

Registered for] [Transmission Abroad.

The African Times.

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

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

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

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AFRICAN AGENCY

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

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER, 1873.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The Royal Mail Steamship LOANDA is intended to be despatched from GLASGOW on the 29th NOVEMBER, and from LIVERPOOL on the 6th DECEMBER, at 10 A.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Grand Bassa, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, Cameroons, 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 November, and at the Loading Berth in Liverpool (North Side of Coburg Dock) up to 6 P.M. on the 5th December, unless previously full. Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 9.30 A.M. on the day of sailing.

The following departure is intended to be the Steamship ROQUELLE, which will leave GLASGOW on the 11th DECEMBER, and LIVERPOOL on the 18th DECEMBER, at 10 A.M., for Madeira, Teneriffe, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Half Jack, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar. Goods will be received in Glasgow up to 6 P.M. on the 10th, and in Liverpool up to 6 P.M. on the 17th. Passengers will embark at 9.30 A.M. on the day of sailing.

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

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

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

WEST COAST MAIL STEAMERS.

ARRIVALS.

African S.S. Company's Steamer Elmina, November 2.
African S.S. Company's Steamer Soudan, November 8.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Steamer Monrovia, Nov. 12.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Steamer Senegal, November 14.
British and African S.N. Co.'s Steamer Loanda, November 17.
African S.S. Co.'s Steamer Ethiopia, November 22.

DEPARTURES.

British and African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer Volta, November 6.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Elmina, November 12.
British and African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer Volta, November 19.
African S.S. Co.'s Steamer Ethiopia, November 25.
African S.S. Co.'s Steamer Soudan will leave on Nov. 30.

WEST COAST STEAMER NEWS.

HOME.

The Elmina arrived at Liverpool November 1. She carried a good number of volunteers from Lagos to Accra. The sea on the bar at Lagos delayed ships for some time.

The Soudan arrived, November 7, from West and South-West Coast.

The Grandy Expedition, under an escort from the King of St. Salvador, had passed safely through the district where their passage had been disputed. Dr. Bastian and Mr. Van Hattow went up to Borna on their interior expedition, on the 8th instant, in the King Ja Ja steamship.

Diamonds have been discovered near a place called Sooka, 95 miles up the Congo river. The stones have been examined by Dr. Basham, Director of the Museum of Berlin, who is travelling in the interior, and he has pronounced them to be of fine water. The news has caused great excitement amongst the Portuguese in the settlements south of the Congo. The river is navigable by small steamers within a few miles of Sooka.

A fire broke out at Ponta de Lenha on August 28, and three factories were totally destroyed.

The Senegal, which had broken the blades of her propeller, and has been towed home from Madeira by the Cruiser tug, reached Liverpool on the 18th instant.

NOVEMBER 17.—The *Standard* of this morning, in a third edition, published the following: "*Successful Brush with the Ashantees*."—The naval and military forces disembarked at Elmina, and having marched twenty miles through the bush, defeated the Ashantees after a brisk skirmish, and burnt five villages. M'Neil, Fremantle, and twenty-six others, are wounded. Upon the news of the defeat, the Ashantees broke up their great camp," &c. A letter from Cape Coast was published at the same time, full of strange inaccuracies, which may be excused because of the extreme haste of publication; but there is no excuse for continually writing of Sir Charles McCarthy as Sir Charles Macnaughten! The *Evening Standard* of same day contained full details of the expedition led by Sir Garnet Wolseley in the neighbourhood of Elmina. This expedition was valuable, as showing the power of endurance of the British troops, and teaching the Ashantees that the bush is no protection for them against British officers and men, led by such a chief as Sir Garnet Wolseley. The latest news, October 27, states the Ashantees to be in full retreat to the Prah.

OUTWARD.

The Volta, on November 6, took out Commander Crohan, R.N., Paymaster Ramsay, 16th Foot, Surgeon-Major Reid, Assistant-Commissary Wyatt; Lieutenants Bell, 2nd West India Regiment; Irvine, 1st Foot; Grant, 6th Foot; Douglas, 7th Foot; Pollock, 21st Foot; Hare, 22nd Foot; Wanelope, 42nd Foot; and Alymer, 103rd Foot; Sub-Lieutenants Friar and Caulfield, and the Rev. R. S. Patterson, Chaplain to the Forces. There were also several non-commissioned officers and privates.

The Elmina, on November 12, took out a large quantity of Government stores.

NATIVE LETTERS FROM THE GOLD COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 9, 1873.

Sir,—I see that some persons have kindly suggested the giving over to Kofikalcary certain portions of the Protectorate, and Anamaboe and Winnebah as seaport towns. He might possibly be pacified in this way for the time being, but he is not a man to be put off with the half when he can get the whole. And, then, surely we have to be consulted in the matter. Give to the King of Ashanti Elmina or Anamaboe, and the day after he will seize and take possession of Cape Coast under some pretext or other. If it is contemplated to give up any portion of the Protectorate to pacify him, rather than to invade Ashanti and level Coomassie with the ground, then, for Heaven's sake, do not throw away such a large sum of money, and waste so many valuable lives. Tell us at once what are your intentions, what you will and will not do; but do not deceive us any longer. Place us in the same position as we were before the exchange of territories and the cession; restore our ruined towns and villages, give us back the thousands of lives that we have lost while fighting your battles. We say *your battles*, because, twist and turn the question whichever way you will, the fact remains indisputable, incontrovertible, that the cession of Elmina is the real and sole cause of the present war. Compensate us for the property that has been destroyed; give us back our fruitful plantations; call back to us our fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, and all our relations who have been hurried hence into eternity through this war; and then let the King of Ashanti come down and take, if he can, what he claims, and what you are desirous of handing over to him.

We perceive, also, that there are some who hold the Fantees to be "currish," the Accras "mutinous," and the Ashantees a

manly race of people. I dare say that Cassar may have entertained some such views of some of the ancient Britons, whose bodies were tattooed after the style of a New Zealander, or the fanciful and picturesque fashion of a Patagonian. It is absurd of people to write on subjects of which they are about as capable of expressing an opinion as a Hottentot can be on the Pentateuch. The Ashantees are known all over the Coast for duplicity, and they are as likely to keep a treaty as they are to keep from haggling over the price of a piece of cloth. The King of Ashanti, if worsted, and if he can be induced to come to terms, will do so, only to wait a more convenient season; and peace with Ashanti can be only preserved by breaking it up as a power.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

A NATIVE WHO WRITES FROM EXPERIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 17, 1873.

Sir,—We poor unfortunate Fantees and Accras are evidently to be made the scapegoat of official blundering and mismanagement; while there is a certain class of the public who consider us their hobby, and would therefore like to ride us to —. We will not name the place.

Some of your contemporaries have undoubtedly got hold of the bull by the wrong horn—have as undoubtedly read the history of the Gold Coast and of Ashanti, such as is known, with prejudiced and perverted minds, and have consequently treated the public with *résumés*, *présis*, and such like articles, from their point of view; and their correspondents, as a rule, have dealt in like manner with the history of these regions, and the position held here by you.

