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[Transmission Abroad.

The African Times.

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

"Talk to me anywhere of Power, and I'll tell you of Protection. Mention a Magistrate, and the idea follows of Property. Show me any Government, and you are to see the proposed interest of those governed. Power constituted otherwise is a monster that is impossible in every system where there is any notion of the justice of God or the good of mankind."—EDMUND BURKE.
"If any Colonist suffers from injustice, whatever may be his class, his condition, or his colour, he has a right to redress at the hands of the Colonial Minister in this country."—EARL OF CARNARVON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, AUGUST 2, 1866.

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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.

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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.

APRIL, 1873.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The splendid Steamship LIBERIA is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on MARCH 29, 1873, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th APRIL, at 7 A.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar; this Steamer will also take Cargo for New Calabar, Brass, Benin, and Opobo (delivering inside the bars), the same to be transhipped at Bonny, and forwarded by branch Steamer, at Shipper's risk. GOODS will be received in GLASGOW up to 6 P.M. on the 28th MARCH, and at the Loading Berth in LIVERPOOL (North Side Coburg Dock) up to Noon, on the 5th APRIL. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 7 A.M. on the day of sailing. Steamer sails 7 A.M.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship CONGO, which will leave LIVERPOOL DIRECT on the 18th APRIL, 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 (leaving there on the 12th), 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 SOY, 91, Buchanan-street, Glasgow; and D. MARPLES, 50B, Lord-street, Liverpool. All letters must pass through the Post-office.

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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 Africa, March 9.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Congo, March 18.
African S.S. Co.'s Biafra, March 25.
African S.S. Co.'s Soudan, March 26.

DEPARTURES.

British and African S.N. Co.'s Loanda, March 6.
African Steamship Co.'s Benin, March 12.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Bonny, March 18.
The African Steamship Company's Africa is appointed to leave March 30.

THE ASHANTI WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, 28th February, 1873.

Sir,—The "Protectorate" is again invaded by the Ashantis; and they are now but some seven or eight hours' journey from this.

Their progress from the Prah to Odomassie has been unopposed—our feeble forces having fallen back as the enemy advanced—without any attempt to impede their onward course, as they are but a handful of men in comparison with the enormous force that our foes have brought into the field. Farther than this, our forces are in no way organized; they are like a flock without a shepherd. At the present moment we have not more than 4,000 or 5,000 men in the field, whilst the enemy is ten times as numerous. This is the result of the stupid, senseless, idiotic, and suicidal policy that has been pursued by our Government since 1864, and of the non-recognition of the Fanti Confederation by Her Majesty's Government.

Our policy since that time has made us the laughing-stock of the Ashantis, and has given them such confidence in their superiority over us that they look down upon us and our Government with contempt—and rightly so, too.

From whom did overtures first come for peace but from Cape Coast? It was our Government who sent the Honourable George Blanks on a wild goose chase to the Prah to induce the King of Ashanti to reopen trade; and that mission ended in the peace hoax of Colonel Conran. It was our Government that renewed negotiations for peace (for they were neither more nor less than that) after it had been so fooled by the King of Ashanti. It was our Government who made use of Prince Ansah's services, on his repeated visits to Coomassie, to endeavour to induce the Ashantis to let "bygones be bygones." It was our Government that, in spite of, and in direct opposition to the feelings and wishes of our peoples, sent up from here, from time to time, all Ashantis who had been captured in the campaign of 1863, and compelled our kings, chiefs, and others to give up all Ashanti prisoners, so that his Majesty of Ashanti might be led to lend a willing ear to their solicitations. It was our Government who sent the King of Ashanti "douceurs" (they call them presents), so that his Majesty might the more readily listen to their prayers for peace, and his Majesty willingly accepted their "presents," and laughed at them in his sleeves. It was our Government who sent to inform his Majesty that they were ready to double the annual stipend that he was receiving from the Dutch, as a sop provided the King would reopen trade, and not continue to frighten us out of our wits by threatening war, when we were desirous of going on our knees and suing for peace. It was our Government that has committed a thousand other acts as impolitic to soothe the feelings of the outraged monarch of Ashanti; that danced to any and all the tunes that his Majesty played on his royal diplomatic fiddle, and that will continue to hop, skip, and dance, after the present disturbance, to whatever tune, the royal fiddler may think fit to treat them to.

But apart from the tomfoolery that our Government has been playing, what were, and what are, its reasons for not recognising the Fanti Confederation? Was it because it felt that its sceptre would gradually slip out of its grasp? or is it because it wishes to see us disunited, disorganized, ever incapable of fighting our own battles without calling on them for aid; ever at the mercy of our enemies, and almost backward in civilization as we were two centuries ago. The very non-recognition of the Confederation goes to prove that the Government did not believe that it would have been a failure; for if they did, was it not tested?

It was not brought to birth prematurely, as the course of events now show. It is now nearly two years since the Constitution was under deliberation; it is now more than fifteen months since that Constitution was drawn up and presented to Her Majesty's Government for its sanction and approval; and during this period what has been done by the Government to better the condition of our peoples? What has it effected towards the amelioration and the development of the resources of our country? What has become of the large revenue that it has wrung from the country, and in what particulars have any improvements been effected, excepting in the one particular of having learnt to fritter away our money in foolish and uncalled-for expenses and missions, from which the people have derived, and do derive, no benefit?

The Government has disunited our kings and chiefs, disorganized the Confederation, ridiculed any attempts on our side at self-government, and shown itself as incapable of governing the country as it seems to have chosen to regard the Confederation to be of ruling the interior.

The first object of the Confederation was to unite our kings and chiefs for purpose of defence against our common enemy. The object of the Government, on the other hand, was evidently to disunite us, and render us practically incapable of acting in unison, and then hand us over to our common enemy.

In your leader in your issue of the 30th January last, on the "Reported Invasion of the Gold Coast by the King of Ashanti," you have dealt so ably with the principal questions now engaging public attention here, that I cannot presume to add a single word or sentence to what you have written. I will, however, since opportunity offers—and it may be some time before I am able to forward you any more information—state to you a few incidents that have lately occurred.

You are aware that a scheme was drawn up and submitted to Her Majesty's Government, some time in April last, in regard to the Confederation. This scheme, as you well know, was forwarded through Governor Hennessy, and months elapsed without our hearing anything further of it. It became imperative that we should address his Excellency on the subject, and we, therefore, did so, on the 20th November last; and of that letter and the reply thereto I now enclose you copies (Appendix 1, 2). Both are admirable for their brevity; but you will perceive that what was anticipated by the Confederation has occurred, and no blame can be attached to the members thereof should they consider themselves absolved from their promise, and should they act in a manner more conducive to the interests of their country in the present crisis: nor can they be held responsible if they decline to conform to the "dog-in-the-manger" policy that the Government was, and is still, desirous of pursuing. The Home Government will not take up the whole protectorate, nor will it permit any other organization to co-operate with it in governing the country under its recognition; and yet, when our old enemy is within our gates, it cries out, "Why don't you defend yourselves? why don't every man of you turn out and drive off the Ashantis? You cannot expect us to fight your battles; your country is invaded, and, instead of 'being up and doing,' you are contented to sit down and let the Ashantis come 'and out your throats, like a parcel of cowards as you are!'" This tirade is very fine; but we might ask, What are you here for? Is it to protect us, or to fill your pockets and walk off as soon as you think they are sufficiently heavy, or when your health and other causes render you incapable of any longer holding out in our climate? What have you done with the enormous revenue that you have forced out of us? to what purposes have you applied it? Give us money, the real sinews of war; furnish us with arms and ammunition in such quantities as we desire and can use; organize us thoroughly, since you have disunited and demoralized us; and then see whether we are not capable of holding our own against the Ashantis. You have given the Lagos Government some 4,000*l.* on loan; and now, when we apply for some of our own money, you point to your chest and say it is empty. If it is empty, you must obtain money from some other source; for money we must have. You send up some two or three hundred Houssas with an officer, probably with instructions, such as you gave late Major Cochrane in 1863, not to come into collision with the enemy, but to watch his movements, and throw away four or five hundred pounds a-month more, which might be more profitably expended, and ask us whether that is not doing all in your power—whether that is not protecting us. This may be true, but that will not furnish our men with food; that will not satisfy the cravings of their stomachs; and we should like to see you holding out, half-famished and ready to eat shoe-leather for want of something better, against an enemy who has all your stores of food in his possession. A soldier on an empty stomach, although physically stronger, cannot maintain his post long against another who, though not so powerful, has had his food; and to expect a Fanti to be better capable of doing this is to ask him to perform an impossibility. And why should he do so, when you have drained him of his life's-blood to support a Government which, you state, protects him? Governments levy taxes, duties, &c., from their peoples, and in return they protect their subjects. It is a case of mutual obligation; the one pays for protection, the other receives to protect. If our Government has not the money in its own chest, it must obtain it, by loan or other means, and give to our people what is required; and after the war, there will not be wanting the ways and means whereby and wherewith to repay it. A few thousands placed at the disposal of the British officer in the field, and of a native gentleman whom we could name (not the one who has been the main cause of this Ashanti difficulty, by ill-advising the Administrators here), would go a great way, and would enable us to bring the war to a close in a few weeks; while, as matters are being conducted now, it will take months before we can beat off the enemy. In all their invasions during the last fifty years, the Ashantis have never advanced so far into the heart of the country and so near our sea-port towns; and there is nothing to prevent them from making their appearance here, or at Anamabu or Salt Pond, at any hour; yet nothing in reality is being done by us, for the simple reason that we have not the wherewithal to carry into execution anything that we may or can plan. That there will be a fearful famine, and that before many weeks are over, there can be no doubt, as the enemy

is eating up the country as he advances, and has at the present moment our largest and most important plantations in his possession. It behoves, therefore, those in authority over us to make provision for such an event, or to prepare to answer for the deaths that will be laid at their door. They cannot say they have had no warning; that their attention has not been called, and was not called to this in time; for they have heard it from the lips of the officer (Dr. Rowe) whom they sent into the interior, and we do not repeat what we have heard from that officer.

