when Kosoko and his chiefs returned to Lagos the obligation ceased; Kosoko and his chiefs had no right to sell or cede the Jebu territory of Palma and Leckie to the British Crown; they were only strangers in the Jebu land. Therefore the Jebus say that the placing of a commandant in their territory, and enforcing English laws, and collecting customs, duties, and other revenue in their territory, is illegal; that the English Government make it matter of "might is right." Their love of the English accounts for their not having pressed the matter constantly, because it was the English who told them not to sell one another to the foreigners again, to be taken across the sea. But as the Government, through Captain Glover, have continued to extend their occupation of their territory until they reached Ode, and to build houses and place constables and Houssa forces there, the Jebus demand that the boundary question shall be defined and settled. Hence it is that they claim to have Palma and Leckie restored to them. The Lagos Government have been paying to the late Kosoko and his chief, Tapa, 400*l.* and 200*l.* each per annum as pensions. The Jebus say that has nothing to do with them, and assert that the whole of our Eastern districts, so called, belong to the Jebus. The population, by a census taken in 1872, is 4,014; out of this number there are only ten Europeans—agents and clerks—in one English and three French factories, or houses, doing business in Palma and Leckie. The Jebus are not averse in any way to the merchants being there, but only to the Government officers and forces, because the Commandant, Houssas, and constables interfere with their domestic slave-women, or wives, especially the Houssa and constables; frequently seducing the Jebus' wives to go away without their obtaining redress. Then comes "the domestic slave question." The Jebus say they consider their domestic slave-man or woman as one of their family and relations, and like themselves; that both masters and slaves go to the farm and make palm oil, grow cotton, plant yams, &c., hunt elephants, and get tusks, &c., and bring them to the markets for sale; that both masters and slaves make money. Some domestic slaves rise to eminence and wealth; some masters die childless, and the domestic slave inherits his master's property; and in case of a master dying and leaving issue, the property is equally divided between the child, or children, and the domestic slave, or slaves. The domestic slave is the confidant of his master; a native master confides all his secrets to his domestic slave; and the domestic slave buys others for himself; and they all build houses in one compound to a large extent. Hence the Africans have so many relations. For instance: my father buys a woman, and makes her his wife. You dare not call her afterwards his slave. He then buys a domestic man-slave, and buys also a woman for him, to be his wife, all living in the same compound, in different apartments. The children of my father and the children of his domestic slave-man are called "brothers and sisters;" so then, if he has twenty domestic slaves, and buys wives for all of them, and they have children, they are all one family. But mark: they all work for themselves. When any one of these wives runs away to Lagos, or is enticed away, and they do not get them back, they feel greatly annoyed, and it is a source of serious complaint and loss to them. Also, when the man-slave runs to Lagos, the master feels it to be a great loss, as he reckons him as one of his family already. You will see by this that it will take time to get them to understand the English system or custom or laws.

This is what affects all natives of the interior. It is therefore they ask the Government to have the matter settled. The instructions given by Governor Pope Hennessy and Mr. Fowler were to induce the natives to open the roads, and that these two questions should be settled afterwards. In the meantime, if a woman came to Lagos, and her husband turned up, and she admitted him to be her husband, and that she was not a slave, and especially when she had borne him children, she should be sent back with her husband to save trouble; but if any slave came to Lagos he or she could not be sent back. In fact, even Capt. Glover used to send away wives with their husbands, after he returned

from England in 1866, and so things went on smoothly; but later, when he had an object in view, he permitted his ragamuffin Ijayi and Yoruba friends to go and entice wives and slaves away, and took steamers into the rivers and creeks, to annoy the people, and make them the means of domestic slaves escaping from their masters. He must have known what all this would come to—destruction and ruin, as we see at this day. The King of Jebu and Government yielded to Governor Pope Hennessy's overtures, but between the 24th September and the 7th October last, Capt. Glover's party in Lagos used all the discharged V.R. Police as agencies for diffusing erroneous ideas among the Lagosians at Epe (who are their friends, and to whom Capt. Glover made large presents out of our revenue ere he was sent away), and making them instruments in telling the Jebus secretly that they have been deceived; that the Government will not carry out their promises; Tuvro used the Isheri people as instruments to sow suspicion in the hearts of the Egbas; that the Lagos Government are deceiving them, and that the Egbas should use their influence to persuade the Jebus to hold out and disbelieve any promises that had been made. Hence all the good that it was supposed had been done has come to nothing. Notwithstanding these disappointments, we are not disheartened—we are doing our best. The enemies to peace and trade have done their worst to thwart our proceedings. Fancy, those erroneous statements of Mr. Charles Leigh Clare, of Manchester, were (at least, it is reasonable so to suppose) furnished to him through Capt. Glover by C. D. Turton (agent for Mr. Clare in Lagos), late Postmaster, who wrote them to assist Capt. Glover, so that he might be the Colonial Secretary, and J. H. Willoughby Tuvro, &c., have good employments. It happened that two women, wives of two Ikorodu men, were brought away to Lagos on the 28th July last; one of these had four children to her husband—the last child was on her back. The other woman had three children by her husband, but they died. The two husbands came after them the same day, and found out where they were. Next day, the women were taken to the Governor, and on inquiry they owned that the two men are their husbands, and that they are their wives. King Docemo represented the matter too; and the Governor asked why they came away; they said on account of private family matters, which they related. The reasons were so frivolous that the Governor said they must go with their husbands; and they went with them.

Now, what was made out of this? Look at Mr. Leigh Clare's paper. There it is made out that slaves are hunted for about Lagos; and what is more, they wrote that two women were sent away; that they were killed; that the body of one was seen floating down the river, and the other beat her head against a wall at Ikorodu, and died. Captain Glover, it is supposed, makes extracts of all such letters sent to him and forwards them to the Colonial-office. Earl Kimberley sent them out to be reported upon. A Court of Inquiry was held, and it turned out to be all false. The woman whose body they said was seen floating in the river, was enticed back and brought to Lagos last month, and she swore that the Ikorodu man (who also was present in court) is her husband; he bought her and made her his wife. Everything possible has been done by Captain Glover's adherents here to cause agitation, and annoy the Jebus and Egbas, so that things may continue bad. You know English law differs widely from our law. These adherents have told the natives that "Mr. Fowler (the Acting Administrator) was only minding or taking care of Government-house till Captain Glover's return," and that the English will fight them. One of the chief of these mischief-makers was formerly a slave-owner. He had eight slaves, who served him for years till Consul Foote came, and, as with others, they were bound to him for six or seven years each, after which time, being in a position of authority, he made them remain on his farm, where they are to this day. Some of the runaway slaves to Lagos were also placed on this farm; and others of the party had more of them. To remedy the two complaints made by the Jebus, &c., we propose that the Government should have all slaves running to Lagos properly registered; that a liberated department be formed, so that they could be redeemed and apprenticed to merchants and others for a certain time, so that their interior masters would not have reason to complain, while it would benefit the slaves, as it would prevent their going about robbing and stealing and filling our prison-houses. The large amounts paid to Krooboyas and passage-money to the mail steamers would then remain and be spent in the settlement, while we should have peace with the interior countries. If you are a great friend to any interior man, and if he comes to see you in Lagos, followed by his wives and domestic slave-boys; if on returning one of them claims freedom and will not go, your friend will ever look upon you as a bad man. The natives say they have no land steamers; the very persons who are helping them to make palm oil, &c., are running to Lagos, and they get nobody to go with them to the markets. I still hope that, ere this gets to your hands, the roads may be opened. Governor Berkeley seems to be a different man to Captain Glover, and Captain

Lees is greatly liked. What is required of us now is discretion and patience; and may the Lord direct us in all things! We are doing our best. Accept my many thanks for past favours. I beg you not to be weary in well-doing; the Lord will bless you and yours.—Believe me, yours very truly,

THE AXU.