We will not discuss how you came to assume, nor by what means you assumed, the protectorate of the tribes inhabiting the Gold Coast; it suffices that you have assumed and exercised such a protectorate, and accepted the responsibilities consequent thereon. You have levied taxes, imposed duties, and governed us in every sense as you do your Crown colonies and other dependencies. You make and unmake kings and chiefs; you treat with Ashanti without consulting the kings and chiefs over whom you have assumed such a protectorate; you have divested them of all power and authority over their subjects, and over even their own domestics; you fine and imprison them as you think fit; you legislate for them, make laws, pass ordinances, bills, &c., without consulting them; and by your fiat, can make them vassals to a foreign power, without their being taken into your deliberations. All this, and more, you do; and when, through your thirst for extension of territory and lust for empire—when, through the blundering of your officials, and their crass ignorance and mismanagement, you find yourself launched into a war, you begin execrating us poor fellows, who had no hand in bringing this war about, and talk of giving over a portion of our territory to appease his Majesty of Ashanti, just as though the Gold Coast were British territory, and not merely *British protectorate territory*, and could be given out in plots, "*regardless of what might be thought of it by the Fantees, who seem to be of no use to us or to themselves.*"

The writer of these words shows throughout his article a pitiable ignorance of the question he is discussing. He speaks of the Fantees as "a hostile tribe, over whom we have assumed a protectorate, and who have, in the confidence of that protection, given offence to the Ashantees;" and that we "shut out the Ashantees from the Coast at our pleasure;" talks of our "speculating on your assistance to bar the Ashantees from the sea;" of our shielding an Ashantee chief, and thus enabling him to flout successful rebellion in the face of the king; and about the treaty of 1831, which he says the Fantees have violated, together with observations of a like nature,—in a strain which exhibits imperfect knowledge of his subject-matter. But he is not alone, as there are others who have written on the Chamah and Tacorady disasters as though the recently-ceded Dutch tribes, and those who inhabit Fanti proper, and those formerly under the English, are one and the same people.*

To get at the root of the present complications, we must go so far back as 1863. An English Governor then refused to deliver up

* The ceded Dutch tribes never willingly accepted the English dominion. It is notorious that when the cession was effected, they stated that they accepted the English flag with their hands, *not their hearts*; and it is equally notorious that it was the display of power, the demonstration of physical force at hand, that led to the cession of Elmina being so quietly and peaceably effected. All this while they were courting the assistance of the King of Ashanti, with the view of resisting English domination; and it is but natural that the Ashantees, having overrun the Protectorate, and having been able to open direct communication with them, they should consider the moment favourable for throwing off the British yoke, and joining the enemy. This will account for their treacherous conduct; but it is no reason why the Fantees, who have never been hostile to you, who hate the Ashantees with intense hatred, should be mistrusted, and why there should be any doubts as to the advisability of arming them to drive out their ancient enemy, and should be cursed and reviled in the same breath with the lately-ceded Dutch tribes, who have never withdrawn their allegiance to Ashanti.

to the Ashanti monarch, and shielded, an Ashanti chief who had broken one of the laws of the country; and thus enabled the chief to "flout successful rebellion in the face of the king." Mr. Richard Pine is, we believe, still alive, and can inform those who are desirous of getting at the truth, that it was that which brought about the war in 1863, and that, in declining to give up this Ashanti chief, the then Government approved of his action. It was this truckling to "an idea," in the cause of humanity, to prevent the poor chief's head being taken off, that the Protectorate then became involved in war. The "currish Fantees" would, I dare say, if they had been left alone, have sent the chief back to his king, whether he sliced off his head or not. Since that campaign, there has not been peace between us and Ashanti. Repeated overtures have been made to the king to reopen the trade path; but he would not do so, although he would send down occasionally to trade; but the *path* for trade has never been open since 1863; and this, not because the Fantees closed it, but because the King of Ashanti would not permit his people to come down here to trade. Nor is it the violation of that or any other clause in the treaty of 1831 that has provoked hostilities. The King of Ashanti has distinctly stated that the cession of Elmina to the English is the cause of his invading the Protectorate.

The Fantees have not on any occasion pillaged the Ashantees, nor do they wish to do so, in the way in which the writer of this particular article infers; and it is as ridiculous to talk of the merchants bearing the burden of the duties, for without consumers where would the importers be? Who have for the last ten years consumed what has been imported into the country, but the protected tribes? And within that period, when there has been nothing of Ashanti trade to speak of, the revenue is nearly ten times what it was during the best days of Ashanti trade; and the trade is now healthier. Thus much for the vaunted Ashanti trade. It is true there is not so much gold dust shipped to England now-a-days from this quarter as there used to be; but you have not the wear and tear that comes from haggling with the Ashantees when they come to trade with you direct, and your profits are larger.

If trade is what you care so very much for, open up the interior, and you will regret that you had not sufficient nous to have perceived what benefits would have accrued to you had you done this somewhat earlier. But why, we ask, should the Ashantees be permitted to pass through our territory, and come down to the coast to trade, and have the same opportunities and privilege of buying and selling in the same market with us, when they will not permit us to pass through their territory and advance into the interior, and bring ourselves into contact with the tribes there? Why should not the Ashantees permit the tribes and races inland to proceed through their territory and approach the coast? Why should Coomassie be the barrier beyond which no Fantee, nor any of the tribes from the coast, can advance into the interior; and the confines of Ashanti proper the boundary line for all tribes inland? Why not compel his Majesty of Ashanti to permit his vast dominions, and the country inland, to be open and common to all, in like manner as ours is to his people? In former days—that is, before this treaty of '31—no Ashantee was permitted to advance beyond Mansua to trade, and the merchants found the trade more profitable, and the country was then more prosperous. There is no necessity to take millions from British tax-payers to re-establish and protect us; but there is a necessity of a most urgent kind to recover your lost prestige; to punish a savage and ruthless monarch, who, without any cause for provocation, has invaded and overrun the finest parts of a territory you profess to protect and govern; to make some sacrifice and some return for the millions of people you yourselves have taken from our country and sold into slavery; to open up a vast and unexplored country to the influences of civilization and Christianity, and, over and above all, to fulfil your high destiny—a destiny that impels you to extend your empire, much as you may loathe to do so.

The King of Ashanti may, or may not, want a sea-board for his people; but we contend that you would have as much right to hand over to him Constantinople, Timbuctoo, or any other place not yours, as to give him a port and sea-board on the Gold Coast. By what right can you give over to Ashanti, Anamaboe or Winnebah, or any other place on the Gold Coast, when you have already stated that the territory is not British territory? What immunity can you claim for yourselves to do that which, when done by others, you begin sermonizing on? Is it that might makes right—that, since we are cowed in spirit, and are unable to offer anything like an effective resistance to our enemies, we are to be bound hand and foot, and delivered over to them? If we have been unable to make head against the Ashantees, you are to blame for having disorganized, demoralized, and disunited us; for having put down with a high hand all our efforts at self-government, with the view of being able, when the day came, to combat our enemies single-handed and without your assistance. In what do we differ from you other than in

the colour of our skin, the formation of some of the members of our body and features, our mode of life, our want of civilization, and the absence of that Christianity which you profess, but often fail to inculcate by example? Our senses are the same; we are alike possessed of the power of speech and the gift of reason. Do not the various faculties and characteristics of the negro stamp him as being created in the image of his Maker as much as his more favoured Caucasian brother? And yet we are told by you, who stand foremost in the roll of civilization, and vaunt of your Christianity, that it were better to make concessions affecting us in our most vital interests, regardless of what we may think of it; and that to soothe and pacify a savage and murderous monarch who annually slaughters hecatombs of poor unfortunate wretches for heathenish and pagan rites and customs. To give this King of Ashanti a port and sea-board, is to furnish him with the means of further extending his empire of blood, of murder, and of rapine; to strengthen his hold upon those poor unfortunate races and tribes who inhabit the country inland, where the light of Christianity has never yet penetrated. Your inevitable destiny is to root out this barrier to Christianity and civilization, and to bring the tribes from the far distant interior into the light of gospel day. Why, then, all this trade about the longings of Ashantees for a sea-board, when there are other tribes and races with aspirations quite as legitimate, and who are as desirous of being brought into contact with the outer world? Proceed then in your course. Plant the banner of Great Britain at Coomassie, and proclaim peace and freedom to all.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

A NATIVE WHO WRITES FROM EXPERIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 18, 1873.

Sir,—On Saturday, the 11th inst., his Excellency Sir Garnet Wolseley proceeded to Elmina, evidently on some information he had as to the doings of the Elminas and Ashantees up there. The upshot of his visit was, that he returned here, and left on Monday evening for the scene of his intended operations, giving it out, however, that he was on his way to Accra. A clever *ruse*, as it kept the enemy (who is well informed as to all that occurs here) completely in the dark. He took up with him some of the West India troops here, some Marines and Houssas. With these he proceeded to attack the position held by the enemy and rebel Elminas at Essarman, Ampeyni, and Arkimfoe, near Elmina, and after a brisk engagement—in which our losses were, comparatively speaking, *nil*, and that of the enemy, considering the fire of the Sniders, rockets, &c., somewhat severe—completely destroyed these villages, and a large amount of property therein that must have been deposited by the people of Elmina, including a large quantity of powder, and returned to the Castle, leaving next day for this place. Colonel M'Neil is among the wounded on our side.