The first authentic intelligence we had of the Ashantis having crossed the Prah was on the 26th January last. Since then, they have forced our people to fall back, from position after position, till they are within only a few hours' journey of any point of attack they may choose on the sea-coast line. Nothing up to the present moment has been done towards the defence of any one of our principal sea-port towns; and such is the panic, that all our people in the interior are removing their valuables to such places as Anamabu, Elmina, Salt Pond, and Cape Coast; and those who are residing on the outskirts of this town are removing into the heart of it.

The King of Abrah, who sent down the first reliable information, requested Mr. Wm. Cleaver, Mr. James F. Amisshah, and myself to convey it to Colonel Harley; this Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Amisshah did in my absence, and on my return, we all sought the Administrator. We had no cause to complain of our reception by Colonel Harley. He very kindly listened to what we had to say, but, somehow or other, he would not believe that the Ashantis were in very large force, and appeared, therefore, somewhat reluctant to give assistance in arms and ammunition proportionate to the emergency. During our discussion, however, Mr. Amisshah stated to the Administrator that our peoples were determined, since they had not provoked this war, if they were successful in driving off the enemy, to follow him up to Coomassie and make a final blow at the Ashanti power, provided we were assisted by the Government. This Colonel Harley construed into treasonable language, refused to listen to an explanation, and Mr. Amisshah was therefore politely requested to make his exit. I need not say how much I was taken aback at this, and I believe that Mr. Cleaver could not have been less so; for Mr. Amisshah is the last person from whom one would be likely to hear treasonable language, and if he cared about talking treason, it is not to be expected that he would do so in the presence of so august a personage. I have stated this incident, as a wrong impression appears to have got abroad as to what transpired at the interview, and I will at once tender the *amende honorable* to all concerned if they consider I have made an unwarrantable use of their names, or have made public what should have gone no further. I trust, however, that by this time, it has become evident that Mr. Amisshah is a man of some consequence, and that he was actuated by the best of motives when he thus spoke.

This incident, trivial as it is, had very high led to consequences that could not have been calculated upon beforehand; and it has even had the effect of deterring others from giving such information as they may have, and from communicating with the authorities here in the frank and open manner that they sought by their proclamation.

Since this, however, matters have gone on more harmoniously, and it is pleasing to observe that the Government is becoming, day after day, more alive to the fact of there being somewhat more than a mere "marauding party" of Ashantis within the protectorate, and of the necessity of their adopting other measures than bringing these "marauders" to justice, whenever and wherever they may be found. I trust that they will permit the Fantis to mete out to their enemies such justice as they would receive at their hands. Ashanti justice consists in decapitating a prisoner; and if the party or parties who drew up that stupid and insane proclamation had fallen into the hands of the "marauders," they would have had a speedier exit into the other world, and such a taste of Ashanti justice as would have rendered them incapable of relishing it ever afterwards.

Now all these matters, insignificant as they may appear, are not lost on our people; and the way in which these applications are met, and arms and ammunition *doled out* to them, all tell their tale. There is an under-current of popular feeling, quietly but gradually, and almost imperceptibly, making its way, which sooner or later must find an outlet. This is palpable to those who have paid any attention to the vast change that is, and has been, slowly but surely stealing over our country and its peoples; and nothing can be easier than to direct it into the right channel, if people will be but warned in time, and adopt the necessary measures.

The Ashantis have not only invaded this part of the protectorate, but are also making their way through Apollonia and the regions there; and are also heard of about the Volta. A fearful storm is about to burst over the whole country; and the havoc, devastation, and misery that will be inflicted will be more fearful than what before was experienced, after the death of Sir Chas. McCarthy; and when men's passions are roused,

when their wives and children are torn from them, and slaughtered before their eyes—when all that is near and dear to them on earth is destroyed, and famine stares them in the face, woe be to those who have brought all this about! woe be to those whose perfidy and treachery they suspect! Their clamorous voices may be even raised against those who are in authority over them, and who have betrayed their trust. The present war has not been provoked by our peoples; they have had no say in the policy that has been recklessly pursued; they have had no voice in the Council, no vote in the expenditure of the money wrung from them, and which they had earned by the sweat of their brows. They have been compelled to sit in silence, and all their money expended in useless missions here and there;—on missions to the King of Ashanti, whom they never believed in; on presents to this same king; on a useless toy, which was called the "Administrator's yacht," for which they paid some 6,000*l.*, and which we hear did not bring as many hundreds when put up for sale, and that after she had been here not more than a year or two; and have had to sit with their hands between their legs, whilst ducks and drakes have been played with their money.

No one believed throughout the protectorate, not even the gentleman who pretends to be omnipotent with the King of Ashanti, that his Majesty ever intended delivering up his German prisoners just now; and if the 1,000*l.* he asked for them had been sent up—and we believe that it would have been if this same gentleman could have had his way—his Majesty would have coolly pocketed the money, retained the white prisoners, and still have come to war. Everyone knows the Ashantis to be a treacherous lot of people; that they do not rashly pledge themselves to anything, and when they do, they have ulterior designs; and how the Government could have been induced to place any confidence in his Majesty of Ashanti, so as to compel our people from time to time to give up their prisoners, and fine and disgrace our kings and chiefs, on representations coming from such a source, is more than any sane man out here can understand. For him, and to suit him, and to oblige and to calm him, our border kings and chiefs were almost invariably maltreated. One can hardly find fault with the Government for this, as there was someone who was perpetually pouring into their ears stories of outrages committed on *peaceable Ashanti traders*, insults offered to his Majesty, and anything that would lead the Government to believe that we are and were always the provoking and aggressing party in all disturbances with the Ashantis. We hope that for the future the Government will not accept all such stories as truth without making inquiries of their own; and not appoint people who are related to this same person, or who can be induced by him or anybody else to distort or conceal facts; and that in future communications or negotiations with his Majesty of Ashanti, other native gentlemen and Europeans of some experience here will be invited to the Councils of the Government. There are many gentlemen who are as well acquainted with the Ashantis as the one who is desirous of making people believe that he has but to say to him of Ashanti, "Come, and he cometh; Go, and he goeth;" and who informs the Ashantis that he is paramount here, and the authorities listen but to obey when he speaks.

Eight and thirty villages—the names of which I enclose you (Appendix No. 3) have been taken, destroyed, and plundered by the Ashantis; and as I now write we are every moment expecting to hear that the Ashantis have driven our forces from Yankumassie, and that our troops have fallen back on Dunkwa, which is but four and a-half hours' journey from this. Who will have to answer for all this? At whose door must we lay this destruction of lives and property, and to whom must we attribute it? Surely to the Home Government, and its officials here. The invasion cannot be imputed to what one of your correspondents, unintentionally I hope, attributes it—the detention of Achampong in Assin. Achampong was not detained by the Assins, or any of the tribes in the protectorate. A rumour to that effect was circulated, but on inquiry it was found to be without foundation. If our people could have had their own way, he would never have seen Ashanti again,—that is pretty certain; but once the Government undertook to escort him across, there was no fear of his being molested; and that it could not have been his detention, supposing such to have been the case, is borne out by the fact of the Ashanti army having been prepared for war whilst he was incarcerated here, and even while their ambassadors were here; and their army was on the march by all accounts before he left here. Matters, however, might not have arrived at this stage had the Government not stinted a little expenditure, and had they at an earlier period sent one or two influential persons to visit the different kings and chiefs, to encourage them to hasten on with their forces, and to promise them such aid and assistance as they required. They preferred sending some of their own officials; and however ably they may perform their duty, there will be something wanting that they have not,

to make their missions successful. This has been suggested over and over again, but to no purpose; and although we have held meetings here for the last two days for the purpose of passing certain resolutions and submitting them to our Administrator for his approval and sanction, we have not been able as yet to effect much, because of the financial question. Our motto, however, is *Nil Desperandum*. So we shall try again, and return to the charge as often as we are discomforted, till we do effect something.

Just as I am about closing this letter, messengers have arrived from the kings and chiefs in the camp with information which they desire Mr. J. F. Amisssah and myself to convey to Colonel Foster Foster for the information of our Administrator. It is to the effect that on scouts being sent to the front yesterday, they captured three of the enemy, one being an Ashanti, the other two slaves; and that the information they were able to get out of them was that the enemy intended attacking our forces at Yankumassie either to day or to-morrow. The Ashantis being, to the Fantis, still nearly ten to one, the kings and chiefs solicit the Government to turn out every man capable of bearing arms to go to their assistance at once, as, if they did not, they would be compelled to fall back. Now this report is rather alarming, as, if our forces are attacked at Yankumassie, they cannot hold it for any length of time, and they must give up the position and retire on Dunkwa, which is almost as untenable, and could be taken or turned by a dashing onward movement or flank attack, and this would place the enemy in a position to intercept all communications overland between this and the towns to leeward, and Cape Coast itself would be open to attack at any hour that the enemy might choose. As for Anamabu and the other towns, they would not be safe for a single moment.