SALE OF SLAVES!—WHY IS THERE NOT A BRITISH COMMANDANT AT QUITTAH?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Quittah, December 28, 1872.

Sir,—It was rumoured some time ago that the British Government was about sending a commandant here; and, in fact, a package was sent in one of the mail steamers addressed to the "British Commandant, Quittah," which made everyone here think that such person must then be on his way coming. We were, however, sadly disappointed, as, instead of a Commandant, the same "Blavo," of whose uselessness a certain person briefly mentioned in your valuable journal lately, is sent here again, in what capacity even he himself cannot explain. No one believed that after what was then so truthfully related respecting this Blavo, and what took place here, especially on the occasion of the wreck of the British barque, John Bardon, the Government would fail to take the matter of Quittah, and the many British subjects therein, into consideration, and give us some protection; and our regret is the more increased by what is now noticed here from time to time.

Indeed, we cannot compare our state amongst these barbarous tribes to anything else than to that of so many sheep amongst wolves. It is, we know, a great offence to question any part of the policy of the British Government on the West Coast; and to do so is only, for the most part, to make them more stubborn and persistent in upholding it, however wrong that policy may be. The sending back "Blavo" to this place as an official is an illustration of this fact. However, forty-two pounds per annum given to any one whom any Governor on the coast of Africa delights to honour, out of the public chest, is but a very small matter; and Blavo is only to be congratulated on his good luck.

According to his own words, "All this was done by the powerful influence of his uncle, Mr. Lawson, the Government Interpreter at Sierra Leone, and the good-will of Sir Arthur Kennedy." Blavo was suddenly called to Accra some time ago, no doubt by order of the Governor-General, Pope Hennessy, and the office of turnkey—which was only what he was seen to be capable of performing—was given to him. He was at the same time, as we heard, to carry on the duties of under-gaoler there, which requires a person who understands how to write a little; and Blavo, not knowing how to write, did not like the situation at all. It is very probable that his uncle, Mr. Lawson, at Sierra Leone, hearing that his nephew, Blavo, was removed from a place which he had by some plausible scheme got Sir Arthur to fix him (for Blavo was one of the policemen who came over with that Governor on his visit to this quarter during his administration), made a fresh stir for his nephew, and, by the same contrivance, got our good Governor Hennessy to send Blavo back here again; and that's the end of the whole matter. Blavo has now come to his home the second time, to sit down among his family and receive his pay. I cannot blame the Governor-General if he has given his consent to Blavo's return, for, though he is good and wise, yet he is not an angel, to see through everything; but it would be a little better if Blavo's presence here was of the least benefit to anyone, or even if he knew what passes here. The Ashantis are at present blocked up on every side further west, and find their way down here to their allies, the Ahwoonahs. It is, therefore, no wonder that messengers come from the Ashanti monarch to the chiefs here now and then—upon some errand, of course. But ask Blavo (I should say "Blabo," because that is what he himself said his right name is) what it was for, and he does not even know that any Ashanti messengers did come here!

I need not say anything about domestic slavery, which is being carried on here in its perfection. Since a late war which took place between these tribes and some other in the interior, in which they invited the Ashantis to join them, the price of a boy or girl of twelve years old has been 2*l.* 15*s.* At present it is thirty dollars, and buyers complain. This is a great deal cheaper than what is asked for a slave in the East. Who can deny that a slave trade is existing at present here?

It is known that certain tribes on this side of the coast of Africa who are not British subjects, and not directly under British protection, are privileged to buy what they call "domestic slaves," but I never heard of a similar privilege being conferred on any *bona fide* British subjects, and under Her Majesty's immediate protection; yet it is plain that British subjects who, having lived here for a long time, exercise pecuniary influence over the natives, do buy and retain a lot of "domestic slaves;" and I often

heard such a one express dissatisfaction that the Government should come here to humbug the people, as they call it. I own that there are advantages which we of course derive in point of trade, and I believe we have more rum and tobacco come to this port, more than what goes to the four settlements put together, especially of late, and we land our rum and other things here free of duty; but, notwithstanding all these advantages, I do not agree with anyone who expresses a wish that the Government should not interfere with the people.

Quittah at present is not what it was in years gone by, and whoever feels an interest about the matter must certainly put up with it anyhow, and should begin to prepare themselves for the change.

This time they should see that there are Europeans and others from the different settlements who reside here carrying on extensive mercantile business, and shipping large quantities of produce by steamers regularly; besides, vessels from different parts of Europe frequent here, trading. The Lagoon from the River Volta is navigable to all these parts, and continues its course all the way down to Lagos, and surely the English Government should not leave us unprotected. A commandant ought to be placed here, who should know and report to the proper quarter all that is going on here, especially between the chiefs of the place and the King of Ashanti, and murder, plunder, house-burning, and other atrocities would be put entirely down, and such a new life given to legitimate trade as would place Quittah on a level with the other commercial places on the Coast. Truly, Sir, the absence of a recognized authority in this place is much to be deplored.—I am, Sir,

A RESIDENT TRADER AND SUBJECT OF HER
MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

JAN. 25 TO FEB. 1.

PALE KERNELS.—About 60 tons at 18*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

PALE OIL.—Without change, and the sales are 700 tons. Irregular at 30*l.* to 35*l.*; Old Calabar at 36*l.* 10*s.* to 36*l.* 5*s.*; Benin at 36*l.* 15*s.*; Lagos at 37*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; New Calabar at 38*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; and Brass at 39*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

COTTON.—Increased demands with a slight improvement in prices. Sales of the week: 70,000 bales. Price: Lagos quality, 7*d.* to 8*d.*

FEB. 1 TO FEB. 8.

PALE OIL.—Prices generally rather in buyers' favour, and about 450 tons sold; Irregular at 32*l.* to 37*l.*, Accra at 35*l.* 10*s.*, Bonny at 35*l.* 15*s.* to 36*l.*, Old Calabar at 36*l.* to 36*l.* 5*s.*, Lagos at 37*l.* 10*s.*, New Calabar at 38*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and Brass at 39*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

COTTON.—A gradually declining market. Sales of the week: 63,000 bales. Price, Lagos quality, 7*d.* to 8*d.*

FEB. 8 TO FEB. 15.

WAX.—4 bags African at 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

EBONY.—35 tons billet Gaboon at 14*l.* ex quay, and 10 tons Old Calabar at 13*l.* 15*s.* for small round, and 18*l.* per ton for large.

GROUND NUTS.—5,429 mats decorticated at 17*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton, ex quay.