The day after his return, Sir Garnet despatched a messenger to the King of Ashanti, to offer him "peace and honourable conditions," the terms being, so we learn, the withdrawal of his Majesty's forces from the Protectorate, indemnification of expenses incurred, and guarantees for the future; or, on refusal, the carrying on of the war up to the walls of Coomassie.

He has also sent Kotikor, a member of the last Ashanti Embassy, to treat with Amankoo-aitiaat Mampon. Of course, this is all in accordance with the views of the English public as enunciated in their principal leading papers, with the exception of one or two. What these missions will result in it is not difficult to foresee.

To expect the King of Ashanti to come to any other than his own terms, as matters now stand, is not to give him credit for that "civilization and reason" that some of his Majesty's staunchest supporters attempt to gull the public in England with. He will naturally say, "I have overrun some of your finest districts; my army has been able to drive you all to the Coast, and hitherto confine your movements to within limits out of which you have, as yet, been unable to break; I am able to maintain any position in your territory; you have never yet beaten me in actual battle; and you talk to me about recalling my troops and giving you indemnification, or you will destroy my capital. Come and do it if you can; but as I dare say you know it is a feat not easy of accomplishment, make over to me the territory I have overrun; give me up Elmina, and other such points as I may name, and then I will accept peace. These are *my terms*; accept them or not, as you please." Such is more likely to be the King of Ashanti's reply to Sir Garnet Wolseley than any other. Should reason guide his Majesty's council, then a brave and courteous messenger will be returned, setting forth his grievances with such plausibility and an utter disregard of truth and facts, that one not acquainted with the Ashantee character will be disposed to entertain his complaint, and permit him to retire from this war without exacting those guarantees for the future which are necessary to establish a permanent and lasting peace; but his Majesty will have ulterior designs, and

[Nov. 29, 1873]

will not fail to turn the breathing time thus given him to account, so that in the next struggle he may take the field on something like equal terms. We are, however, of the number who hope that the Ashanti monarch will turn a deaf ear to all entreaties, and we hope this, in the cause of our country, civilization and Christianity, all of which will benefit by the headstrong obstinacy of the present king.

The native troops are assembling at Doorquah, and the road to the Prah is being opened up.

There was a slight skirmish at Kookooda on Saturday last, between a body of Ashantees and some Abrahms, and the enemy is now in position and force there, threatening Abracampah. Evidently he intends throwing his force across the main road to the Prah.—Yours truly,

October 25.

Another week has passed away, and with it events of some importance have transpired. Amankoo-atsia has returned an answer to the message sent up by Sir Garnet Wolsley to him. The reply, it is reported, is not at all favourable. The Ashantee Commander-in-Chief does not see that he has been beaten in the struggle, and he has to be routed before we can proceed to Coomassie. He would like to have the Assins and Denkiras, whose territory he has overrun, given up to him preliminary to discussing the terms of peace; if this is not done, since we have been threatening to drive him out of his position at Mampon, he will proceed to attack us next week, and if the day is convenient to us, next Tuesday may be named. He and his army are perfectly comfortable where they are, and he will only stir out of it to overrun other parts of the Protectorate; they have sufficient of everything in their camp, and are in no particular haste to clear out of the Protectorate. His messengers have been sent back, and it is intended to make some demonstration against him, in all probability during the following week.

The enemy is now threatening Doorquah as well as Abracampah. Every preparation has been made by the officers at these places to meet the enemy, should he feel disposed to attack.

The native levies are still assembling in large numbers at Doorquah; and if numbers alone can effect what it is desired to accomplish, by this time next month Sir Garnet Wolsley will have a force sufficiently large, in conjunction with the regular troops, to proceed to drive the enemy out of the Protectorate.

October 26.

We have not fallen far out in our conjectures as to the probability of some demonstration being made against the enemy in a few days. Sir Garnet Wolsley and nearly all his staff have left for the front to-day. They proceeded to Doorquah, Abbrampah, and Ekrofull, the first two of which are threatened, and are in imminent danger of being attacked by the enemy. Sir Garnet has taken with him the whole of his available force, consisting of some two hundred Marines, and some sixty or so of blue jackets. He intends returning, so we learn, by Wednesday. The enemy, it is reported, is about clearing out of the Protectorate by the main road, and as these towns are on his route, and there are some native levies in them, an engagement is likely to be brought on before he can effect his retreat unmolested. Sir Garnet Wolsley is therefore anxious to give him a foretaste of what is to come—the more so as the Ashanti Commander-in-Chief has challenged him. We may expect to hear of some fighting in a day or two. We have no fear of the results. Colonel Festing, we hear, is likely to proceed to Napoleon and Abbey, so as to be able to create a division if necessary.

October 27, 9 A.M.

Nothing has transpired as yet. We are all on the tiptoe of expectation.

WHY A RAILWAY CANNOT BE MADE IN A HURRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, October 24, 1873.

Sir,—My *African Times* seems to have miscarried, but in looking this morning over a borrowed number of the *African Times* for September, I find a reference to a projected railway. I am of opinion that the road now being constructed to the Prah could not be utilized much for a railway for present use, to meet the wants of an expedition to Ashanti.

Cape Coast is shut in northwards, and inclining eastwards, by ranges of small hills, two or three hundred feet high; so that, in constructing a railway, deep cuttings would have to be made, which would consume more time than present circumstances would allow.

Doubtless these hills could, many of them, be turned by considerable detours to the right or left; but there is no time for that, I presume, ere the invading force should cross the Prah. These detours would have to be very frequent along any line of road between this and the Prah.

I am not sufficiently acquainted with the principle and power of traction-engines to know whether or not they can make

ascents and descents of hills; but for railways or tramways there would be considerably heavy work in cuttings and detours.—Yours &c.,

T. B. FREEMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, October 23, 1873.

My dear Sir,—King Attah (Eastern Akim) left this yesterday, and the King of Crepee the day before. The rest leave to-day, with the exception of Sakkitay, the King of Eastern Crobo, who is detained in Accra at the request of the other chiefs on suspicion of being friendly to Aquamoo, which is to be attacked at once; so also is Ahwoonah. This is the first step towards an invasion of Ashanti from these parts, as these two tribes are really Ashantees or subject to their power, and there are at this very moment Ashantee generals and captains in both places organizing them in precisely the same manner as British officers are now organizing the Accras and Fantees. A camp is already formed at Addah Fort at the mouth of the Volta, and the Gertrude and Warree steamers are there discharging ammunition and stores; several hundred Houssas have already gone there, and the Crepees who took refuge in these parts are also being collected there; and the Croboes at Korng. Captain Glover will be leaving next week, and business will commence immediately after he reaches Addah. What childish nonsense the *Times* and some other English papers write about the Coast! I have no time, else I would expose some of the writers; I know who they are.—I remain, yours &c.,

LIST OF PASSENGERS PER LOANDA.

Captain Woodfine, from Cameroons; Lieut. Carey, N.I., Bonny; Lieut. Brooks, Cape Coast; Captains Kendall and Ogilvie, Sierra Leone; Mr. Simpson, Cape Coast; Mr. Malony, Sierra Leone.

ASHANTI WAR PREPARATIONS.

NOVEMBER 1.—The Government have chartered another steamer, the Joseph Dodds, which will carry 1,000 tons of cargo. She has come to Woolwich, and is taking in railway material. The Lilian has finished loading, and sails immediately. The Government have purchased the Briton steamer for carrying stores to Cape Coast.

NOVEMBER 4.—Railway trucks are arriving at Woolwich for the Cape Coast and Coomassie railway; 1,000 pocket filters were also received yesterday. The Victor Emmanuel, hospital ship, is in a forward state of preparation.