We learn that as far back as 1869, or thereabouts, at any rate shortly after the interchange of territories, the Home Government instructed our Local Government on no account to interfere, either physically or otherwise, in any war or wars between us and our enemies; and on no account to embroil Great Britain in any war out here. We heard this from too good an authority to doubt for an instant the gentleman's veracity; and more so, he can have no reason for deceiving us. But assuming it to be the truth—although I do not advance what I say on a bare assumption, but on a positive conviction—what can we term this? Were any individual to extort from me so much money under the pretext of protecting me, and were he to wring duties out of me for the same purpose, and when the time came in which I required his aid, were he to refuse to aid me, I should tell that individual—be he black, white, or green—that he had obtained money from me under false pretences, and had extorted money from me, and that he was a swindler. And if nations are but individuals, &c., we can then but term this a public swindle. We, the public, have been *done* out of our hard-earned money under false pretences; and our money has been extorted from us and misapplied.

Why, I ask, was not this despatch, or the instructions it so contained, made public? Why did not our Administrator convene a meeting of our kings and chiefs, and public men of all classes, and convey this to them? And why was the Fanti Confederation crushed in the bud when such instructions were extant? For what purpose, and with what object in view, was any organization for the defence, amelioration, and development of our country stamped out; and everything, on the other hand, done to disorganize and disunite us, when these important instructions were lying among the records in Government-house? One cannot help arriving at the conclusion that the Government has ulterior designs, which will be disclosed to us only when we are compelled, by its acts and the force of circumstances, to go down on our knees and sue for its protection. But then that protection may, and will, come too late. Of what avail will it be when our homes and hearths are invaded, plundered, and devastated—when all we cherish on earth has passed from our grasp? Better, then, to meet the foe, and perish, if unremembered, with the knowledge that we died fighting for our country, although we perished in a desperate and hopeless cause.

But again, Mr. Editor, are our merchants, European and native, who contribute the whole of our revenue, some of them their thousands annually, to be told that they are to receive no protection—that no real, physical protection will be given to them and their property for the large sums yearly taken out of their pockets, and placed at the disposal of the Government here, as they believe, for their benefit? Are they to be told that there is no protection for them, and that they must fight their own battles? And are we, the consumers of their importations, to be informed that there is no aid to be afforded us, and that the enemy may come and cut our throats at any moment, so long as the Government itself is not attacked by them? Can the majesty and might of England have fallen so low? Can that country—renowned for her triumphs, her arts, her civilization, for the bravery of her sons, for their enterprise, for the ready assistance

that she has afforded in all ages to the weak against the strong—have become suddenly devoid of those principles which led her to her present eminence? If such be the case, I can but exclaim, with a slight alteration, in the words of the poet—

O heaven! my bleeding country save!
Is there no hand on high to shield the slave?

It cannot be so; there must be a fearful mistake somewhere; there must be a cause for all this; yet I look around in vain for that cause. Let us hope for the better; the sky is now dark and lowering; the storm must burst. But after all this there must be a calm, and the sun will come forth in all his glory, and our poor and now despondent country and her peoples will see better days. May He in His providence grant (while averting the worst) that such may be in store for us!—I am, Sir, yours truly,

J. H. BREW.

March 1.—The Ashantis have made no further progress, and the latest intelligence is, that they have fallen back on Mansu; this, we believe, is a mere feint. This morning we have information that the Houssa force now at Dunkwa, under the command of Lieutenant Hopkins, is not to come into collision with the enemy, but is merely to give our forces "moral aid." This bears out what I have already written. In fact, the truth must out. I saw and perused a copy of the instructions that were given Lieutenant Hopkins, and they contained positive instructions not to afford more than "moral aid" to our army. If this is not criminal, I should like to know what is. Why deceive us with the pretence of aiding us, when your troops are not to fire a shot? Who cares for "moral aid" in such a cause? I must be permitted to state that the sooner such "moral aid" is transported to hotter regions, and we are told distinctly and emphatically, without any equivocation, prevarication, or ambiguity, to depend upon ourselves, the better. When our principal merchants were informed of this, it was proposed that they should call in a body on Mr. Chalmers, who is now acting for our Administrator (the latter being dangerously ill), and ascertain the truth of this, and what amount of protection the Government would afford them and their property. This was done, and nothing definite could be obtained from him, but sufficient was learnt to convince us that we could not, and cannot, place any reliance on the Government for "physical aid" as Mr. Chalmers stated that it was a question that must be referred to the Home Government. The gentlemen who called on his Honour were Messrs. E. H. C. Grant, George Kendall, W. H. Selby, J. F. Amisssah, and myself. Mr. Amisssah and I accompanied these, as representing the kings and chiefs at Yankumassie, and as the parties who gave the information to the merchants.

J. H. BREW.

APPENDIX No. 1.

Cape Coast, November 20, 1872.

Sir,—At the request of the members of the Fanti Confederation, I have the honour to call your Excellency's attention to your letter of date the 22nd April last, acknowledging receipt of the scheme, to be submitted for the approval of Her Majesty's Government, regarding Confederation.

Some time having elapsed since we had the honour of submitting the said scheme to your Excellency, may we be permitted to inquire whether Her Majesty's Government have as yet expressed any decision therein, as, in consequence of the promise given your Excellency, that nothing of an active nature should be done pending such submission, matters are *in statu quo*, and so many questions of importance have cropped up, and are continually cropping up, that the promise thus given may be eventually vitiated, in spite of all the efforts to the contrary.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

J. H. BREW.

(For self and other Members of the Confederation.)

To his Excellency J. P. Hennessy, C.M.G.,
Governor-in-Chief of H.M.'s West African
Settlements, &c., Sierra Leone.

APPENDIX No. 2.

Miscellaneous.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
January 30, 1873.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 20th of November, 1872, I have the honour to inform you that the Fanti Confederation Scheme, with my report thereon, was submitted some months ago to Her Majesty's Government.

2. I am responsible for the delay that has hitherto occurred, but I trust to be able to convey to you Lord Kimberley's decision before very long.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY, Administrator-in-Chief.

J. H. Brew, Esq., Cape Coast.

(Certified true copies.—F. W. AMISSAH.)

APPENDIX No. 3.

Names of the Villages on the direct route from the Pra to Cape Coast.

1. Prahu, or River Pra; Attuwasie.* 2. Assempra-Noyay.
3. Darasmsco. 4. Bressiarcoong. 5. Braicoo. 6. Indua-Soo.
7. Ahoonfoodie. 8. Engoah, or Engwia, or Engwa. 9. Ahponsi-
Quantah. 10. Assin-Yankumassie. 11. Faisoo. 12. Attensw.
13. Aidu-biassie. 14. Bansoo. 15. Quartuah-Quartuah.
16. Insotuah. 17. Enyar-brim. 18. Aicrofome, or Aicro
fomoo. 19. Darwoo-macool. 20. Dardji-Kssu. 21. Bissi-
Assie. 22. Ingwirasu. 23. Ehsunah. 24. Addawuah. 25.
Mansu.† 26. Quamin Attah. 27. Aisar-man. 28. Abki-assie.
29. Atta-biassie. 30. Wanoo-su. 31. Darman. 32. Ahwv
Coo-Aasoo. 33. Inkrau. 34. Bennim-Soo. 35. Kin-Aasoo.
36. Bohoom Assie. 37. Sibbin Soo. 38. Odoom Assie.‡ 39.
Gwarbin. 40. Ahghin-dah. 41. Impe-assem. 42. Kartar-
Kissie. 43. Yankumassie.§ 44. Quadugbiah. 45. Wooratell.
46. Taitebie. 47. Doonquah. 48. Aidoomfush. 49. Abbec-
kang. 50. Aighil Cromo. 51. Aisicoomah. 52. Taacori.
53. Bmpiro. 54. Quaki Cromr. 55. Taryidoo. 56. Aicroful.
57. Pe-brah. 58. Batta-yariah. 59. Assai-boo. 60. Cape
Coast. There are villages between, but not on the direct route.
Cape Coast, Feb. 28, 1873. J. W. AMISSAH.

APPENDIX No. 4.

Mankessim, February 1, 1873.

Your Excellency,—Intelligence having reached me that the Ashantis have crossed our frontiers on the Pra, and attacked the Assins in large force, I hasten to communicate the fact to your Excellency, and to ascertain from you the measures the Local Government intend adopting in the present crisis.

I now address your Excellency, as the head of the Fanti Confederation, for the purpose of learning from you what amount, and the nature of the assistance, your Government will render to the country in the present state of affairs.

Since the Fanti Confederation has not yet received the support of Her Majesty's Government, but has been left to shift for itself as best it can, and the powers inherent in all governments have been, in the case of the Confederation, deprived of their legitimate exercise and functions by the action of Her Majesty's officials here, and by the neglect and discouragement of Her Majesty's Government, I am thus constrained to appeal to you, as we infer from these facts that Her Majesty's Government is prepared to accept, and will accept, and has accepted in the present emergency, the responsibilities—legal, moral, or otherwise—that attach to it as the "protecting power."

I might here advert to the policy that has led to these results; but the fact of our ancient foes being in our territory compels me to leave for the present such observations as I might have to submit to you, for the purpose of inquiring into the steps that are to be taken to rid our soil of the invader.