PALE KERNELS.—100 bags Cameroons at 12*l.* 15*s.* per ton, ex quay.

PALE OIL.—The market remains extremely quiet, and 400 tons sold; Irregular at 34*l.* to 35*l.*, Accra at 35*l.* 10*s.*, Bonny at 35*l.* 15*s.* to 36*l.* 10*s.*, Old Calabar at 36*l.*, Benin at 36*l.* 5*s.*, Lagos at 37*l.* and Brass at 39*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

COTTON.—The market has been heavy throughout the week, and with a very limited business; all descriptions have further declined. Sales of the week, 60,000 bales. Price, Lagos qualities, 7*d.* to 8*d.*

FEB. 15 TO 22.

EBONY.—Nine tons at 12*l.* 10*s.* to 12*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

GROUND NUTS.—African, 40 bags at 17*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

ADANSONIA FIBRE.—Five tons at 12*l.* per ton.

PALE OIL.—The demand is exceedingly moderate, and prices drooping. The sales are 520 tons; Bonny at 35*l.* 10*s.* to 35*l.* 5*s.*, 8-i-l Pond at 35*l.* 10*s.*, Old Calabar at 36*l.*, Benin at 36*l.* 5*s.* to 35*l.* 10*s.*, Lagos at 37*l.*, and New Calabar at 38*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

COTTON.—Market quiet, with a downward tendency in prices. Sales of the week: 61,000 bales. Price—African, Lagos quality, 7*d.* to 8*d.*

THE IRON TRADE AND THE COAL QUESTION.—WOLVERHAMPTON, Feb. 18.—Even at 20*s.* a-ton advance upon last week's rate, finished iron was difficult to get, and the consumers are ready to give the rise of 2*s.* per ton on slack as well as large coils. Portions of works are standing for want of fuel. Masters are becoming greatly annoyed at the indolence of the men, and many will not accept orders at any price.

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.

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And to whom Subscribers will please pay their Subscriptions.

Fernando Po P. J. N. Stone.
Lagos J. B. Carrol.

The African Times.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1873.

WHEAT.

WE were prepared to hear of a rapid growth of the wheat we dispatched to Accra in November last, should there be a growth. We had been informed that in Egypt this description of wheat is generally harvested in about six weeks from the time of its being sown. Yet we confess to an emotion of surprise when we read Mr. T. B. Freeman's short letter which appears in our third page. There never was a doubt in our mind that Mr. Freeman would second in every possible way our long-indulged desire to introduce a wheat cultivation in West Africa. We look upon it as providential that a man so earnest, zealous, intelligent, and experienced, should be there to make the experiment on his own plantation; and to stimulate other persons to try it on theirs. And this first intelligence respecting it is very encouraging. It is impossible to imagine a more rapid germination and growth. Sown on the 21st December, and on the 25th the blades one inch in height above ground! It seems to us as though the battle were half won already; that within a very few years the educated people in Africa will not need to import American flour; but that there will be such abundance of home-grown wheat, that it may become an article of food among the natives generally. If the plant succeeds at Accra, we see no reason why it should not do so generally along the West Coast; and there may be fields of golden grain around Abeokuta. We look upon a rapid growth, such as is foreshadowed by the first four days' results at Accra, as very important in calculating the probabilities of success. The chances of evil influences must thereby be proportionately reduced. Still, we are prepared for disappointment; nor shall we be discouraged if some unforeseen causes should prove fatal to this first experiment. A fresh supply of seed-wheat is probably now on its way to us from Egypt, and we shall be ready to send portions of it to any part of the West Coast from which we may receive applications, provided they come to us with the requisite assurances that a careful and earnest trial will be made with it. In the absence of such other applications, we shall dispatch the whole of it to Accra, which, in the event of success, will become the wheat-granary of West Africa.

SPAIN AND EMANCIPATION.

KING AMADEUS has abdicated, and Spain is again without a monarch. The change this time brings a new Republic into existence. Any special interest of ours in this event arises from a consideration of the effect it may produce upon the abolition movement in that country, so closely associated as it is with the grave position of affairs in Cuba. The ex-King was personally favourable to emancipation, but pleaded inability, as a Constitutional monarch, to interfere authoritatively in a question then committed to the hands of his Ministers. The framers of the new Constitution ignored in it the very existence of slavery, unless its ultimate extinction might be said to be included in the reforms the Government undertook to carry out as soon as delegates from Cuba should take their place in the Cortes. The persistent

refusal of the various Ministers who have held office since the Revolution of 1868, sadly disappointed the expectations of anti-slavery friends; but the resolute attitude of a few abolitionists in the Cortes encouraged the anticipation of a solution of the question. Under pressure, the Zorrilla Ministry brought forward a Bill for the abolition of slavery in Porto Rico, which is still under discussion, and which is regarded as a preliminary to a similar measure to be applied to Cuba.

Now, the Republicans stand solemnly committed to "immediate emancipation." These words were inscribed upon their banners, and included in their programme when the party was constituted, and separated itself from the Democrats, who so inconsistently cast in their lot with the Monarchists. Some of the most prominent of the Republican leaders recently united with members of the Senate in an address to the ex-King Amadeus, in which they declared that the abolition of slavery was the only means of terminating the insurrection in Cuba; and to their persistence is due even the tardy measure of justice proposed to be meted out to the slave population of Porto Rico. The anxious question now arises in our minds, "Will the Republicans, now they are in power, remain faithful to the cause they so eloquently defended when they were in a minority?" The avowed policy of the Zorrilla Ministry was to crush out the insurrection before touching the question of social reforms in Cuba. The retention of this island was declared to be a question involving the honour of the nation, and Señor Castelar has recently also declared that Spain will strive her utmost to preserve it. Will he, however—that is, will the Government of which he is so prominent a member—declare "immediate emancipation?" We fear not. He states that the question of reforms in Cuba shall be left till the Cuban delegates come; but so long as the insurrection lasts, no delegates can be elected. If emancipation is the remedy, the new Republic must either apply it forthwith; or its leaders will stultify themselves. Obviously, we must await the event. No long time can possibly elapse before the question is decided. We are informed that there is extreme excitement in Cuba, and the telegraph may any day bring intelligence which will allay our fears that, of all essential reforms, the abolition of slavery will be the last dealt with.

"WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT?"