NOVEMBER 5.—A monster distilling apparatus, consisting of a set of cisterns and about 4,000 feet of galvanized iron pipe, for distilling and condensing sea, marsh, and bush water, so as to make them useful for drinking purposes, are being sent out to the Gold Coast from Woolwich, for use either at Cape Coast Castle or at some other station, as the commander of the expedition may direct. The largest of these cisterns will contain about 6,000 gallons, and it has been stowed away in the fore-hold of "Transport No. 5," as the Joseph Dodds is officially called. The quantity of provisions sent out in this ship is enormous. Ten heavily-loaded lighters have come from Deptford Victualling-yard alone, and have discharged, or are discharging, their cargoes into the spacious holds of the vessel. These provisions are of various kinds. One large load consisted of 1,400 cases of preserved mutton, and 500 casks of salt pork; another consisted of 2,000 kegs of rice; and altogether it is estimated that the ship will carry out food enough to feed an army of 10,000 men for two or three months. Besides ordinary provisions, several van-loads of medical comforts arrived yesterday at Woolwich, and were put on board the same ship. They consisted of jams and jellies, potted fruits, preserved meats, and other delicacies, for the use of the sick and wounded in the hospitals, with large quantities of wine and bottled beer.

NOVEMBER 7.—The 28th Company of Royal Engineers are to embark in the Himalaya, troop-ship, for Cape Coast, under the command of Captain R. O. Jones. They are to be employed in laying down the railway. Mules are to be purchased at Madeira, and sent down to Cape Coast for transport service; several hundred sets of pack saddles, &c., are now preparing for shipment. The purchase of buck-shot has now ceased, Government making it for themselves, by which it is said they save 10% per ton.

NOVEMBER 10.—The Active sails to-day from Plymouth. The steamship Briton has been re-christened, and is now the Dromedary. Another large screw steamer, the Marion, has been also chartered.

NOVEMBER 11.—American beef not being found good enough, Government is salting its own at Deptford at the rate of 70,000 lbs. per week. The total of rice shipped up to this time is about 1,500 tons: of provisions, including rice, 5,000 tons; and in addition a large quantity of luxuries and delicacies, chiefly for hospital use—such as preserved fruits and vegetables, hams, wine, beer, spirits, &c.

NOVEMBER 12.—No. 1 Battery, 17th Brigade, Royal Artillery,

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are under orders for the Gold Coast. The officers will be Major Bainbridge, R.A., Lieutenant Bury, and Lieutenant Freeth.

NOVEMBER 13.—The rails supplied hitherto, and now constructing, will not suffice for more than twenty miles of railway. Though slight, these weigh 1,250 tons. Hammock poles for native bearers are preparing; 300 men of the Royal Marines are ordered to be in immediate readiness for departure for service either on sea or land.

NOVEMBER 14.—In addition to ordinary engineers' tools and instruments, a considerable supply of gun-cotton, for mining and blasting (to remove obstacles), goes out in the Himalaya.

NOVEMBER 15.—The Army Clothing Department is now manufacturing a novel addition to the accoutrement of troops for the West Coast. It consists of a face-protector, composed of blue cotton, something of the nature of a veil, designed to protect the face of the man from sand and insects. It is so contrived that the entire face will be covered, and is fastened by a strap round the head. Orders have been given for a reserve stock of 500 suits complete of this special clothing to be at once prepared; so that, in the event of any further troops being ordered to proceed to the Gold Coast, the Army Clothing Depot may be in a position to comply with a limited requisition immediately. The *Times* writes: "We have reason to believe that the latest despatches from Sir Garnet Wolsley announce that it would be impossible to lay down the proposed railway on the Gold Coast, in consequence of difficulties which have occurred to many of our correspondents whose acquaintance with the country entitled their opinions to consideration. No more rails or railway plant will therefore be shipped for the Coast of Africa."

NOVEMBER 17.—The Marion, hired transport, is taking in stores at Woolwich. The shipment of rails and railway plant is entirely discontinued. Ten miles of railway had been previously shipped, and that seems likely to be all that will go. She takes out a large cargo boat to carry twelve tons and the remainder of the surf-boats. In consequence of the present uselessness of the Lisbon and Madeira Telegraph, the Government have sent out the steamer Vigilant to intercept news at Madeira, and convey it to Lisbon to be telegraphed thence to London.

NOVEMBER 24.—Since the above, the Himalaya and the Tamar, Government troop-ships, have left with reinforcements for Sir Garnet Wolsley. The Marion has been despatched with stores, and the Dromedary, late Briton, is loading as rapidly as possible.

NOVEMBER 26.—The 42nd Highlanders (having its strength made up by two officers and 110 men from the 79th) will be sent out to Cape Coast about the 1st December. They will go by the steamer Sarmatian, one of the Allan line of American steamers which has been chartered by the Government for that purpose. The following medical officers went out by the Soudan yesterday (25th): Dr. Fraser, Dr. Faught, Dr. Haurahan, Dr. Gray, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Brown, and Dr. Supple. Another small party of Engineers is to be sent out.

NOVEMBER 27.—The Dromedary will take out troops. She was considered a slow ship when on the Cape of Good Hope line. She is loading additional stores to meet the wants of the increased number of troops to be employed. Large quantities of tobacco have been sent out for soldiers' use. The Victor Emmanuel hospital ship, is expected to be ready to leave on the 3rd December. Captain Pritchard and Lieutenant Fowler, Portsmouth Division Royal Marines (Light Infantry), have been ordered to embark on board H.M.S. Dromedary for service on the Gold Coast. Lieutenant Eustace Bird, Chatham Division, proceeds to the same destination in command of the detachment on board H.M.S. Victor Emmanuel. About 300 officers and men of this branch of Her Majesty's Service will be available for any operations on the Coast undertaken by Sir Garnet Wolsley. The officers are Lieut.-Col. Festing, Captain Crease, and Lieutenant Allan, Royal Marine Artillery; Captains Pritchard, Despard, and Allnutt, Lieutenants Cresbie, Hearle, Stephens, and Fowler, Royal Marine Light Infantry.

NOVEMBER 28.—We are informed that a considerable addition to the force of Royal Marines, serving on the Gold Coast, is under order for immediate embarkation. The officers detailed are Captains Hale and Arbuckle, Lieutenants Byam, Hext, Cragie, and Pym, and 125 non-commissioned officers and men of the Light Infantry; Captain Derriman in command, four lieutenants, and sixty non-commissioned officers and gunners of the Artillery branch of the corps. Lieutenant Fitzgerald, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, late Equerry to Captain his Royal Highness Prince Arthur, is under orders to embark on board the Sarmatian, on Wednesday, for the Gold Coast. Two sergeants and ten rank and file of the Army Service Corps are also under orders to go by the same steamer. It is believed that Colonel Sir Archibald Alison, K.C.B., will leave at the same time. The 2nd Battalion of the 4th Regiment, it is said, will be also despatched to the Gold Coast.

SANITARIUMS AT MADEIRA AND GIBRALTAR.

Lisbon, November 26.—Sir C. A. Murray, the British Minister here, has gone to Madeira with the British fleet in order to establish a Sanitarium for invalids from the Gold Coast. He has obtained the necessary sanction from the Portuguese Government. Sir C. A. Murray will also establish a Sanitarium at Gibraltar.

OPINIONS OF PUBLIC MEN, THE PRESS, &c., ON THE ASHANTI WAR.

"Our best hope is, that whatever is done may be done speedily, and that when the war is ended we may be wise enough to retrace our steps, and to retire at once to a safer and less ambitious position. Mr. Bright's speech at Birmingham is the most encouraging assurance we have received from any member of the Cabinet that the lesson before us is not likely to be forgotten, and that we shall endeavour to avoid in future the occasion of our present troubles."—*The Times*.