Having been divested of the power to obtain means for our self-defence, I now appeal to your Excellency, in the name of the Confederation and the protectorate at large, for aid in money and arms; and I respectfully solicit that I may be informed, with as little delay as possible, if such assistance will be rendered, and when, as we cannot take the field too early to oppose, and with God's aid, drive off, the enemy.

Anxiously awaiting your Excellency's reply, I remain, your Excellency's faithful friend,

QUASIR ADOO (X, his mark), King of Mankessim.
To his Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,
Administrator, &c., Gold Coast.

(Certified true copy.—J. H. BREW.)

[N.B.—The reply to the above will be forwarded by first opportunity, it being in the possession of King Eddoo, as Mr. Salmon has taught us a lesson.—J. H. B.]

APPENDIX No. 5.

Cape Coast, November 21, 1872.

Sir,—We have the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to your letter dated at Elmina on April 22 last, acknowledging the receipt of a memorial from us, claiming compensation for certain wrongs and losses inflicted upon us by officials of the Gold Coast Government.

In this letter your Excellency was pleased to remark that you would submit the memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his Lordship's consideration; we now beg to wait on your Excellency for the purpose of ascertaining his Lordship's decision therein, as to whether we are to expect any compensation at the hands of the Colonial Government, or are to be left to

* From Prahu to Mansu about 40 miles.
† Where main body of the Ashanti army is, and from here to Odoomassie it is about 10 miles.

‡ Distance between Odoomassie and Yankumassie is not more than 6 miles. Ashantis have advanced thus far, and destroyed all the villages before them.

§ The Fanti forces are here. Distance from Yankumassie to Doonquah not more than 3 miles.

¶ Distance from Doonquah to Cape Coast not more than 17 miles.

obtain redress by other means.—We have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servants,
W. E. Davidson, Samuel Ferguson, J. M. Lusaido, J. D. Hayford, J. F. Amisssah, J. M. Absdoo, J. H. Brew.
To his Excellency J. Pope Hennessy, C.M.G., &c.

APPENDIX No. 6.

Government-house, Sierra Leone, Jan. 30, 1873.

Gentlemen,—With reference to your letter of November 21, 1872, I have the honour to inform you that your memorial, with my report thereon, was submitted some months ago to Her Majesty's Government.

2. I am responsible for the delay that has hitherto occurred, but I trust to be able to convey to you Lord Kimberley's decision before very long.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant, J. POPE HENNESSY, Administrator-in-Chief.
(Certified true copies F. W. AMISSAH.)

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT AT BATHURST.

African Times Office, 121, Fleet-street, E.C., March 1.

Sir,—I take the liberty of forwarding the enclosed letter received by me on the 28th February from a prisoner in Bathurst Gaol, and dated Feb. 4, 1873. I hope you will kindly excuse my recommending the sad case of this man and his fellow-prisoners to your merciful consideration. These men are, I believe, victims of the peculiar system of trading carried on up the Gambia, through their agency, by certain European merchants at Bathurst, which differs from that of any other West African settlement. Their debts are not like ordinary debts; they are, as I am informed, the result, for the most part, of the high rates at which goods are entrusted to them for barter—of the low rates fixed by the merchants for produce brought down by them in return; and, above all, of plunder and exactions to which they are subject among the powerful native tribes up the river; there not being since 1870 any gunboat on the river for their protection. If this be so, it certainly is not consistent with British institutions and laws that these men should be so entirely under the power of their creditors as to be without any legal means of relief; but be liable to be kept in prison until death brings them release. If any of them be guilty of fraud or misappropriation, let them, by all means, be punished for it; but when there is not fraud or misappropriation, there should be legal release from debt on some terms short of being subject, at the will of the detaining creditor, to a life-long imprisonment.

As public affairs are conducted at the Gambia, it does not seem at all probable that any proposals for such a change as that which I venture to suggest and advocate will be made by the authorities at Bathurst to Her Majesty's Government. The change could only be brought about by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies giving instructions to pass an ordinance for the release, at such times and on such conditions as may by him be considered just and equitable, of all persons incarcerated for debt against whom fraud and misappropriation cannot be established.

In the hope that Her Majesty's Government will direct the adoption by the Legislative Council at Bathurst of some system of relief for non-fraudulent debtors, I have the honour to remain, &c.

The Hon. Knatchbull Huggess, M.P.,
Under-Secretary of State.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst Gaol, February 4, 1873.

Sir,—Since we wrote you in November last that you will hear from us when the authorities make a move, dear Mr. Fitzgerald, we are very sorry to inform you that since we wrote you last, we are still suffering with many privations of life in the gaol of Bathurst. Dear Mr. Fitzgerald, it seems to us that we are totally forgotten, being no visible movement has been seen toward our release. Really, we would be very sorry to say that perhaps death in this gaol will be the last end of us. However, Sir, we will still hope on and never despair; and we also trust that you will not turn [cast] a deaf heart to our cries, and we, one and all, beg and will still pray you not to be weary in well-doing for us, poor miserable creatures, in the gaol of Bathurst. Allow us to say that, although we have nothing to give you at present in return of your kindness to us, but we will make it our duty to pray to God for your blessing and prosperity through life, and at last to gain Heaven. If any movement be made to our release, you will hear from us.—We remain, Sir, your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed) JOHN THOMPSON, and others.
(Earl Kimberley to Mr. Fitzgerald.)

Downing-street, 7th March, 1873.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 1st instant, on the subject of the treatment of non-fraudulent debtors at the Gambia, I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acquaint you that he has forwarded a copy of it to the Governor-in-Chief of the West African settlements.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
F. Fitzgerald, Esq. W. T. HOLLAND.

The African Times.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY. PRICE 5s., STAMPED.

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

The African Times.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1873.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The important War News from Cape Coast, received 26th and 27th inst., has compelled us to postpone the following Leaders, &c., until our next:—

Projected New Company, Child, Hornby, and Co., Limited.
Rev. Henry Johnson and Lagos.

West African Government: Mr. Hutton's Letter.

CAPE COAST SEA-SIDE TOWNS IN DANGER OF ASHANTI OCCUPATION.

THE Cape Coast news is startling. An Ashanti army within seventeen miles of Cape Coast, and the authorities trying moral force with the invader! Read Mr. Brew's letter (page 102) and the letter from Accra. Thirty-eight villages destroyed on the main line alone of the Ashanti march toward Cape Coast, indicates scenes too painful to dwell upon. We govern the Gold Coast. We will not even allow kings, chiefs, or people to have any share in the government. We levy and keep all the revenue, and will not let them have a penny of it; yet we decline all responsibility for them, as against their enemies. We bind them, hand and foot, body and soul, yet tell them they must protect themselves. "Tell me of power," said Edmund Burke, "and I'll tell you of protection. Show me any government, and you are to see the proposed interest of those governed." What a satire upon our rule on the Gold Coast! what a condemnation of it! Her Majesty's Government cannot sit with folded arms and allow that work of destruction to go on unchecked and unrevenged. It is they who have brought the evil upon the country. The dishonour will be surely too great. It is not for us to point out what ought to be done. If what we have pointed out, year by year, had been done, there could not have been an Ashanti invasion. Ashanti would have been trembling in her own capital. As we would not allow the natives efficiently to organize themselves, we must now organize them. With a revenue of 50,000l. to 60,000l. a-year to guarantee their advances, Government cannot plead lack of means. There is an enemy to be driven out, and there will be the remnant of a people to be fed. We wait to know what the Government will do—to see what it may have done. The enemy had been three months in the country, and when within seventeen miles of the sea-coast—of the seat of British power—and the authorities now talked of referring home—to England—for instructions! Can any denunciations we have hurled upon our West African Government be too severe?

THE FANTI CONFEDERATION.

HER Majesty's Government will give the papers asked for by Mr. W. M'Arthur, in the House of Commons, relative to the Fanti Confederation. We thank Mr. Huggessen for this. Of course, we expect that the word of promise will be fully kept—in spirit and letter. The object in asking for them is that we may be able to form some correct idea of the Colonial-office feeling in this important matter of the Confederation, and its proposed means of action and sources of supply. We shall be grievously and justly disappointed, therefore, should the chief papers from which we might gather this idea, be absent "in the interest of the public service." As we contended last year, there cannot be any just or adequate ground for such reservation, where there is no possibility of international complications arising from publicity; while, on the other hand, great evils may arise, or be perpetuated, through official secrecy. We feel certain that if the correspondence

with the Administration of Lagos, for example, had been granted, instead of refused, on the 9th of May last, when asked for by Mr. Laird, a great part of the evil and ruin which has resulted from a now twelvemonths' suspension of trade at Lagos would have been averted. "It is not desirable to produce them at present," was the official reply given in the House of Commons. But neither was it desirable that hundreds of thousands of pounds of British money should be sacrificed, as it has been, through the Government shielding its acts and errors from public criticism; as it did effectually by that refusal. And in this matter of the Fanti Confederation there cannot be any good reason for secrecy. If all the knowledge, talent, and sound judgment of this realm, as regards colonial matters, were concentrated within the four walls of the office in Downing-street, the prejudicial secrecy so often observed there might be all very well; and a fitting manifestation of contempt for ignorant public opinion. But as this is far from being the case, nothing but evil can result from it. In this matter of the Fanti Confederation, for instance, we greatly distrust it; and as the decision of Her Majesty's Government, whenever arrived at, must be potent for good or evil to the Gold Coast territories, it is of the very greatest importance that we should be made acquainted with those "Reports" from officials on the Coast which may be supposed likely to influence, if not govern, that decision. If British West African officials were selected for their posts because of their high acquirements and character, we and others who feel an interest in the affairs of the West Coast Settlements, might have some confidence that the Government would not be misled. But with the irresistible and conclusive evidence, constantly flowing in upon us, of incapacity, prejudice, and selfish ignorance among them, there cannot be any such confidence. We hope, therefore, that the papers, when produced, will give the information we seek, and that their production will not be unnecessarily delayed.