To have hinted, a few years back, at the possibility of a great fact which confronts us to-day, would have been to expose oneself to unmeasured ridicule. A Gold Coast revenue of sixty thousand pounds a-year would have been regarded as an idiot's dream. The Parliamentary Committee of 1865 looked at the Gold Coast, where a stupid Ashanti imbroglio had lately cost many valuable lives (victims of pestilential swamps, not of the sword), and a couple of hundred thousand pounds, as a slave trade heritage of compromising worthlessness; to be got rid of as soon as such an operation could be decently performed. In vain we affirmed that, with a wise policy, wise measures, and a good official staff, a great future for the Gold Coast loomed in the not-far-off distance. Population had greatly increased; the elements of wealth were there in undeveloped abundance; some of the leaven of civilization and progress had already been introduced; education and Christianity were making way, surely though slowly. It was manifestly impossible, so at least we argued, that countries thus circumstanced, at so short a distance from Europe, and inoculated, if we may use the term, by such a people as that of Great Britain, with the purifying leaven of Christian civilization, and the energetic virus of nineteenth century trade, could remain, like the Sleeping Beauty of a charming tale, in a slumber of a hundred years' duration. We believed in the irresistible force of unplanned, onward events—that these West African countries, like all others, had a destiny to fulfil, a purpose to accomplish; and that such destiny and purpose was not that they should remain stagnant in barbarism and unproductiveness. We had failed in former efforts to induce a purchase of the Dutch Settlements by Great Britain, because we could not make official men believe—and they said Parliament would never believe

—that a revenue could be got from them to pay the interest of fifty thousand pounds, and the additional administrative expenses. All that they could see, or cared to see, was the then actual paltry revenue of some six thousand pounds a-year; which entailed the necessity of a subvention from imperial funds for ordinary purposes of administration, in addition to the annual military outlay. This paltry 6,000l. has now become 60,000l., and may easily be raised to 100,000l. Here is something for a wise Secretary of State for the Colonies to deal with. *What will he do with it?* It does not belong to us; we ought to look upon ourselves only as administrators of it, for the benefit and advancement of the people from and among whom it is raised. It is too large, happily, to admit of its being all gobbled up by gluttonous local official geese. A small increase would undoubtedly have had that fate. It is not large enough to admit of a constant recurrence of such shameful, but, as it would seem, officially shameless blunders, as that of buying worthless steamers like the Nellie. The Gold Coast and Cape Coast countries are wanting in almost every scientific aid to progress and development; for nothing, literally nothing, has yet been done to facilitate communications and transport, and thus stimulate productive industry. Oil is still brought on human heads in earthen pots for distances of fifty to a hundred miles, through tangled bush, to the sea coast, for sale to the exporting traders. With the whole transit work of the country carried on in this primitive barbarous fashion; with this wasteful expenditure of human labour, the marvel is, not that the amount of trade is so small as it is, but that it should have become so large as to admit of a revenue of 60,000l. a-year being raised out of it. And this marvel conducts irresistibly to the question, if such results are attained under such unfavourable auspices, in the face of such great impediments, what results ought reasonably to be looked for when those impediments are removed; and the facilities which civilization, science, and money can introduce shall become realized facts? Why should not that 60,000l. become half a million? There is no reason why it should not become 500,000l. a-year within a very few years, if the most be made for this purpose of the sixty or a hundred thousand a-year, which is, or soon will be, the actual revenue. And for this it is that we ask, again and again, and speculate, and strive to anticipate, *what will he do with it?* We fancy the only decision yet come to is, that something will have to be done with it. We do not like or approve of what is being done with some of it now. Error and wickedness have made Lagos bankrupt, and dried up for a time her sources of revenue; and the well-replenished Cape Coast chest is drawn upon to supply the wants of Lagos. If the increasing revenues of a West Coast Settlement are to be dealt with in this way, instead of being applied to pressing local objects, the door will be opened to a system, and to abuses, which cannot be too strongly condemned. There is no connection between Cape Coast and Lagos, except that they are both dependencies of the British Crown; and Cape Coast money ought not to be taken, even on loan, for Lagos uses. We only treat of it here as an injustice to Cape Coast. We shall show in another place why it is also unjust to Lagos. *"What will he do with it?"* The 60,000l. a-year, or even 100,000l. a-year, must not be looked upon for a moment as an end obtained; but only as means to much greater ends. There can scarcely be a greater injustice to a country than a wasteful, unproductive use of its revenues. We will not, therefore, suppose for a moment that it can enter into the intentions of a British Secretary of State to allow the augmented Cape Coast revenue to be squandered or frittered away. We do not mean by this to insinuate that there should not be any increase in the expenses of Government, or to leave the door open for us to condemn such increase. We have long ago contended for a higher scale of salaries, and a better class of officials, on the West Coast. We should certainly object to an increase of expense, without any improvement in quality; but real efficiency, at an increased expense, would be a blessing. Now that the Dutch impediment to progress has been removed, the protected territories have entered upon a new phase of existence, and there ought to be an entire change in Downing-street ideas

respecting them. The time has come when an estimate should be made of their capabilities and resources, in order that there may be a judicious application of means, drawn from or based upon the revenues, for developing them. We shall do our best, from time to time, to enlighten the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this most important subject. Meanwhile there ought to be a real reform in the local administration. The regeneration of those countries and the development of their vast resources will never take place under such officials as Salmons and Foster-Fosters, and we hope we may not be compelled to say Harleys; for a sluggish inactivity is only second in evil to a vicious activity. Cape Coast can now afford to pay for a good Administrator or Governor, a good Collector of Customs, a good Magistrate or Judge; and she is entitled to demand them. The town itself will always be a dung-hill while effete officials are sent out, seemingly with no other object than to air their vices or exhibit their self-importance in it; nor will any large views of development and progress be entertained or forwarded until men with large grasp of mind, and earnest in purpose, are charged with the duties of administration. A really good administrator, at 2,500l. a-year, would be infinitely cheaper for the Coast than one of the wretched class of vicious or pompous humbugs to which it has been accustomed at twelve or fifteen hundred. Wherever there are resources capable of being developed, true and wise economy consists not in the employment of inefficient agents at a low rate of salary, but in paying well for good, enlightened, and vigorous services; and we hope soon to see every department of Cape Coast Administration remodelled upon this principle.

CAPE COAST LOANS TO LAGOS.

WE have alluded in another place to the fact of Cape Coast now lending money to Lagos; and we lose no time in expressing our disapproval of these inter-colonial loans. There are very grave reasons why such practices ought not to prevail. When a Crown colony or settlement experiences a deficiency, or annihilation, of ordinary revenue, there must be a cause; and the justifiable inference is that such cause originates with the local Executive or in Downing-street. A healthy constitutional system should make it indispensable for the impoverished colony or settlement to have recourse to the Imperial Treasury; which must necessarily involve an explanation in Parliament as to the causes of the deficiency. Parliamentary strictures, and possible Parliamentary disapproval, are the only checks that we know of on the Colonial office. The course pursued in this instance of Cape Coast supplying Lagos, tends to a withdrawal of the causes of the Lagos deficiency in revenue from the notice and strictures of the House of Commons. Now there never was a subject more imperatively requiring the notice of Parliament, than that of the causes of the present deficiency in Lagos revenues; or rather the present temporary annihilation of them. To justify the annihilation of a revenue of forty thousand pounds a-year, and the suffering and ruin of scores and hundreds of innocent merchants and traders, there ought to be some great object of Imperial policy at stake. We are bound to suppose that there is such an object at stake in this Lagos imbroglio; but we have never yet heard it even hinted at, and it is full time that it should be made known, that it may serve as a guide and warning to merchants and traders in future operations; because if there be an object of Imperial policy the pursuance of which involves the probability of occasional stoppages of all trade, and this for protracted and indefinite periods, Lagos is clearly a place that every prudent man ought to avoid having any connection with. But there is also a Cape Coast question, as well as a Lagos and Imperial one, in this matter of loans from Cape Coast to Lagos. We wish that some of our friends in the House of Commons would ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on whose authority such loan or loans are made by Cape Coast to Lagos? who fixed the amount Lagos is to ask for and Cape Coast is to lend? for how long a time the loans are made? and who guarantees repayment to the Cape Coast chest? In addition to this, Cape Coast, as we have observed elsewhere,

has need of every farthing of her revenues for absolutely indispensable objects, even were it possible to raise that revenue to five hundred thousand or a million pounds a-year; and it will be a gross injustice, if needful ameliorations and improvements are not carried out within her territory, because of such loans to Lagos. We must confess that it has seemed to us not a small matter that the Colonial-office should have the absolute control and disposal of all the revenues of a West Coast settlement, even with the limitation that it disposes of them for objects within the settlement; but it becomes a yet more serious thing when it takes to itself the power of disposing of such revenues without the limits of such settlement, and for objects in which it cannot possibly have any concern.