"We have imposed upon us an anxious and painful duty with respect to the events that have lately occurred upon the Gold Coast of Africa. But this I will venture to say, without reference to the immediate future of the interests of that country, that even the deplorable incidents which have recently occurred in this latitude will not be without their use if they should serve to impress upon the minds of the people of these three kingdoms a great caution and a great circumspection with respect to the primary measures in contracting new and ill-defined political relations—relations which, when once established, are found to entail consequences and to impose duties which were never dreamt of at the first moment of their creation, and that must undoubtedly be attended with much of temporary embarrassment and inconvenience."—*Mr. Gladstone*, Nov. 9.

"We have no need of any territorial aggrandisements, and we do not desire to extend the circle of the empire over which we rule. But the British Army will always be ready to respond to the demands of duty; the call of the Sovereign will always be answered by our officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, as it was in the days of their fathers. At the present moment an English officer, young in years but not young in service (Sir Garnet Wolsley), is engaged in restraining a savage invasion in one of the most ungenial regions of the world. Three years ago, that same officer was engaged in a distant region of British North America, overcoming difficulties which then, as now, were not the difficulties created by an enemy formidable in the field, but difficulties interposed by nature—difficulties of climate and of country. And depend upon it that, whatever difficulties he and the gallant and noble officers under his command may meet with in this present arduous campaign, they will be encountered by that gallantry and skill which have obtained for the British Army in former times its great and imperishable renown."—*Mr. Cardwell*, Nov. 9.

[To be continued.]

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

NOVEMBER 1 TO 8.

EBONY.—15 tons African, black, 6l. 15s. to 15l. 2s. 6d. per ton, as in quality.

PALM KERNELS.—700 bags, at 14l. to 14l. 5s. per ton.

PALM OIL.—The market is steady, with small arrivals; prices are unchanged; 500 tons sold; Bonny at 35l. 5s., Benin at 35l. 15s., Lagos at 36l. 5s., New Calabar at 37l. 6s., and Brass at 38l. per ton.

COTTON.—Market much depressed, and a further decline in all descriptions. Sales of the week, 57,000 bales. African—prices paid this week, 6½d. to 8½d.; ordinary and middling, 6d.; fair and good fair, 6½d. to 7d.; good and fair (noted), 7½d. to 8½d.

NOVEMBER 8 TO 15.

PALM KERNELS.—Lagos, 14l. 2s. 6d. per ton.

BENIN SEED.—57s. to 60s. per quarter.

PALM OIL.—Bonny, 34l. to 34l. 15s.; Old Calabar, 35l. 15s.; New Calabar, 36l. 15s. to 37l.; Lagos, 36l.

COTTON.—Market irregular and depressed. African: Sales during the week, 6½d. to 7d. Quantity of cotton sold during the week, 72,000 bales.

NOVEMBER 15 TO 22.

CAMWOOD.—A small parcel of Roquette at 50l. per ton.

BENIN SEED.—490 bags, at 57s. 6d. to 60s. 3d. per quarter.

PALM KERNELS.—2,500 bags, at 14l. 5s. to 14l. 10s. per ton.

GROUND NUTS.—1,840 bags, at 17l. 12s. 6d. to 18l. 2s. 6d. per ton.

PALM OIL.—With continued arrivals lower prices are accepted, and the sales are 1,150 tons: Irregular at 28l. to 35l., Bonny at 34l., Benin at 34l. 10s. to 35l., Old Calabar at 35l., and Lagos at 35l. 10s. to 35l. per ton.

COTTON.—Market quiet. Prices generally a shade lower. Sales of the week, 72,000 bales. African: Prices paid this week, 6½d. to 6¾d.; ordinary and middling, 5¾d.; fair and good fair, 6½d. to 6¾d.; good and fine, 7½d. to 8½d.

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The African Times.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1873.

ASHANTI WAR OPERATIONS.

Active operations on the Gold Coast may be said to have commenced about the 11th to 14th of October, when an expedition, under Sir Garnet Wolseley in person, destroyed several villages near Elmina, the most distant being nearly ten miles from that place. These operations, though otherwise unimportant, were supposed to have produced a considerable moral effect both on the Fantees and Ashantees. The latter learned that the bush was not an inviolable asylum for them, and that, roads or no roads, they must henceforth hold themselves liable to attack; while the Fantees were shown that their dreaded enemy might be followed with success to his fastnesses, and that he is not possessed of a charm that ensures victory. Those first operations have been judiciously followed up by expeditions to Abracampa and Dunquah, on the 27th of October. The former, under Sir Garnet Wolseley, found only an abandoned camp, where some 10,000 men are supposed to have been so lately as twenty-four or forty-eight hours previously. In the dense bush the heat was excessive; but, by judicious arrangements, there were very few casualties; and none of them of a serious nature to deplore. Colonel Festing's force, of which the Anamaboos formed the advance, surprised an Ashantee camp when the enemy were occupied with some repast. The surprise was complete, and there was an Ashantee *saute qui peut* into the surrounding bush. Their tom-toms, however, beat immediately to action, and for some time a heavy fire was poured from the bush among Colonel Festing's men. As the day advanced, the Colonel recognized the impossibility of remaining in such a position throughout the night, and a return to the coast was ordered, and effected without further molestation. The casualties were five officers and forty-five men wounded. Nothing could afford more conclusive evidence of the wretched ammunition possessed by the Ashantees. Trade powder and small slugs, fired from trade muskets, are clearly not first-rate agents of destruction, or the casualties would not have been of the slight nature above detailed. The Ashanti loss must, it is thought, have been very considerable, as not only were rifle-bullets unsparingly poured into the bush, but grape and canister shot from a seven-pounder gun also. We entertain very little doubt that the Ashantees are now making a retrograde movement. Perhaps by this day on which we write, they have for the most part crossed the Prah. It had been already sufficiently demonstrated to them, when the last news left the Coast by the Ethiopia, on the 31st of October, that their period of undisturbed occupation was at an end; while the King must have learned, through some channel or other, that a serious advance on his capital was contemplated. The British authorities are now finding the great, costly, delaying, and dangerous inconvenience resulting from the neglect in making roads during a period of peace. We did our duty on the subject; we can only again express our poignant regret that Downing-street and the local British authorities neglected theirs. As abundant stores were arriving—as strong reinforcements are on their way out—and all the British soldiers supposed to be needed will have arrived out before the end of December—we are bound to suppose that 1874 will commence with a vigorous march forward in the direction of Kumasi—that horrible, blood-deluged capital town of Ashanti. Meanwhile, if the reports we have received of Captain Glover's movements and intentions be correct, he will have cut off all supplies of arms, ammunition, and stores by way of the transvolta towns of Awoonah. We do not see how the British Government can

24th of November.

in any way now stay its hand until the British ensign floats in Kumasi; and we hope to hear of rapid, as well as complete success.

LAGOS AND ITS AFFAIRS.—CAPTAIN STRACHAN AND CAPTAIN GLOVER.

We shall be sorry indeed to find that the Colonial-office has made another mistake in the appointment of Captain Strachan to the Administratorship of Lagos. That settlement has been so great a sufferer through official mismanagement, and so many innocent persons have, as a consequence, been wholly or in part ruined, with a serious loss thereby of British capital, that the wounds require soothing by anodynes, not irritating by caustic. During the interview of the commercial deputation with Earl Kimberley in May last, his lordship spoke so confidently as to the merits of Captain Strachan, who might be regarded "as almost a civilian," that we expected to hear of a courteous, confidence-inspiring Administrator installed in his person within the walls of the Government-house at Lagos. We regret, however, that it should be our duty to state that the first impressions at Lagos have not been favourable as regards the new Administrator. If the description came to us from one quarter only, we should have taken no public notice of it; but it comes to us from several and distinct ones; and what we gather is, that his tone is not at all a soothing one; his bearing is lofty, for Africa, and frightens even Europeans away from Government-house. We cannot help feeling that this is a bad beginning. His predecessor, Mr. Berkeley, the present Governor-in-Chief of the West Coast Settlements, gained golden opinions of all in Lagos; he was beloved there; and we never heard that the public service was thereby injured, or the Queen's government thereby lowered in the estimation of Europeans or natives. It would be, indeed, lamentable should Colonel Strachan undo what Mr. Berkeley effected; nor do we hesitate to say that such a result would put an end at once and for ever to the system of appointing naval and military men as Administrators of commercial settlements—a system which was, with so much reason, denounced by the deputation, to whose interview with Earl Kimberley we have before alluded.