THE CESSATION OF THE BONNY RIVER TROUBLES.

As we have long and earnestly laboured to bring about an arrangement that should put an end to the disputes in the Bonny River, which have for a long period almost annihilated the trade of Bonny, and inflicted such very heavy losses on the merchants engaged in commerce there, we cannot refrain from expressing our satisfaction at peace having been restored; as recorded in our February number, in which we also gave the text of the treaty entered into between the King and the Chiefs of Bonny, and Ja Ja and his adherents in the Opo River. In our long-continued efforts with Her Majesty's Government, whose intervention was evidently essential, we never ceased to contend, that all that was needed to bring about such a pacification was, that Her Majesty's Government should give evidence of an earnest desire to bring about such a result. This earnest desire was at last shown by the dispatch of Commodore Commerell with his squadron into Bonny Waters, as a negotiator between the contending parties; the result has justified our convictions, and we can only regret that the intervention was so long delayed. What has been effected now might have been effected two or three years since, with greater advantages to the native disputants, and with an avoidance of the immense loss of British capital which has been caused by the long-continued dispute. There was at least a strong moral obligation on the British Government, in view of the Treaties which had been signed by the King and Chiefs of Bonny in former years, to interfere on behalf of King Peppel and the Chiefs of Bonny; and nothing but disaster has attended the non-fulfilment of this obligation; thus affording another instance of the national disadvantage which must always attend a protracted procrastination in the discharge of national duties. The Treaty, though not all that we could have desired for the King and Chiefs of Bonny, will at least bring back to them and to their river a portion of the trade of which they have been so long forcibly deprived; nor are we without hope that a rigid adherence to the Treaty on their part, with other wise measures which we confidently look for

from them, will gradually bring to them more than their former prosperity. The trade of those countries is capable of a much greater development than it has hitherto received. It may be regarded as still in its infancy, having only commenced some thirty-five years ago. The King of Bonny and his brothers have had the advantage of English education and training; they have evinced an earnest desire to aid and protect missionary effort; and a faithful pursuance of this policy must eventually lead to happy results.

THE GAMBIA AND ITS OFFICIAL STAFF.

FOR some time past—from the period indeed at which we knew that the colony was safe from the projected cession to France—we have given but scant attention to the Gambia in our columns. It does not seem that our silence as regards its condition and affairs—official, social, moral, and commercial—has proved to be a blessing to it. It cost us great efforts, years ago, to root out evil that was then rampant there. It seems now as though we had to begin the work anew. As regards the administration of its affairs, it would appear to have sunk to the very lowest ebb; while its moral and social condition—we allude especially, of course, to what is done among those who are supposed to represent civilization within its borders—is a great disgrace to England. We have just seen a letter depicting society as now existing at Bathurst. The writer describes it as a very sink of infamy, and adds, "it is too bad that England should pay officials to degrade her, and debase the community among whom they reside." We say so, too; and yet, in saying so, we do not mean to cast any unmeasured reproach upon the Colonial-office authorities for that which we condemn, further than to insist anew, that the whole system, in conformity with which official appointments are made or confirmed in Downing-street, to settlements on the West Coast of Africa, is radically bad, and requires immediate reform. We do not wish to be justified in denouncing a British West Coast settlement in the words employed by one of the prophets of old as regarded Jerusalem, that she has corrupted and debased herself more than all the heathen nations, her neighbours; and therefore we commence giving our attention anew to the Gambia and its affairs. We must bring them within the light of public opinion in England. Why we do not heap on Downing-street, that full reproach which the situation would otherwise justify is, that nearly all the officials now holding office at the Gambia were introduced or promoted in the Government service by the late Administrator-in-Chief, Sir Arthur Kennedy. We confess our utter inability to comprehend the system of Sir Arthur Kennedy as regards the great bulk of his West African appointments and promotions. We are quite sure he had not any desire to debase and degrade the public service on the West Coast; and yet how he could otherwise have picked up and delegated to honour such a mass of refuse, it is most difficult to conceive. The best, and for Sir Arthur Kennedy the least compromising, sentence we can give about it is, that, notwithstanding all his dignified seeming, and expressed anxiety to do what was right and good, his selections were made from those who toadied him the most, no matter how vile they might be; and that, as might naturally be expected, it was the vile and the vilest of the vile who attacked this known weakness, to their own individual advancement, and the disgrace of the public service. There is, we believe, but one voice, all the way down the West Coast, as regards but too many of Sir Arthur Kennedy's official pets—viz., that they are the very worst men to whom appointments could have been given; and but one hope as regards them—viz., that they may all be speedily removed to some other portion of Her Majesty's dominions; if that Governmental etiquette which regards officials as superior to public interests and to the people, makes it, in supreme official eyes, indispensable that they should be continued in the Imperial employ. We do not purpose going further into the question of the Gambia and its affairs at present. We only open a new campaign against the evils and abuses that are now rife there, and invite dependable and guaranteed information

regarding them. With regard, however, to the petitions that have been forwarded to us by prisoners in the gaol at Bathurst, it will be seen, by reference to our second page, that we have brought the subject of Imprisonment for Debt at the Gambia anew before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view of providing relief for other than fraudulent debtors. We hope this may lead to good results. It will, if the Secretary of State and the Governor-in-Chief on the West Coast act according to the dictates of common sense; and order that to be done at the Gambia in the matter in question which a common-sense view of it, in agreement with the now recognized principles of British law, must show to be just and necessary. If, however, the Governor-in-Chief asks in his turn a report from the Acting Administrator at Bathurst, he will commit a serious mistake. We do not suppose that he will treat the Governor-in-Chief as he has treated us, in a matter respecting which we were justified in applying to him; but we feel quite sure that he would do better without any report at all. What we allude to as regards ourself is this. Some five months ago, public report from the West Coast affirmed the almost sudden demise of Mr. John Hill Capper, at that time Acting Chief Magistrate at the Gambia, and holding also other official appointments. As no direct intimation of this death, either to us who were in correspondence with him, or to his widowed mother, or other friends, was received, we wrote at their earnest wish and request to the Acting Administrator and another official, begging information as to the circumstances attending Mr. John Hill Capper's illness and death, and requesting that any effects he might have left at his death should be sent home to us for his mother. These letters were dispatched early in November last; and up to the present time no reply whatever has been vouchsafed to us; no effects whatever have been received. We know but too well that along the West Coast, as in other barbarous countries, and until lately in some of the extreme districts of England and Ireland, a custom of wreckage prevailed, under which any unfortunate vessel stranding on the Coast became, as supposed, legitimate booty to all pillagers. But we have never yet heard that there is a general system of wreckage among Government officials on the West Coast, under which the effects of a departed brother official must be supposed to disappear. We will not add more at present; but we do not intend to let this matter rest where it is. The callous indifference that has been shown to the feelings of a parent and friends, merits the most severe reprehension.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN PORTO RICO.

THE Spanish Republic has gained one enduring wreath for its brow. The work begun by King Amadeo's last Ministry has been perfected, so far as legislative enactment goes, by the same Cortes into which they introduced it, and which has made it their final measure, previous to decreeing their own dissolution. We record with joy this new triumph of the cause of humanity and justice, and look upon it as a mere prelude to the more extensive measure which shall strike the slavish fetter from the Africans in Cuba. Whatever may be the future of the Republic in Spain—whether it become the established government of the country or not—one thing we firmly believe, and that is, that it will be overruled to become the instrument for putting an end to African slavery, with all its horrors, in the island of Cuba. All honour to the Republicans of Spain, and to the Spanish Republic! The Cortes which passed the Porto Rico Slave Emancipation Bill, have done all that we could have expected from them. But the Republic must not falter in the noble work, of which that is the first instalment. We look with confidence to a freely elected constituent Cortes, elected under a Republican Government, to complete the work, by decreeing the freedom of the Cuban slaves. We do not forget that the beginning of African emancipation from foreign slavery was under the first French Republic, when the Haytiens became free. As the first French Republic brought that other great island of the Antilles, San Domingo, out of the degradation of African slavery, a measure that might have been long sought in vain from the French Bourbons, so