THE RUINOUS STATE OF AFFAIRS AT LAGOS.

GOVERNMENTAL decrepitude is fatal to the governed. Ill-considered measures, counsels without decision, action without vigour, mark that stage in a nation's life at which this decrepitude becomes visible. It was at the extremities of the Roman Empire that decrepitude, the forerunner of ruin, first showed itself;—mortification set in there; one by one they fell off; until in process of time the disease reached the heart, and life became extinct. We cannot help recalling this to mind when we reflect on what has taken place in West Africa during the last eighteen months. There was a moral obligation on the Government to interfere by *authoritative* counsel, which was all that was needed for putting an end to those troubles in the Bonny River which have cost the Liverpool merchants some half a million sterling. The Government evaded the fulfilment of this duty; and, in the desire to show it was doing something, ordered a "suspension of the Export of Arms Ordinance" to be passed at Lagos, to prevent the possible supply of a few dozen muskets and scores of barrels of gunpowder to those Bonny and Opobo Rivers, which were receiving, at the same time, thousands of each by successive steamers direct from Glasgow and Liverpool. On this becoming known to us, we set before Earl Kimberley, thirteen or fourteen months since, the evil consequences that were likely to ensue from the wicked advantage taken of this ordinance by the then Administrator of Lagos, to carry out his particular views of territorial aggrandizement for Lagos, and of hostility toward the Egbas, Jebus, and other immediately neighbouring people, upon friendly relations with whom the commercial safety and prosperity of Lagos must necessarily depend. There was ample time for Her Majesty's Government to have prevented such evil effects; instead of which, first, there was delay until the evil was accomplished, then half measures, then hesitancy and inaction, with the result that an awful and protracted commercial disaster has fallen on Lagos; while Her Majesty's Government does nothing to arrest the further progress of that ruin, which is gradually enveloping all connected with the place. We some time since pointed out that, having regard to the peculiar character of the Governments and people of the neighbouring native countries, there is only one of two courses that can be pursued, as compatible with the dignity of Her Majesty's Government and the safety of mercantile operations at Lagos. Either a determined policy of annexation and conquest must be systematically pursued, at whatever cost, or there must be a frank and honourable declaration that we have no pretensions beyond Lagos; that Lagos is to be a purely commercial colony; and that such will be henceforth the fixed and invariable policy of Her Majesty's Government, which no Administrator of Lagos will be allowed to infringe. Instead of this, the British authorities at Lagos would seem to have been instructed to wait until the actual dispute shall die out, through the mutual necessities of Lagos and the interior. Opportunity is thus afforded to the selfish enemies of both, to make those premeditated efforts so plainly exposed (as well as the motives which impel them) in the letter of "Aku" in our fourth page; and to obtain publication in deceived English journals for such communications as the following, which has been sent to us, cut from the *Manchester Guardian* of February 18:—

Extract.

"A correspondent sends us the following extract from a

private letter just received from Lagos, by the steamer Loanda: 'A proclamation from the Egbas, Ijebus, and the Yorubas was received here on January 11, stating that they will not open the roads until the English give up, and all white men leave, Lagos, Lekki, and Palma. So there is not much chance of the roads being re-opened for some years to come. If the roads are to be re-opened at all, it must be by shot, shell, and rockets, or by blockading them. The natives, instead of sending produce, destroy it; whilst vessels here have to leave in ballast. It is a great pity that Governor Glover ever left, as I am sure that, had he been here, he would have opened the roads before this. There is a strong feeling in Lagos in favour of Governor Glover, and even his opponents are beginning to see that they have been deluded. There is no resource left but force; and the Home Government will be culpable if they neglect to make use of it. Ever since Governor Glover was recalled, both the Lagos Government and its messengers have been treated with contempt, especially by the King of the Ijebus. The British flag has been dishonoured and treated contemptuously by a few tribes of semi-barbarians, who still hold the power of England at defiance. At first there were only two tribes, the Abeokutans and the Ijebus, opposed to the opening of the road, but now the Yorubas have joined; so that, with the exception of Porto Novo, Lagos is completely blockaded for business purposes.' Our correspondent adds that his own conviction is that a general appeal will be made, both by the Europeans and natives, for the return of ex-Governor Glover, and that the result of Governor Glover's re-appointment will be the opening of the roads into the interior, and the consequent full resumption of trade."

Read by the light of Aku's letter, above referred to, our friends will, we think, have no difficulty in fixing the authorship of this *precious* effort of an unscrupulous partizan. Happily, the intelligence of a fixed appointment for Lagos, in lieu of Captain Glover, will have reached Lagos soon after the date at which this communication was written; and there will be no longer an opportunity of describing the temporary occupant of the office of Administrator as a mere warming-pan for Captain Glover until his return. That Captain Glover should be the remedy for the evils which afflict Lagos, is about as reasonable as that an individual dying under arsenic could be cured by administering a yet heavier dose of the same deadly drug. Captain Glover squandered the revenues of Lagos on an absurd and mischievous display of force, and in intrigues that could not produce anything but evil; and when he had run this little island, with its thirty to forty thousand a-year of revenue, into debt, he adopts, and wilfully persists in, a course which dries up the springs of that revenue. Lagos, which, but for Captain Glover's intentionally offensive and contemptuous policy, would this year have had above 40,000% of revenue, is compelled to obtain assistance for meeting even the most ordinary expense of its Government. Another Administrator, Capt. Strachan, having been appointed to Lagos in lieu of Capt. Glover, we have happily no need to repeat our protest against the re-appointment of the latter; which, we will do Her Majesty's Government the justice to state, has never for a moment been in contemplation. But we want more from the Government than this implied dissatisfaction with Captain Glover's proceedings. We want a clear, frank, and dignified *exposé* of British policy with regard to Lagos. That full development of the industrial resources of the interior which we so ardently desire, and which will bring so many blessings to the natives, cannot and will not take place without assured pacific relations with British Lagos, as well as peace in those countries among the divers tribes and nations. We do not believe that decrepitude has made such progress in our Government as to lead to our abandoning the great work of progressive civilization by pacific influences in West Africa. Lagos is one of those points from which such influence must be continuously exercised. All that is needed for this is a wise, just, firm, and conciliatory Administration. Our power is well known; but Captain Glover's crooked, aggressive, and offensively contemptuous policy has infused doubts as to our justice. Let those doubts be effectually removed, and there will then be an assured good understanding and reciprocal friendship between Lagos and the mainland countries, which must be fruitful in blessings to all concerned. We hope to hear that if the roads and markets had not been previously opened, they will have been, or be so immediately the ap-

pointment of Captain Strachan as Administrator, in place of Captain Glover, is known at Abeokuta and Jebu. This would be a graceful act; and the good understanding that would result would open the way to those friendly negotiations by which the matters still in dispute between them and Lagos could be definitely settled, and by which alone they can be settled.