We have one or two other observations to make about Lagos. It was not without reason that, as guardian of British mercantile and native trading interests on the West Coast, we addressed Earl Kimberley on the subject of Captain Glover's appointment to his Gold Coast command; pointing out that great mischief might be caused by any attempt of Captain Glover to interfere in any way with Lagos or its affairs, or to re-visit Lagos. Our advice emphatically declare that Captain Glover has not given up the idea of disturbing the peace of Lagos. In sending Dr. Rowe there lately, to collect recruits for service in his Ashanti expedition, he is stated to have instructed him (officially) to send to and induce all the Houssas at Okeodan to join him; he at the same time being fully aware that those men are held there as slaves, and that the escaped slave question is one of the most difficult to arrange between Lagos and the interior. It is also confidently asserted that he sent to his active adherent, Mr. Willoughby (late Chief of the Constabulary) to send secretly to Abeokuta, to entice slaves to run away from that place and join the expedition. These are serious charges, and we do not make them on light authority. We have supported Captain Glover in his Gold Coast and Ashanti preparations; but if he is to be a firebrand once again in the affairs of Lagos, Egba, and Ijebu—whatever his other merits may be—the sooner he is recalled by Her Majesty's Government the better; not only for the trading interests of Lagos, but also for the interests of Her Majesty's Government.

THE CURE FOR PANICS.

GOLD! WE ARE DYING FOR GOLD! GO TO ASHANTI FOR GOLD!

The Bank rate is 9 per cent. (which means 12 to 14 per cent. for needy people), with bullion in the Bank 19,338,000l. We shall not darken counsel by words. We shall be brief, because the actual state of the Money Market

affecting as it does all industries and all commercial engagements and transactions, is too serious to allow of our using a string of platitudes respecting it. The life-blood of trade, commerce, and manufactures is being drawn from their veins. It is not lost, of course, but goes still further to enrich many who are already unhealthily surfeited. We are not about to write a treatise on the much-vexed currency question. We may not, and do not, think that the rules by which the national currency is now regulated and governed are the perfection of human wisdom,—we look on them as radically wrong; but the general opinion of those whom the world considers best qualified to decide on a matter of such vast interest and importance, is in favour of them; and while thus powerfully supported, they will be maintained. They constitute a mighty tyranny which there is no power in the country to resist. Their yoke is on the neck of the commerce and industry of the land, and their prestige even enslaves the souls of the victims, or interest at 9 to 12 or more per cent., without any evidence of overtrading, would impel these to break that yoke from off their neck. They prefer to sink under it; content that it creates and enlarges great golden idols; a portion of the glory of which seems to be reflected on themselves, and illumine their ruin. We assume then that the currency laws, as at this time in operation, are like those of the Medes and Persians of old—unchangeable. Still, even those who most admire and most vigorously defend them, must admit that there are serious inconveniences occasionally resulting from their action; such, for instance, as the late rapid rise of the Bank rate from 3 to 9 per cent., which means from 3 to 12 or 14 per cent. for those least able to afford the exactions of this increased value of money. We do not hear that any accusation is at the present time brought against the manufacturing industries, or trade and commerce of the country, of an undue speculative expansion; on the contrary, there is a boast that these are in a peculiarly sound and healthy state. But if they are so, whence comes this present monetary difficulty? If there be no enormous balance against the ordinary trade and commerce of this country, why is the value of money so raised against that trade and commerce? Money must be actually worth that 9 to 12 or 14 per cent., or that value could not be sustained—that price could not be exacted. Whence comes it then—this present monetary difficulty, which, if prolonged, may work a widespread ruin? From this—that of late years a new and extraordinary branch of trade and commerce—a branch growing out of our great national wealth—has sprung up, and so overshadowed the ordinary trade and commerce, that these latter, together with all ordinary national industries, must be necessarily regulated and overruled by it. It clouds their sky, it intercepts their sunshine, it consumes their sap, and from time to time imperils their existence. This new and exceptional trade and commerce is the *trade and commerce in money*. England, by its enormous realized wealth, has become the great banking and money centre of the world. It is the great public creditor of the peoples and Governments of all the civilized and semi-civilized countries of the earth. It is not our purpose to enter here into the minutiae of the operations of this vast and daily increasing trade and commerce. The balances in its favour and against it, and which are continually fluctuating, are very large. These are perpetually liable to a demand of adjustment in gold. Gold is the currency of Great Britain. That currency thereby becomes liable to sudden and serious contractions and expansions. Why so? For the very simple reason that the amount of gold over and above what is needed for the operations of ordinary trade, commerce, and national industries, and therefore available for the adjustment of the balances of this extraordinary trade, are becoming year by year increasingly inadequate for the purpose, notwithstanding the constant augmentation of the world's stock of gold by the mining operations carried on in California, Australia, &c. Of the large amount of gold now annually furnished by those mining operations, no inconsiderable portion is absorbed by the demands of luxury and elegance, and the legitimate expansion of ordinary industries, trade, and commerce, consequent upon the continual increase of population and wealth. The residue is

not proportionally equal to the yearly augmenting demands of this extraordinary or money trade, which, under the fluctuation of its balances, now unduly stimulates the ordinary industries, trade, and commerce, and fans the devouring flame of extravagant luxury, and anon draws from these their life-blood, and endangers their very existence. This constitutes a state of disease, and of very dangerous disease; and as Governments and peoples will continue to borrow, and the dealers in money will continue to lend, in ever-increasing amounts, that disease will, if not arrested, in a short time prove fatal, unless thrown off by the body politic in some dire convulsion, which may destroy the whole fabric of accumulated wealth in this country. We call upon every reader of this to imagine for himself the misery and woe which would attend such a convulsion.

That the evil is in a deficiency of gold, and that it is dangerously progressive, the following brief statistics will show:—

Year.	Bullion in Bank.	Bank Rate.
1844	15,209,000	2½ per cent.
1853	15,612,000	5
1854	13,290,000	5
1858	12,642,000	6
1861	12,752,000	7
1861	12,571,000	8
1864	13,121,000	9
1873	19,438,000	7
1873	19,379,000	8
1873	19,338,000	9

The question then naturally arises, where are we to seek for a remedy? There seems to be no reasonable hope that the gold currency delusion will pass away, under the influence of a healthy change in public opinion, in a time of prosperity and ease. The delusion is so strong, and those who are interested in upholding it are becoming year by year so increasingly powerful, that there is no sound reason for believing it will be overcome. And yet, to any unbiassed man, in his sober senses, it would seem impossible for reason to uphold so monstrous a theory as that the world's constantly increasing population should be dependent for its constantly increasing wants, on what might possibly not be found—namely, on a constantly increasing production of gold—to meet the constantly increasing balances which must require adjustment, through the inevitable operation of its demands. But let this pass. We believe, as we have above stated, that this gold currency delusion will continue. Where, then, are we to seek for a remedy? There can be only one. That is, an increased production—and this, too, a largely increased production—of gold. How is this to be obtained? Only in one or both of two ways. Either by stimulating and increasing production largely, by Government encouragement and impulse, in the gold fields which are now being worked; or by the discovery, opening, and development of new and rich gold fields. We have said, by Government encouragement and impulse; and we repeat it. Our Government has so thoroughly adopted the gold currency theory and practice, that they have made themselves a party to the principle; and being responsible for the national weal, and that weal being endangered by the want of greater supplies of gold, they are bound in duty to ransack the whole known earth, in order to obtain those supplies. We very much question, however, whether private enterprise is not already obtaining with all possible rapidity, all that the Australian and other known and worked rich gold fields can be made yearly to yield. We are driven, then, to the necessity of their finding, opening, and developing new ones. Happily, they have not far to seek. There can be no doubt that the countries of the Kong Mountains, and thence to the sea, including the countries now in subjection to the King of Ashanti, constitute the richest gold field in the world. We remember to have seen, some years since, calculations which seemed to establish that, since the discovery of the Coast of Guinea by the Portuguese, gold, to the value of not less than six or seven hundred millions sterling, had been obtained by Europe from the Gold Coast territories—the produce, almost exclusively, of superficial surface washings alone. Now, if such an amount has been obtained by lazy, superficial surface-washings, what must be the value of the Matrix; and what must be the extent of the deposits over vast tracts of country some distance below the surface?