let the new Spanish Republic grant to Cuba that which the Spanish Bourbons have so long denied, to their eternal shame and disgrace. It was pitiable to behold the dishonour which the intriguing courtiers, under the late Bourbon dynasty, brought upon the Spanish nation and people, in the matters of the importation of slaves into Cuba and the abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico. Treaties were disregarded, the most solemn promises were broken or evaded, and the dynasty was made to link itself and its destinies with the fatal and burdensome stone of the slave trade and slavery. That stone has helped to bring it into the dust; there let it lie in most merited disgrace. After the experience we have had of the Spanish monarchy, all our hope for the freedom of the Cuban slave rests upon the Spanish Republic. We again express the hope and belief that it will not falter in, nor palter with, the noble work. We believe in the honesty and patriotism of the men who have been called to supreme power in Madrid, in the name of the Spanish nation and people, as the necessary result of the abdication of the honest King Amadeo; we believe in the Spanish people as totally distinct from the little army of court intriguers who belied the country in the matter of Cuban slavery, as in many other things, and cannot therefore avoid again expressing our confidence that even before the expiration of this present year, we may have the unbounded joy of recording the freedom of the long-oppressed and cheated African slaves in Cuba, as we have this day the joy of recording that of their brethren in Porto Rico. Nor can we close this article without expressing also our hope and belief that our Government will no longer lose time in recognizing in Spain, that Republic which has proved its honesty and vigour by giving this first instalment of what this country has been so long seeking and demanding in vain, from successive Spanish monarchs. Of one thing we have not the shadow of a shade of doubt—viz., that Lord Palmerston, had he been at this time alive and at the head of the Queen's Government, would have seen in this resolute forcing of the Porto Rico Emancipation Bill through the Cortes before their dissolution, a full and ample title to recognition by the Government of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. The statesmen ruling in the name of the Republic, have not made the existence of the miserable war carried on in their northern provinces by the adherents of Don Carlos, upon whose banners is secretly inscribed the retention of slavery in Porto Rico and Cuba, among the host of abuses which they could perpetuate in Spain and her colonies. These statesmen, we say, have not made this miserable war an excuse, as they might have done had they been dishonest, for not proceeding at present with the Porto Rico Emancipation Bill. It is our national duty then, whatever we may feel about Republics in general, to strengthen their hands for the still greater work of giving freedom to the Cuban slaves. Of what comparative weight with us should a wretched Spanish monarchy, such as we have been wont to see for the past fifty years, possess in the scale against the hope and belief of giving freedom to 250,000 human beings in Cuba? None, if we retain our national traditions and honesty; and we shall, therefore, look upon every day of further delay in recognizing the Spanish Republic, after what it has done in the matter of Porto Rico slavery, as a day of disgrace to Great Britain.

THE ASHANTI INVASION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, February 27, 1873.

My dear Sir,—At a grave crisis such as the present I cannot refrain from endeavouring to place you in full and entire possession of all the important events now passing on the Gold Coast. I feel quite convinced that few, if any, of your Cape Coast correspondents would impart to you what you should know with the same detail, with that regard for future examination into the correctness of information furnished, as I have ever held in view in my correspondence with you.

"We are at this moment in a far greater danger than this Coast has ever been in, even immediately after the defeat and death of Sir Charles McCarthy." The Ashantis have actually been permitted to advance almost to the very gates of Cape Coast Castle without one shot being fired! Is this not incredible? Yet it is too true. The Ashantis were known to have crossed the

Prah nearly two months ago, and have been allowed to occupy, burn, and destroy everything as they advanced. They had, up to last accounts, occupied the whole of Assin, having first eaten up all that they could find, and then devastated the country before advancing; the Assins retiring into Fanti proper as they advanced. Not a soul went up to the assistance of the Assins, who, being so very small in numbers, were compelled to fall back, step by step, until, by recent accounts, they had actually fallen back into the country of the Abrahs. My object, however, in writing you at present is not so much to give you an account of the state of affairs in the Fanti districts, as to show you how utterly indifferent the Government is to everything connected with the Accra district, save and except collecting duties and packing the money off to goodness only knows where; whilst we are in daily expectation of the enemy appearing here also. But in order that you should correctly estimate the extent of the culpability of the Government as regards the Accras, I must give you a slight insight into the manner in which even Cape Coast and Fanti have been neglected. Now, Cape Coast is the seat of Government, and the Administrator resides there. Cape Coast is within three days of the River Prah. The Administrator must have received information which ought to have satisfied even him, who believed nothing at first, and until too late, of the Ashantis having actually crossed the Prah early in January—I say January, though it must have been in December. What measures did he adopt to check the progress of the enemy? None at all, until about the 3rd February, when he issued a proclamation notifying to the allied tribes that the Ashantis had crossed the Prah, and plundered and destroyed some of the Assin villages. This is all that our Executive did to check the invasion. No steps were taken, when the rumour of the enemy having crossed the Prah was ascertained to be an accomplished fact, to call the allied tribes to arms, and to furnish them with arms, ammunition, and money, and officers to command them, as was done in 1853 by Governor Hill, and in 1863 even by Richard Pine. Nothing at all was done to assist the Fantis and Assins to drive the enemy back, except to post up a lot of pieces of paper! Colonel Harley and his Prime Minister, Colonel Foster Poster, refused to believe, or rather pretended to disbelieve, the report of the Ashantis having crossed the Prah for hostile purposes. The consequence is, that their preparations to check their progress were made too late; and it is now utterly impossible to bring up a sufficient force to the front to give battle to, or even to check the advance of, the enemy. The Government alone is to blame, and not our people, who warned the Executive in December that the enemy had actually destroyed some of the *Akin* villages, and carried off all the inhabitants. And, strange to say, all the members of the present Executive are, or pretend to be, old and distinguished soldiers, none under the rank of colonel!

Now, if the natives of the Windward districts—wherein is the seat of Government, and where there are several officers at the disposal of the Administrator, and where there are generally two, three, or more ships of war at his command—are treated with such criminal neglect, what can you expect for us of the Eastern districts? I say, without hesitation, that the British Government have—ignorantly and unintentionally, it must be presumed—actually betrayed and sold the Fantis to the Ashantis; and that, too, after having taken money from them on the distinct understanding that they were to receive protection. I am convinced that the Ashantis will now overrun the whole of Fanti; and, if our plains and open country do not protect us, Accra also; and will destroy all the farms and plantations, and carry off half the people into slavery, leaving the other half to die of starvation. For we are bound to have a famine. Even if the Fantis do succeed, after all, in driving the enemy back across the Prah, we must have a famine in the Western districts, as the whole country which the Ashantis have gone through has been laid waste by them. They have sworn to take Salt Pond, Anamaboe Elmina, and other of our Fanti sea-coast towns. Now, before they can get to Salt Pond, they must have Mankessim, Abrah, and all the magnificent palm plantations in those rich countries.

Indeed, I verily believe that, as I am now writing, the enemy is in possession of all those palm-oil countries, and will be in possession of every sea-coast town where there are no good fortifications—such as Elmina and Cape Coast, which places of course they can never take; but all the other places, supposed to be defended by rotten forts in ruins, must fall into their hands.

Is it not incredible that in the year 1873 a powerful nation like England—the most powerful, in fact, the richest and the most advanced in the art of killing human beings, and best furnished with the most recent and approved appliances for doing battle with savages under circumstances in which you would yourself be almost free from injury, whilst you are coolly wiping your savage enemies off the face of the earth—I say, is it not incredible that this nation, so situated, should take money from people, and allow those people, believing they were under its efficient protection, to be attacked and carried off into captivity,

under the very guns of their ships and forts, by a lot of half naked savages, comparatively only a shade better armed than the gorilla in his native wilds?

And what is the situation here, in Accra? On the 18th December last, Attah, the King of Eastern Akim, sent an official message to Dr. Fox, the Acting Civil Commandant of Accra and the Eastern districts, to notify the Governor and his allies, the Accras, that the Ashantis were advancing to make war on the protectorate; and that they had already attacked and plundered some of his frontier villages, and carried their inhabitants off into slavery. Dr. Fox at once reported this to Cape Coast, and I learn from good authority, he got snubbed as an alarmist! Attah, at the same time, applied for guns and ammunition to defend himself, as he had been told in such an emergency that he would be furnished with a supply. The British Government officials in Cape Coast did not even reply to his application; and he is at this moment defending himself against the Ashanti forces, making their way to Accra through Eastern Akim, the best way he can with his own resources! Now, pray, use my name freely as your authority in all that I now write you, if you choose to do so; for every word is true. Give my name in full, and say I desired it.

Ever since the 18th December, the Akims have been repeatedly sending down to Accra to put us on our guard, as the enemy was coming closer and closer. Not a finger has been moved by the Government up to the hour I now write, except to do—what do you think? To remove all the ammunition in Accra up to Cape Coast, and to take away the only military officer here (Lieutenant James Hopkins, 2nd W.I.R.), to send him up to command the Houssa troops in Doonquah!! So that Dr. Fox is the only Government official now in Accra, besides the native Customs clerks. In fact, these are only kept here now to collect money from the people, in order to be remitted to Cape Coast, to be expended God knows where or how. I have now come to the most important stage in my epistle. For the last twelve months, Accra has been remitting from a thousand to fifteen hundred pounds per month to Cape Coast, after paying the Civil Commandant, the Colonial Surgeon, the Inspector of Roads (Dr. Fox holds all these offices), the Customs officers, the Police, and all other expenses; in fact, no expenses are incurred in Accra or in any part of the Eastern districts, save and except in the collection of the duties! Accra is held by the British Government simply in order to tax the merchants and people. The Commandant is Collector of Customs; he has very little else to do besides receiving the cash. His first clerk, ditto, ditto; all his other clerks, ditto, ditto. The police and the military are only here to enforce payment. After these are paid, the balance is sent up to Cape Coast to be eaten up by the sharks there. During the past twelve months the only money spent in Accra, otherwise than in payment of the army of tax collectors, has been in repairing the road from James-Town to Christiansborg. Call (through one of your M.P. friends) for the Accra receipts and expenditure for last year, and see if I have substantially misled you. Accra is, confessedly, the best-paying place in the Gold Coast Government, and yet we get nothing done for us. Here we are, with the Ashantis down on us, and all our forts are in ruins; no guns, no ammunition! Only thirty men of the 2nd West India Regiment, without any officer, to defend us against 30,000 (at least) Ashantis. Ten days ago, seeing that not a soul, white or black, would bestir himself, the undermentioned went to the Acting Commandant, viz., Messrs. W. A. Lutteroot, Edmund Bannerman, James Bannerman, and Robert J. Hansen—the principal educated men here who care a fig for the country—and urged him to call the people to arms, and to assist our chiefs with money from the chest to enable them to communicate with all their allies and concert measures of defence. Dr. Fox told them he had no power, and referred them to the Administrator at Cape Coast! They accordingly wrote to Colonel Harley, and although two mails have arrived from Cape Coast since the dispatch of our letter, we have got, and I am convinced we shall get, no reply. On receipt of the recent alarming news from Cape Coast, they called again on Dr. Fox, this time with King Jackie and his chiefs and headmen, to urge the Acting Commandant to do something. He again told them his hands were tied, and advised them to get the King to write to the Administrator for help. They have done so. Is this not shameful? And if any sudden attack takes place, and our people are unable to resist it successfully, the Government officials will call us a set of lazy cowards. I know the Commandant is alive to the danger, and in a terrible funk himself; but he is so tied up, and bound hand and foot with red tape, that he cannot and will not act. Some people have even gone so far as to talk of deposing the Commandant and taking the government into their own hands, but this has been given up as too hazardous. Some suggest our preventing the transmission of any more of our money to Cape Coast; others propose the merchants should refuse to pay more duties. What is to be done? Here we have paid 15,000*l.* or more into the hands of our protectors, since the new tariff came into operation, as a stand-by in