FIGHT AND DESTRUCTION AT SECONDEE.

We have had several accounts of fightings and destruction of native dwellings at Secondee. From what we thus gather, the following seems to be a pretty fair account of what took place, and of the origin of the troubles. Secondee was one of the British towns on the Coast handed over to the Dutch (under the Treaty of Exchange of Territories) in 1868. There was a rich palm plantation, the owners of which refused to come under Dutch dominion, and ran away to Wassau. One cannot but feel touched by this loving attachment to the British flag; and that, under a good system, much might be made of a people capable of such sacrifices. When Secondee lately reverted to British rule on the final withdrawal of the Dutch from the Coast, these faithful British friends returned and claimed their plantations, which, during their absence, had been taken possession of, by Dutch partizans. These latter refused to restore them, and for some time past disturbances have been imminent between the old English king and the new Dutch king, whose partizans outnumbered those of the former as ten to one. The Commandant is reported to have done everything possible to prevent the outbreak, but without success. The Dutch king finally attacked the British one, and burnt his town; a regular fight taking place. The Dutch party, being numerous, commanded all the roads leading from the fort to the scene of the conflict, and in the direction of Elmina. Some rockets were discharged from the fort over the heads of the combatants; and on a white flag being hoisted, the Commandant endeavoured to bring about a pacification, but without effect, the Dutch party refusing to desist. But when night came, a boat was sent off to head-quarters, and the next day down came the Commodore's steamer, the *Rattlesnake*, bringing Colonel Foster, the Police-magistrate of Cape Coast. The kings and chiefs were summoned to the fort; the *Rattlesnake* was a power not to be resisted. They came, were arrested, and conveyed to Elmina Castle, where they will be tried on the charge of riot, arson, and plunder. The affair was evidently a mere local one, without any general importance, and will, we hope, be satisfactorily dealt with by the British authorities. It could scarcely be expected that, after the exciting events of the last few years, consequent on the Territorial Exchange Treaty, the whole Coast would settle down under our protectorate without some local perturbation. As the Commandant at Secondee is an African, and old friend of ours, Dr. Horton, Staff Assistant-Surgeon, we are glad to believe, so far as we can gather from the divers accounts of the affair, that he did his duty with courage and discretion.

ASHANTI INVASION OF THE CAPE COAST PROTECTORATE.

The Bonny, arrived in Liverpool on the 25th, has brought us letters from which we extract the following:—

Extract No. 1.

"I regret to inform you that it has been rumoured in this country, nearly a couple of months ago, that the Ashantis were invading us, but we did not then believe the flying reports, as there was no cause for it. Now, however, it appears that the invaders have crossed the river Prah. The Fanti people are now marching against the Ashanti army. The cause of this war is not yet known by us. Those unfortunate European captives are still in Ashanti."

Extract No. 2.

"The Government police came here yesterday and confirmed and news that we are invaded by the Ashantis. Colonel Harley has been distributing guns and ammunition freely to-day to King Amfoo, Oloos people. Dr. Rowe, Staff Surgeon, has left for the interior, with 50 Houssa police, 'on observation.' The Ashantis are reported as over 60,000 men, in three divisions; one going into the Denkeri district, one towards Akim, and the third marching direct on Cape Coast. It is said the Ashantis have beheaded the German missionary captives, except the poor lady and her child."

Aljempong and his people ought not to have been sent back to Ashanti before they were given up to us. Aljempong, there is no doubt, went back anything but grateful to us. He is said to have been very roughly treated by Colonel Foster's people (Houssa police). It is reported they robbed him of all his trinkets, &c. Certain it is that when they came back from Appolonia, they were seen all over the town selling the jewellery of the African Prince, who is of royal blood, and was Chief Barber to Quacoe Dirah, the late king. That is the highest position any one can aspire to in Ashanti. In his position at Comassie he could persuade the young king to do anything by calling upon him in the name of his great-uncle. Colonel Harley, our new Administrator, is to be pitied, as he could not know these things intuitively, and he has not unfortunately a single good adviser; so, if he makes any mistake, he really ought not to be blamed. Mr. Grant is not here; and Colonel Foster and Mr. Chalmers cannot be expected to know much of this country. I fear we are on the eve of very sad events."

FROM OUR AGENT AT FERNANDO PO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.
Regent Cottage, Calle de Lepante, Santa Isabel,
Fernando Po, January 9.

Sir,—It affords me great pleasure in announcing that the *African Times* has done great good in the past by showing and advocating the cause of Africa, especially the West Coast. I hope you will not fail in exerting yourself more and more, since you are for the truth; you shall receive a reward in Heaven for your heroism on behalf of the perishing sons of Africa.

I am much pleased with the able way you have assisted us in the past, and send you a guinea contribution for the *African Times*. I have heard your complaint respecting the irregularity of subscribers paying their contributions, &c., which, as far as I have seen here, is no fault of theirs. Since the abdication of your agent here, we have never been informed to whom we must pay, and those who wish to become subscribers here and elsewhere, do not know to whom they must pay, and then they ought not to be blamed. As I am deeply interested in your paper, let me ask you in future to select agents that are deeply interested in the cause you are advocating, and would not ignore the truth on account of those in authority who would do so; one who makes no distinction between colours, and whose daily motto is "Pro bono Publico;" and then you will have an extensive circulation of your paper.—Yours truly,

P. I. N. STONX.

CESSATION OF WAR IN BONNY RIVER.—COPY OF TREATY OF PEACE.

Copied from the original given to the King and Chiefs of Bonny.

We, the undersigned, Kings and Chiefs of Bonny and Opobo, considering that our mutual security and the good of our countries require that we should be united in friendship, did, on the 2nd and 3rd days of January, 1873, meet together on board Her Britannic Majesty's ship *Pioneer*, in the river Opobo, and having referred various matters in dispute to King Amachree and the chiefs of New Calabar, and the chiefs of Okrika country, as arbitrators, with Commodore John Edmund Commerell, Esq., V.C., C.B., A.D.C., commanding Her Britannic Majesty's ship *Rattlesnake*, and Commodore Commanding-in-chief on the Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa station, and Charles Livingstone, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, as referees,—do hereby bind ourselves to the following conditions, which have been mutually agreed to by the king and chiefs undersigned:—

1. No more war between Bonny and Opobo from the 3rd day of January, 1873.
2. The Bonny men are not to detain any of Jaja's men who wish to return, and Jaja is not to retain any of the Bonny men who wish to return.
3. The Bonny men are to have the following six markets for their exclusive use: Arquatay, Obunku, and Urata (four markets).
4. The roads to the markets are to be open in two months from this date,—viz., the 3rd January, 1873. Any guns or forts which are on the creeks to these markets are to be taken away.
5. All armed men belonging to Bonny and Jaja are to be withdrawn in two months from the 3rd of January, 1873, and Andoney men are to go to any market they like, and are not to be molested or hurt.
6. Neither Jaja nor the Bonny men are to punish the Ebo men for the side they have taken in the war.
7. The arbitrators decide that Oko Epella and Kuke belong to the house of Jaja, and that they should return to Opobo. Jaja binds himself in a fine, not to exceed one thousand paracheons, not to injure them in any way.