That the great and principal Matrix, or the centre of the Matrix, is in the Kong Mountains, at the back of Ashanti, is beyond all doubt. The gold found in the Rivers of Liberia, and by the natives of the interior on the northern slope of those mountains, and in all the countries as far north as the Senegal River, is traditionally believed to come from them. But the southern side, from which the gold of Ashanti and the Protected Territories has washed down, seems, without doubt, to be the richest portion of that vast gold formation, or has been more powerfully acted on by rains, &c. As there is good reason to believe that the Kong Mountains, and thence to the Gold Coast, constitute by far the richest gold field on the face of the known earth, and as it so happens that in this hour of England's need—at this time, when the culminating experience and evidence of years proves beyond dispute that her vast interests, and the vast interests of the civilized and semi-civilized world dependent on her, are suffering and endangered because the present gold supply is not adequate to the world's needs—as it so happens, we say, that at this time the wretched savage of Ashanti, who, with his blood-thirsty hordes, rules over, depopulates, and keeps unproductive that vast source of gold supply, has forced upon them the national duty of chastising his insolence and destroying his powers for evil, does it not manifestly become the duty of the British Government so to prosecute the war which has now begun, that we may obtain permanent control over those rich countries; and utilize for our own and the whole civilized world's good those supplies of gold with which Providence has endowed them? It seems to us incontestable that if the capitalists and people of this country understood their true interests, they would besiege the Government with demands that the Ashanti War Expedition should be so organized, impelled, and reinforced if necessary, that a speedy and effectual occupation of Ashanti shall be obtained. There is reason to believe that, from the richness of that gold field, and the abundant native labour to be obtained for working it under European direction, the product would far exceed that ever yet obtained from any known gold field hitherto worked. Suppose, and it is perfectly reasonable, that twenty millions sterling per annum be obtained; this would give, and we doubt if anything short of this would give, the relief of which we stand in need. What a spectacle for the last quarter of the nineteenth century it will be, if England die for gold, when she had only to stretch out the arm of her power over the barbarous, easily accessible country of Ashanti to obtain it. If Great Britain die—and she is in danger of dying now for want of gold—if she die, with that supply which Ashanti can be made to furnish, within view, within her power, and unappropriated—she will merit her fate of being interred in the world's highway as a deliberate suicide.

Let the popular cry then be, To Ashanti! to Ashanti! Open and develop the great gold mines of Ashanti; that the work of progress may go on throughout the world, and that England do not perish from among the nations.

DIAMOND DISCOVERIES IN THE RIVER CONGO.

We were not at all unprepared for, or surprised by the intelligence brought by the last arrived mail steamer from the West Coast of Africa, that diamonds had been discovered in the River Congo. It has always been a part of our theory, and our strong conviction, that gems abound in the upper portion of the rivers of Equatorial West Africa. We have more than once in past years endeavoured privately to stimulate educated West Africans to the promotion of a search for diamonds and other precious stones in those rivers; and although those endeavours had not hitherto been crowned with any success, or led to any search being made, we were always prepared to hear of some commencement of discovery. It could not well be otherwise, considering the views we entertain as to the rapidly approaching end of the present dispensation. It seems to us only natural, and according to an appointed Divine order, that the earth should now make to man a full revelation of her long-concealed treasures. We never looked upon the gold discoveries of California and Australia

as isolated facts, but merely as early links in a great chain of facts. Those who have read our "Course of Divine Love" may perhaps remember that, alluding to the accelerated action of "Time" in preparing for a great mundane catastrophe, we wrote (in the last chapter of that work, vol. ii. p. 345), "One day he stirs up the sands of California; on the morrow is he amid the wealth of Australia, and his wings are spread toward Africa. Another day, gold may seem too poor, and he may descend upon the home of the diamond—alight in the treasure-house of earth's most beautiful gems." Since then the gold and diamond discoveries of Southern Africa have been made; discoveries which we look upon as merely so far touching a portion of the fringe of some vast treasures; and now, while a chain of unpremeditated and unwished-for operations seems to be leading to an opening up to the world of the immense golden stores of the Kong Mountains, another seeming accident directs attention to Western Africa's Equatorial rivers, as being able to furnish fresh supplies of those precious stones, which have always been objects of the admiration and desire of mankind. The discovery of which we have received notice seems to have been made about ninety miles from the mouth of the River Congo; and this being so near the Portuguese settlements on the West Coast, we presume the first rush of searchers will be from among the African Portuguese there. We could have wished it to be otherwise. We have no faith in Portuguese action anywhere out of Portugal—and least of all in Africa, whether East or West; nor, should the first discovery be followed by others of importance, do we for one moment believe that the Portuguese would within a short period continue to be the chief explorers. There are at this time in the Congo River, commercial representatives of England, Holland, Germany, and France; and we do not believe that these would remain mere passive spectators of Portuguese enterprise. Rumour has more than once asserted that the great African explorer, of whom Great Britain is so proud, Dr. Livingstone, is in the countries of the Upper Congo, and may be expected on the West Coast by that river, at present also the scene of operations of two other exploring parties. We shall watch with great interest the course of future events on and in the countries bordering on that great river, which, since the final suppression of the foreign slave trade there, not above six or eight years ago, have made most wondrous strides in legitimate trade and commerce.

THE END AND PURPOSE OF THE ASHANTI WAR.

"It is for the glory of the Lord, that during many ages, while Israel has been in blindness, the Gospel has been preached unto the Gentiles; that a people might be taken from among them to the Lord." Thus we believe with our whole heart; and thus we desire to teach those to whom our feeble efforts may come—firmly believing in the now speedy restoration of Israel—the house of Judah first—to his own land, which shall become the glory and praise of the whole earth, and a minister of the Gospel of peace to all the nations of men,—firmly believing in this, with the attendant judgment on the nations, as predicted by Divine message in the revealed Word of God, we cannot, and do not, look upon those wars, great or little, which now from time to time burst upon the nations, in the same light in which they are viewed by those who regard them solely with relation to the immediate territorial and pecuniary results involved. To us it seems of trifling import how much or how little this Ashanti War may cost;—this war, which has been forced upon Great Britain by a savage barbarian, who, with his whole people, is steeped in human blood to the very lips, and drunk with gore. We look beyond. The everlasting Gospel was appointed to be preached in all parts of the world, as a witness to the nations, and that a people might be taken from among them to the Lord. Ashanti has barred the way to the promulgation of the blessed message of eternal

* "Course of Divine Love," 2 vols., 8vo., gilt. Johnson and Co., 121, Fleet-street, London.
† Doctor Keith.