case of a crisis such as this, and now we cannot get back one penny, one lead bar, or one gun, or one keg of powder to defend ourselves with. I think I had better keep the rest for next mail, else I shall lose this one, and I am exceedingly anxious you should get this as early as possible. I hear that Colonel Harley is very ill; if he is obliged to go home, Foster Poster will become Acting Governor. Good God! As you truly say, all this anarchy and confusion arises from Sir Arthur Kennedy's bungling in the Addah and Ahwoonah war. I do not know where I shall be when the next mail leaves Accra. Some people (the officials especially) think the Ashantis dare not come to the Accra district, as it is all open country; but I am not so confident. At all events, if they do come here, the British will have no excuse for not fighting with their soldiers or sailors, as it is as open, all from here to Addah, as any park in England. You will hear worse news probably from Cape Coast to-morrow.—I remain, yours truly,

YOUR OLD CORRESPONDENT.

PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MARCH 7, 1873.

ASHANTI INVASION OF CAPE COAST.

The Earl of LAUDERDALE directed attention to a statement that British territory had been invaded, though it was a comfort to know that in this case the invader was neither France, nor Germany, nor Austria, nor Russia, but the King of Ashanti, and the territory invaded was a portion of our West African possessions in the neighbourhood of Cape Coast Castle. This statement might not be correct, but as he had been a little among those people, he wished to know whether it had been verified, and whether what had been stated was true, whether in whole or in part. There had been several affairs with the natives on the Coast lately, especially in the neighbourhood of the Gambia. The Ashantis were the most formidable tribe on the coast of Africa. We had already waged two wars with them, and they were wars which were carried on in great part by ourselves against ourselves, for our merchants supplied our enemies with powder, and these wars had been accompanied by disasters.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY said the statement was not quite true, for he was sorry to say that the King of the Ashantis, without declaring war or giving any notice at all, had made the incursion referred to. The statement was, however, substantially correct, although the country invaded was not British territory proper, but British protected territory. We only held the forts; but we had an undefined protectorate over a considerable tract of country lying between the Gold Coast and the country inhabited by the Ashantis. He was by no means disposed to deny the gravity of the attack, for we had had frequent experience of Ashanti invasions, and had always found them accompanied by great destruction of property and loss of life. He was quite unable to state the cause of this attack. The Administrator of the Gold Coast, Colonel Harley, who had had considerable experience of Western Africa, was not able to give any reason for it. Ever since his arrival he had had most friendly communications with the Ashantis, and there was reason to hope that the long course of unfriendly relations with them was coming to an end, when suddenly intelligence was received that the King had crossed the river with 12,000 men. One of the supposed causes of this incursion was that the King had sworn a fei-h oath with the King of Elmina to attack our territory. This might be true, but it did not explain why the oath was sworn. Then it was said the Ashantis claimed possession of Elmina, which was ceded to us by the Dutch. That point had not been neglected by us. We had both ascertained from the Dutch that there was no such claim, and we had communicated to the King of the Ashantis that no such claim was recognized. He said that he was satisfied, and it was arranged that he should receive a stipend in consideration of keeping the roads open. Next it was said that there had been a misunderstanding between Colonel Harley and the King of Elmina. Another and more probable cause was that there was a disagreement as to the payment of certain dues. Lastly, and this he (the noble lord) believed to be the most probable cause of all, was that a certain chief had been sent away from Elmina, and that he had stirred up the King of the Ashantis to avenge some supposed injury. But whatever might be the cause, it was scarcely necessary to say that the attention of Her Majesty's Government was directed to the matter. Several ships of war were on the station in its vicinity, and he hoped that active preparation had been made to repel the invaders. There was a rumour that, owing to want of proper precautions on our own part, the British Administration at Gambia had been obliged to apply for the protection of a French ship of war; but, according to the last accounts, two of Her Majesty's ships were in the Gambia. He could not admit, therefore, that there had been any want of due care, or that the settlement had been exposed to any danger that could have been avoided; and he was led to hope that the apprehended attack might not take place.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH WEST AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

Lisbon, March 25.—The Government has asked the Cortes for authority to contract for a telegraphic cable between Portugal and the United States, touching at the Azores, and for a cable between Cape Verde and the Portuguese settlements in Africa. The gentleman who has asked for the concession proposes to open telegraphic communication with the British and French West Coast settlements also.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

FEB. 22 TO MARCH 1.

GROUND NUTS.—77 bags at 17l. per ton.
PALM KERNELS.—1,200 bags at 12l. 15s. to 13l. 2s. 6d. per ton.
PALM OIL.—Prices show a slight decline on last week's rates, and 6,000 tons sold; Pram-Pram at 34l. 17s. 6d.; Accra at 34l. 17s. 6d. to 35l.; Bonny and Salt Pond at 35l.; Benin and Old Calabar at 35l. 10s.; New Calabar at 38l.; Brass at 38l. 10s.; and Congo at 39l. 10s. per ton.
COTTON.—Market dull and depressed, with lowering prices. Sales of the week, 67,000 bales.

MARCH 1 TO MARCH 8.

PALM KERNELS.—50 tons in bulk at 13l. 2s. 6d., and 721 bags at 12l. 15s. per ton.
GROUND NUTS.—237 bags, African, at 17l. 2s. 6d. per ton.
PALM OIL.—Moderate request, and prices rather in favour of buyers; 350 tons sold; Irregular at 27l. to 32l. 10s. Bonny, Jellah Coffee, and Salt Pond, at 34l. 15s. to 35l.; Old Calabar and Benin at 35l. 10s.; and Lagos, 36l. 17s. 6d. to 37l. per ton.
COTTON.—More in demand, but supply so abundant that prices have gone even a little lower. Sales of the week, 78,000 bales. African, Lagos qualities, 7d. to 8d.

MARCH 8 TO MARCH 15.

PALM OIL.—Market steady at last week's prices; 500 tons sold; Irregular at 28l. to 34l.; Bonny and Cameroons at 34l. 15s. to 35l.; Old Calabar and Benin at 35l. 10s., Lagos at 37l., and New Calabar at 37l. 15s. to 38l. per ton.
COTTON.—Market irregular and fluctuating, but prices decidedly lower. Sales of the week, 72,000 bales. Price, Lagos quality, 7d. to 8d.

MARCH 15 TO 22.

BENIN SEED.—45 bags at 55s. per quarter.
PALM KERNELS.—60 tons and 900 bags, at 13l. 5s. to 13l. 7s. 6d. per ton.
PALM OIL in better request at improved prices for all descriptions; 900 tons sold, Congo at 39l., Brass at 38l. 10s. to 39l., New Calabar at 38l., Lagos at 37l., Old Calabar at 35l. 10s. to 35l. 15s., Bonny at 34l. 15s. to 35l., Benin at 35l. 10s. to 35l. 15s., Accra at 34l. 15s. to 34l. 17s. 6d., and Irregular at 27l. to 34l. per ton.
COTTON.—Market depressed and irregular, with a decline of ½d. per lb.
Sales of the week, 82,000 bales; price, Lagos qualities, 6½d. to 7½d.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 13, 1873.

My dear Sir,—The Ashanti war has commenced in earnest, but the Fanti cannot move. The merchants of Cape Coast have commenced a subscription for their subsistence. F. and A. Swanzy head the list with 20l., all the rest follow with 10l. each. Colonel Harley is, I think, doing his best, and I do not believe we could have a more able man than him. He ought to be supported to the utmost. I am only sorry that my present state of health renders me quite useless to him. The Ashantis are making rapid strides, and by to-day it is expected they will be at *Manu*, at least so Dr. Rowe writes. He was within two hours' march of their camp, and was obliged to fall back on another village. The cause of the war is our taking Elmina; therefore, it is essentially a Government war; and Her Majesty's Government must do more than they did last year. Everyone is unanimous that we have a great deal before us. It is deplorable, but so it is. The Ashantis will possibly come down to our fort gates, and my opinion is that *there only will they be thrashed*. Otoo's letter and Colonel Harley's reply are the first notification we have had of war. I am afraid the German missionaries are killed. Elmina is most friendly to Ashanti, and ought to be *disarmed at once*, as they are sure to assist Ashanti. The subscriptions here are for the Cape Coast people only. They will amount to about 150l., which will go a great way, but not half enough. Volunteers are enrolled and recognized as a military force by proclamation. They number about 200.