8. In case either party infringes any of the articles of this treaty, the matter shall be referred to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, who will impose a fine not exceeding one thousand pounds on the offending party, and all trade will be stopped until the fine is paid.

9. If the Opopo men attack the Bonny men, or the Bonny men attack the Opopo men, the opposite party is not to retaliate, but refer the matter to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, who will investigate the case and fine the aggressors.

10. Any houses may be made by either party for trade, but no great guns are to be put in them.

Signed on board Her Britannic Majesty's ship Pioneer, in the river Opopo, on the 3rd day of January, 1873.

King and Chiefs of Bonny: George, Bonny; Oko Jumbo; Maribo (X) his mark; Adda Alleson (X) his mark; Jack Brown; Captain Hart.

King and Chiefs of Opopo: pro King Jaja, D. C. Williams, Secretary; Ogo Dappa (X) his mark; Sam. G. Toby; Black Tobra (X) his mark.

King and Chiefs of New Calabar: King Aurachree (X) his mark; George Aurachree (X) his mark; John Bull (X) his mark; Horsfall Manuel (X) his mark; Arny Braed (X) his mark; Bob Manuel (X) his mark; West Indea (X) his mark; George Will (X) his mark. King and Chiefs of Okuku: Abanga (X) his mark; Tod-gibbe (X) his mark; Sawmary (X) his mark; Wago (X) his mark; Eureka Nolo (X) his mark—Arbitrators.

J. E. Commerell, Commodore Commanding-in-Chief Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces on the Cape of Good Hope and West Africa Station; Charles Livingstone, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Bight of Biafra and Benin—Referees.

INSURRECTION AT LOANDA.

Lisbon, Feb. 10.—Serious news has been received from Loanda, where a native insurrection has broken out. A Ministerial Council has been held, at which it has been resolved to dispatch troops thither. The corvette Sagris has been ordered to sail next Wednesday. Senor Baptista Machado will leave also in the Sagris as Governor of Loanda, with plenipotentiary powers.

The Government will soon dispatch further forces to Loanda. The corvette Lagres has sailed from Lisbon for Loanda with the new Governor.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NOTICE PAPER OF FEB. 17, 1873.

WEST AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

Mr. McArthur.—Address for a detailed return of the revenue and expenditure of the British West African Settlements, including Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Cape Coast, Gambia, and Lagos, for the three years ending January 1, 1871, 1872, and 1873.*

CAPE COAST.

Mr. McArthur.—Address for copies of all correspondence between the Colonial-office and the Administrator of Cape Coast, and with Mr. Pope Hennessy as Administrator-in-Chief, relative to the Fanti Confederation; and, of the instructions given to Colonel Harley, the present Administrator of Cape Coast, with reference to the said Fanti Confederation and its Constitution.†

COAL SUPPLY.

Mr. Akroyd.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been called to the statement, from competent authorities, that the coal-fields of China cover an area of 400,000 square miles, as contrasted with the comparatively small area of 12,000 square miles in Great Britain; if his attention has been called to the report of Baron Von Richtofen, printed at Shanghai in 1870 and 1871, respecting certain coal-bearing provinces, notably that of Shansi, containing some 30,000 square miles, with beds varying from twelve to thirty feet in thickness, whilst the system of coal-bearing strata in this province is about five hundred feet in thickness, containing besides an inexhaustible supply of iron ore [the whole report being amply set forth in the *Quarterly Review* for April, 1872]; and whether Her Majesty's Government, by concerted action and in co-operation with the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Tien-Tsin, would endeavour to negotiate a supplementary Treaty to provide for the safe investment of British and European capital in mining enterprise and in connecting lines of railway, under proper safeguards protected by the contracting Powers.

* This return was ordered.—Ed. A. T.

† The question postponed for two or three weeks by official desire.—Ed. A. T.

A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN.

Since our last King Amadeo has abdicated and left Spain. The Cortes, after an animated sitting, declared Spain to be henceforth a Republic. A Ministry was appointed; this has since been modified. The following is our latest intelligence:—

MADRID, FEB. 24, EVENING.—The Assembly elected a new Ministry to day, with Senor Figueras as President by 231 votes out of 245. Senor Castelar was elected Minister of State by 243 votes; Senor Salmeron, Minister of Justice, by 220 votes; Senor Pi y Margall, to the Home-office, by 226; General Acosta, Minister of War, by 149; Senor Oreiro, to the Admiralty, by 176; Senor Tutan, to the Ministry of Finance, by 169; Senor Chio, Minister of Public Works, by 172; and Senor Sorol, to the Ministry of the Colonies, by 173 votes. Senor Figueras then made a short speech, in which he thanked the Assembly for the honour done to him, and declared that there would be no change in the programme of the new Ministry.

PROGRESS OF "PORTO RICO" EMANCIPATION QUESTION.

MADRID, 29th January.—At the sitting of Congress yesterday, petitions, demanding the abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico, were laid on the table. Senor Bafuente gave notice that he would put a question to the Government in reference to the reactionary conspiracy which he asserted had been entered into against the conquests of the Revolution. After the reading of the report of the Committee on the Bill for the immediate abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico, several deputies asked leave to address the House, both for and against the measure. The President, in reply to Senor Collantes, expressed an opinion that the discussion should be complete, and that it should be continued as long as there were any deputies who might desire to speak upon the subject. The Minister of State fully concurred in this view.

According to the last census, the number of slaves in Cuba is 260,000. How great a mass of human wrong yet to be got rid of!

THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

SIR BARTLE FRERE'S MISSION.

A letter from Zanzibar relates that Sir Bartle Frere arrived and paid his first visit to the Sultan on January 13. The Sultan returned the visit on the 14th. On the 15th negotiations commenced. Nothing was known on the 18th as to whether a satisfactory arrangement would be effected. He gives the following account of ships of war and officers on the Coast: "H.M.S. Glasgow, Admiral Cumming, and H.M.S. Daphne, Commander Bateman, joined H.M.S. Briton, Captain Malcolm, on December 23, off the island of Zanzibar. Here they have remained, comparatively speaking, inactive ever since, little work being done except by boats out on detached service. The slave trade is said to be carried on to a large scale between Kilwa, on the African Coast, about 200 miles on the south, and the island of Madagascar, but the time for British action in those waters is apparently not yet come. When it does come our ships, with their one thousand officers and men, will make quick and sharp work with it. On the 2nd the boats of the Briton captured a slaver, a small vessel, but as the shipping of the slaves was only just beginning, they only caught one, who was taken on board. On the 13th they got hold of a slaver about 40 miles distant from Zanzibar, as she was landing twenty-two slaves, near Dara. She had come from Kilwa with seventy-two slaves, and fifty had died on the passage, only a distance of 130 miles. This was horrible, but they could not touch this vessel because she was furnished with the pass of the Sultan of Zanzibar! Captain Malcolm's boats have boarded nearly 100 dhows in the short time he has been on those waters. This makes him unenviably popular among the Arabs, who regard the ubiquity of his boats as something demoniacal. It is clear that the fleet only requires freedom to act in order to act with effect. The writer expresses a fear that even if arrangements be made with the Sultan, slave vessels will procure French permits for *errants* from French Consuls in the Eastern seas.

BANDED, February 16.—According to advices from Aden, dated the 3rd instant, Sir Bartle Frere has held a *levee* of the native merchants at Zanzibar. It is stated that they expressed an opinion that the slave trade would never be abolished, and that, should it be forced in any way, the place would be ruined, and the Souvalie Arabs, who are the chief traders, would desert the place and go elsewhere. The Sultan personally professes to agree with Sir Bartle Frere, but says that if he signs any document to abolish slavery, his life would be endangered. Arrangements have been made to coal the Eucharist at two places between Zanzibar and Muscat, which give rise to the impression that Sir Bartle Frere will not long remain at the former place. By later advices Sir Bartle Frere had gone on to Mozambique. Not any treaty had up to that time been signed.

PASSENGERS PER VOLTA.

Dr. Gorton, from Lagos; Miss A. Stricker, from Madeira.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER LOANDA.

Mr. J. McFarlane, Fernando Po; Mr. Richardson, Lagos; Capt. Kitto, and Mons. and Madame Gauthier, Sierra Leone; Mrs. Abbott, Madeira.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER NIGRETIA.

Captain Myers, Bonny; Bishop Crowther, Lagos; Mr. J. T. George, Sierra Leone.

PASSENGERS PER BONNY.

J. Mason, Esq., from Cape Palmas, for Liverpool.

MESSRS. CHILD, HORNBY, AND CO.

This case was brought before the Bankruptcy Court on the 11th February.

The debtors, John George Thomas Child, Geoffrey Hornby, and William Bew, were African merchants, of Lombard-street, in the City of London, also of Manchester and Bury, trading in co-partnership under the firm of Child, Hornby, and Co. They recently presented their petition for liquidation, and the creditors have resolved to wind up their affairs by arrangement, Mr. James Halliday, accountant, Manchester, being appointed trustee, together with a committee of inspection.

The accounts showed liabilities to the amount of 126,446*l.*, against assets 27,607*l.*

Mr. Begley now applied for registration of the resolutions.

It seemed that creditors to the amount of 20,000*l.* had not received notice of the meeting, but notice had been given to them of the present application, and no objection to registration of the resolutions was raised.

His Honour directed the usual affidavits to be furnished, and it was arranged that Mr. Penn (in the Registration Office) should investigate the figures, for the purpose of ascertaining whether, under the circumstances, the resolutions had been duly passed. Registration would take place in due course upon production of the requisite evidence that the validity of the resolutions was not affected by the omissions referred to.

WHY COTTON GOODS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE CHEAPER.

A meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was held on February 3; Mr. Hugh Mason, President, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said his experience of the year 1872 obliged him to state that as regarded the profits of their great staple trade, it had been a very different one to the year 1871. To those who were far-seeing and plucky enough in the year 1871 to buy raw material in the spring of the year sufficient to last them to its close, it had undoubtedly been a year of prosperity, in which he was happy to say the workpeople had had their fair share. The year 1872 had been a very different one to that; it had been a year of great perplexity and anxiety to everyone engaged, and comparatively profitless to those engaged in the staple trade of the country. He could not look forward hopefully to the year which had just opened with regard to the staple trade of Lancashire. Wages had advanced, he thought, naturally and properly, because he believed the cotton trade was never so productive as it was in 1872, and, therefore, the demand for the raw material and for labour had been unexampled. Coal had risen 120 per cent., which levied a tax upon the cotton trade of at least three quarters of a million sterling, for which they had got no recompense whatever. Iron, which entered so largely into the preparation of the machinery, had enormously increased. Mill stones of every description, paper, and gas, had all increased, so that the cost of cotton manufactures had been enhanced to a very high degree. Calculations which two or three years ago were reliable had to be thrown away, and fresh ones to be made to meet the altered conditions of trade. In addition to the circumstances he had mentioned, they had an insufficient supply of raw material. In the face of all these difficulties, they were met on the threshold of the present session of Parliament with the demand on the part of some classes for a reduction of the hours of labour.

THE COAL FAMINE IN LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 21.—The effects of the coal famine are assuming a seriousness which, in Liverpool at least, is creating great alarm and stagnation throughout the most important branches of commerce. Matters have maintained a very gloomy appearance on the Liverpool Exchange throughout the week, and in many instances the fall in values has been very conspicuous. Cotton, which is the "barometer" of trade in Liverpool, had been in very limited demand, and prices are easier than this day week. Although increased receipts at the American ports have naturally tended to throw a commercial "wet blanket" over the cotton market, yet the great cause of uneasiness in this and nearly every other trade is undoubtedly the question of the supply of coal.

Up to within the last week or two spinners do not seem to have taken into account, when calculating the cost of production, the vast difference which the enhanced price of coal really makes; they are now, however, becoming quite alive to the fact, and the fuel question has assumed such grave proportions that trade is becoming paralyzed. It has been estimated that the increased price of coal adds $\frac{1}{4}$ *per lb.* to the cost of cotton, and some mills have been partially put on "short time," whilst others are entirely stopped, from the inability to procure the regular and proper supply of fuel. On Saturday it was stated that further and even more startling advances were contemplated, the output at the Wigan collieries being far below the average, the men still declining to work more than three days a-week, and there being hardly a ton of stock at any of the collieries. The great steamship companies are in a state of panic at the prospect, and even those supposed to be protected by contracts cannot get these duly executed, and are involved in serious delay and loss. An early rise in rates is rumoured to be contemplated by some of these companies. Should frosty weather return, the effect of the coal famine will be most severe among the poorer population, as almost any price will be paid by the large consumers for the reduced quantity obtainable.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

SHIPPERs are respectfully informed that this Company now despatch TWO STEAMERS MONTHLY to the WEST COAST of AFRICA.



The fine new Screw Steamers
BONNY ROQUELLE LIBERIA
CONGO VOLTA
SENEGAL LOANDA
KWARA

Will SAIL TWICE MONTHLY between LIVERPOOL and the following Ports on the West Coast of Africa (calling at MADEIRA)—viz., SIERRA LEONE, MONROVIA, CAPE PALMAS, CAPE COAST CASTLE, ACCRA, JELLAH COFFEE, LAGOS, BENIN, BONNY, FERNANDO PO, and OLD CALABAR. The days of Sailing from Liverpool are the 6th and 18th of each month.

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

African Gold Ornaments, Brooches, Earrings, Rings, Chains, &c. MR. W. R. TAYLOR begs to inform his numerous customers and the public generally that from and after the date hereof he will be prepared to execute all orders for Gold Trinkets, &c., forwarded to him, provided always that such orders are accompanied with remittances. A moderate commission of ten per cent. will be charged, and none must expect their orders to be executed unless accompanied with a remittance.

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

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