The Government are in want of 10,000 *Tower guns*, or carbines. We have none. The Ashantis are supposed to amount to 80,000 strong, in four, not three divisions. We are in a most deplorable state, I assure you.—Yours sincerely,

W. C. FIDLASOY.

ASHANTI INVASION OF PROTECTED TERRITORIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Mankessim, February 14, 1873.

My dear Sir,—I am under the necessity of informing you respecting the present state of affairs in my country. The Ashantis have, after all their deceivings, crossed the River Prah—that is, the frontier between them and the Fanti—and have marauded certain villages within the Protectorate. They are still rapidly marching up against the Protectorate, for the purpose of taking Elmina Castle. His Excellency Colonel Harley did not give any credence to the reports when first the chiefs at Denker, Wassaw, and Ackim sent to inform him about the conduct of the Ashantis. After seeing that all the reports which had been made to him against the Ashantis are correct, his Excellency issued proclamations that all the Confederate kings and chiefs should repair to Cape Coast for ammunition. They did accordingly send for the promised ammunition, and to their astonishment they received only a few barrels of powder and shot, but no guns, neither money for their people's subsistence, except one or two chiefs that had been supplied with guns for their people.

I am fully instructed by the King President (Quasie Adoo) to inform you, in order to let the people in England know, that in such a crisis as this the kings and chiefs are in need of a good supply of money; they mean the duties, &c., that have been collected from their own country, and also a large quantity of ammunition, to defend their country with. Anfo Otoo has now marched against the enemies; other kings and chiefs will also march with their people in a few days. His Excellency Colonel Harley has sent one of the medical officers to Assim, in order to ascertain whether the Ashantis have actually crossed the River Prah, and have marauded certain villages within the Protectorate or not, and to inform him whether the Ashantis are within the Protectorate or not.

I have been told that the doctor who had been sent to Assim particularly to learn the certainty of matters relative to the Ashanti marauding armies, has written to his Excellency that all the reports that had been sent to him by the chiefs at Assim, Denker, Ackim, and Wassaw, are correct and true; that the Ashantis have crossed the River Prah—that is, the frontier between Ashanti and Fanti—and have marauded six or seven villages within the Protectorate, and are still marching toward Cape Coast and Elmina. With best respects to you, and hoping you are well, I am, yours, &c., "D."

P.S.—I will write you certain particulars relative to this Ashanti war by next chance.—W. E. D.

ASHANTI INVASION.—ASHANTIS NEAR CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, February 28, 1873.

Sir,—The whole of the so-called protectorate will be in the camp on the 3rd of next month.

I and several of my confederate friends will also be leaving for the camp on the above date. The enemies have advanced to a village at Assim, called Doomasie, about twenty-four hours' journey from Cape Coast. The Fanti contemplates shortly attacking the Ashantis at a place called Yancoomasie.

The Fanti is crying for pecuniary assistance at such a crisis as this. If the authorities do mean still to call this place a protectorate, it should now be made known practically to the Fanti by assisting them with certain funds to enable them to carry on the war with their enemies. Had the Fanti Confederation been organized before this time, there would have been no trouble in getting funds, and also the enemies would have been attacked by the Fanti before now.

Compliments to you.—I remain, yours truly, FANTI.

ASHANTI WAR.—PROCLAMATION.

By His Honour Colonel Robert William Harley, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast.

Colonel ROBERT WILLIAM HARLEY, C.B., Administrator. Whereas, an Ashanti force has crossed the Prah, and entered the protected territories on the Gold Coast in a hostile manner: And Whereas it is necessary that the supply of arms and munitions of war to the enemies of the protected tribes should forthwith be discontinued:

Now, therefore, be it known to all whom it may concern, that we have thought fit to prohibit, and do hereby prohibit, all persons within the settlements and protected territories on the Gold Coast, and on the waters, rivers, and estuaries thereof, from selling, bartering, giving, or transferring in any manner of way, and either directly or indirectly supplying any arms, ammunition or war like stores of every and whatsoever description to the Ashantis, or their allies, or to other enemies of the protected tribes.

Moreover, we have prohibited, and do hereby prohibit, the importation into the said settlements and protected territories of all such arms, ammunition, and warlike stores excepting at the ports of Cape Coast, Elmina, and Accra, or at such other port or ports at which the importer may be specially authorized to land the same by license first obtained from the Collector of Customs.

And all officers of Customs, and other officers of the Colonial Government of the Gold Coast, are to observe and enforce this Proclamation.

Given under my hand and public seal, at Government house, Cape Coast, this Eighth day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-three, and of Her Majesty's Reign thirty-sixth

(By Command)

FOSTER-FOSTER, Acting Colonial Secretary.
God Save the Queen!

GERMAN EXPEDITION TO AFRICA.

BERLIN, March 13.—A committee has been formed among the members of the Berlin Geographical Society, and a plan has been drawn up in conjunction with the other Geographical Societies of Germany for the completion from the West Coast of Africa of the discoveries commenced by Dr. Livingstone from the East. The committee propose that the expedition should start from the West Coast south of the Equator. The funds for the proper equipment and maintenance of the expedition are already partly provided for.

THE PORTO RICO SLAVE EMANCIPATION BILL IN THE SPANISH CORTES.—THE BILL ADOPTED.

Madrid, March 23.

The Assembly (Cortes) was dissolved at 2 a.m. to-day. One of its last acts was the passage of the Porto Rico Slave Emancipation Bill. The scene was unusually enthusiastic. The Bill was passed unanimously, with some modifications; namely, slaves are to sign contracts for three years with their present employers, the owners to get 80 per cent. indemnity in six months; the full value where contracts are completed. The total amount of the indemnity will be 1,400,000l. Ten per cent. per annum will be allowed for interest, and a sinking fund. established guaranteed upon the revenues of Porto Rico. Slaves are not to have political rights under five years.

LIVINGSTONE RELIEF EXPEDITION.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, Monday, March 10, the President stated that he had on the previous day received a letter from Sir Bartle Frere, dated in February, at Zanzibar, announcing that the organization of the Livingstone Relief Expedition under Lieutenant Cameron had been nearly completed, and that the start for the interior would be made in two or three days. Lieutenant Murphy, R.A., an officer of high qualities, had joined the party. The letter enclosed a copy of the instructions, which were to the effect that the primary object should be to effect a junction with the Doctor, and to deliver into his hands the letters, stores, &c., of which the expedition has charge, and to assure the great traveller of the unabated admiration and interest with which his proceedings are watched by his countrymen and by the whole civilized world. This done, the resources of the expedition are to be placed absolutely and entirely at his disposal, to carry out any work he may desire. On arrival at Lake Tanganyika, if there should be doubt as to Livingstone's route, the letters and stores are to be placed in safety at Ujiji, or some other point, where they could be most easily reached by him in the event of his returning towards the East Coast, as he informed Mr. Stanley he intended to do. The completion of the examination of the Tanganyika Lake, and the exploration of Lake Victoria Nyanza have been indicated as works of the greatest importance, as well as the necessity of testing and verifying in every possible way the altitude of the former. Discretion is given as to the routes both going and returning, the instructions as to communications with the Geographical Society being that reports should be sent as frequently as possible through Her Majesty's Consul at Zanzibar. The expedition is also to endeavour in every way to gain news of Sir Samuel Baker, and although there may appear to be little chance of meeting with any trustworthy intelligence concerning the fate of the survivors of the St. Abbs, or other ships wrecked on the coast, it is desired that, through caravans, traders, and so forth, information should be sought as to any Europeans, whether captive or free, living among the native tribes. The expedition is furnished with letters of safe conduct and recommendation from the Sultan of Zanzibar, and Her Majesty's Consul at that place.

OFFICIAL.—The Queen has approved the appointment of Sir Benjamin Pine, K.C.M.G., to be Lieutenant-Governor of Natal. Her Majesty has also approved the appointment of Mr. H. T. Irving, Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, to be Governor of the Leeward Islands, in succession to Sir Benjamin Pine.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER STEAMSHIP SOUDAN.
Mr. R. B. Farrar, from Ambriz; Mrs. Smith and three children, James Hafner, from Sierra Leone; J. Armstrong, T. Reid, Bonny; James Price, Fresco; and James Lees, Bonny.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER STEAMSHIP BIAFRA.
Dr. Ulowli, R.N., from Fernando Po; Captain Hiram, Mr. Norman, Mr. Daltan, Bonny; Mr. Walker, Quitta; His Excellency the Baron de Conceicao, Madeira.

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER STEAMSHIP CONGO.
Mr. Martin and Mr. Corrin, from Benin; Captain Schlabit, Lagos; Mr. Chevalier, Accra; Mr. Bickels, Sierra Leone; Mr. Coddington and servant, Dr. Nash, and Mr. Lowndes, Tenerife; Mr. Drury, Madeira; three steerage passengers, Bonny.

DEATH.—At Accra, on the — February, greatly lamented, Thomas Cheetham, Esq., of this place.

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

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

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