peace, to large and populous countries of the interior of Africa. We cannot conceive any reason why those countries should not contain some of those to-be blessed people, of whom we have thus made mention; and if they do so contain them, and these are to be reached only by the prostration and destruction of that most awfully blood-stained kingdom, this war will be made an instrument for opening the way to those who will willingly set forth with the glad tidings. Again, if they do so contain them, and they are only thus to be reached, the honour which God thus offers to our beloved country is in our eyes so great, as to outweigh a hundredfold any temporary pecuniary outlay, or any sacrifices far more painful, that the procuring of it may involve. And while we look at the progress of events during the last fifty years of our relations with the Gold Coast countries, we cannot avoid the conviction that there has been a gradual Divine preparation for Great Britain, of this honour which she has sought to repudiate and to avoid, even to the very verge of national dishonour. We believe that, however nations, and especially so-called Christian nations, may desire to live and act for their own ends, interests, and purposes alone, an overruling Divine Governor shapes that selfish life and purposes to the accomplishment of His own great supreme designs as regards the children of men. In the pursuit of that abominable object—the carrying on of a foreign slave trade, a cruel dealing in human flesh for gain—several European nations, and among them Great Britain, obtained sea-side settlements on the Gold Coast. We need not enter here upon any detail of the causes and events which led to the final extinction of that sinful trade there carried on. Suffice it to say, that by conquest and purchase, Great Britain became, with the Dutch, the only possessors of sea-coast dominions there; and that, finally, so late as 1872, the Dutch, compelled by native African pressure—which Great Britain not only did not aid or assist, but condemned and opposed—were glad to abandon all the posts they occupied, upon the mere payment to them by Great Britain of the money value of the stores they left behind them. A few words will suffice to show how important a difference was thus made in the position and responsibilities of Great Britain as regards the Protected Territories and Ashanti. The Ashantees are the hereditary and deadly enemies of the people of the Protectorate, whom they have long regarded as their rightful prey, and have sought to annihilate, that they might themselves enter into undisputed possession of these countries, and their coveted sea-coast. While the Dutch were joint possessors with the English of the sea-board of the Gold Coast, the latter were greatly restricted in their action. The Dutch were always friends and allies of the Ashantees. They had still a little slave trade of their own under another name, the victims of which were brought down from Ashanti. Whenever the Ashantees made an invasion of the Protected Territories, they received ammunition and arms, and all necessary supplies, through the Dutch towns. By the retirement of the Dutch last year, this was all changed, and we were brought face to face with Ashanti. In the furtherance of a most shortsighted and selfish policy, the British Government had of late years openly proclaimed that the people of the so-called Protectorate must in future depend upon themselves alone for their defence against their deadly enemy. This, too, while they still retained solely in their own hands the conduct of all relations with that enemy, which became thus British relations, and not theirs; while, too, they exacted obedience to all behests, so far as they chose, throughout the entire Protectorate; levied, collected, and retained for their own use the entire import duties, amounting, in 1872, to above 50,000*l.*; and not only refused to allow, but put down an effort at native union for defence against the Ashantees, for making roads and educating the people; and this, as it seemed to us, chiefly because it would necessarily involve their apportioning to the Fanti Confederation a share of the revenues they levied, and the formation of a native organized military force, not immediately under the command of the British Administrator. The Ashantees saw and knew of all this; they could not fail to do so, because the British administrative voice was continuously loud that all the people of the Protectorate could expect from them in

any future invasion was a small supply of arms and ammunition. Was not this an encouragement by Great Britain to the Ashantees to invade the territories which she thus declared she would neither herself protect, nor allow the natives to organize efficiently to protect? It was such an encouragement, and was followed by just such results as might have been anticipated. We knew, of course, that, in the event of a formidable invasion, the British Government would be forced to take the field, sooner or later, against the aggressors, though the Ashantees believed that they would not; being encouraged therein by the British authorities treating for the ransom of the German missionaries whom they had kidnapped within the bounds of the Protectorate. And the British local authorities seem to have been of the same opinion; having, if we may judge by the course pursued, adopted Sir Charles Adderley's principles and ideas, that the British Government occupied their positions on the Gold Coast merely for purposes of trade; that it was quite indifferent to them whether the trade was with Fantees or Ashantees, and consequently that there was no reason why the Ashantees should not be allowed to annihilate the natives, and occupy their territories, provided always they respected those British positions, and would pay the Customs' duties levied there. The Ashanti monarch therefore sent the vanguard of his army across the River Prah early in December, 1872. They commenced by destroying the villages in their route. The King of Akim dispatched messengers in hot haste to Colonel Harley at Cape Coast, informing him of what had happened, of the imminent danger, and requesting a supply of arms and ammunition, that he might attack the invaders. Colonel Harley, however, was too fully imbued with Sir Charles Adderley's principles and ideas, to view these things in the same light as they appeared to the King of Akim. Instead of sending the prayed-for supplies, he ordered the King of Akim to abstain from all hostilities, unless he chose to incur the heavy displeasure of Her Majesty's Government. The result was what might have been expected. Encouraged by the absence of all opposition, fortified by Colonel Harley's pacific dispositions, in their belief that the Fantees were to be entirely given up to their tender mercies, the Ashantees flooded in. Time came, when their large army was within thirty or forty miles of Cape Coast (having destroyed some fifty or sixty villages), that Colonel Harley could not regard them any longer as ardent traders, coming down to fill the colonial chest with Customs' duties; but, still true to the Adderley principles and ideas, in sending up a couple of officers with some Houssas to inspect and report, he is understood to have ordered that under no circumstances should they fire a shot against the invaders. The Fantees had then advanced a large force against them. Those officers, with the Houssas, saw the Fantees overpowered in fight by them, yet abstained from giving any aid. Is it a matter of surprise that the Ashantees should at last have believed that not only had the British abandoned the Fantees to them, but that, with a little pressure, they would give up Elmina and Cape Coast Castle also, and leave the Gold Coast to their sole possession? We are merely showing how this Ashanti War has come about; that Great Britain has brought it entirely on herself, through the prevalence of dishonouring administrative principles and ideas, and the dignified incompetence of her local executive head; that she is forced into it against her will, through neglect of sacred and obvious duties; and that, as thus now acting in opposition to her own wishes and desires, she is—if she will now perform her duty adequately, persistently, and inflexibly—an instrument in the hands of an overruling Providence for working out a great intent. Ashanti has been a standing Satanic outrage against God and man. Her soil—and especially that of her capital town, Kumassie—is saturated with human gore—the incessant blood tribute relentlessly poured forth at the behests of a beastly superstition. Great Britain, though full of contempt and disdain for such a feeble and savage enemy—totally wanting in adequate military organization and armament to oppose her, and only difficult to conquer because the country to be traversed is without roads, furnishes none of the means of subsistence, and has a deleterious climate—has been compelled to enter the lists against her. Forced thus into action, let her beware how

she draw back from it until she has destroyed the destroyer. There cannot be any doubt as to the result, if she persist in the course of duty. Nothing can prevent her success, unless there be great blundering in the use of her resources, or a ready clutching at deceitful overtures of peace made by the faithless and barbarous foe. We fear that this is the greatest danger that lies in her path. Several of her leading statesmen have sounded the note of pacification, and would evidently have her clutch at any seemingly decent pretext for abandoning the task allotted to her by God. One tells her that success would be valueless, and that her interests and honour will be best consulted by her simply limiting her action to the security of her forts;* another hopes that she will not be misled by visionary ideas;† a third does not hesitate to declare that even the forts had better be given up—since trade flourishes best where there are no restraints of British authority;‡ and her influential press, for the most part, applauds this seeming worldly wisdom; making the question one of pounds, shillings, and pence alone; or spreading the mantle of a false humanity, a professed consideration for the lives of her soldiers, over a proposed exhibition of national selfishness, that, even in a worldly point of view, would cover her with dishonour in the eyes of the nations, her compeers. As we deeply love her, we pray she may not fall into this deadly snare. God has given Ashanti, with all its revolting practices, into her hands; and she cannot withdraw with safety from the appointed work until it be thoroughly accomplished. There is the same supreme government of the universe now as in the days of Ahab, although the insane tendency of modern ideas is to deny it, and scoff at it. Ahab only partially performed a work that had been given him to do. In those days messages from God came by the mouths of His prophets. This was the message to Ahab: "Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people."§ We therefore cry out, Beware! Although she may not hear it as directly addressed to her by a commissioned human tongue, the same charge may have been given to her—a similar mission appointed to her—a similar judgment, in the event of wilful failure, be pronounced upon her. Her duty is manifest; her reward, if it be well performed, is certain and sure; while her punishment, if she draw back her hand, will as surely come—"it will not tarry."

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY ON THE FANTEES, AND OTHER AFRICANS AS TROOPS.

THE tenor of Sir Garnet Wolseley's despatches (published 25th November) is one of disappointment. Very little had been done before his arrival to facilitate operations; as one of the correspondents of the daily press, now on the Coast, lately wrote, "For all the good they have done, the Governor and garrison of Cape Coast might as well have been asleep from the time when they first received an intimation of the intention of the British Government to send out European officers under Sir Garnet Wolseley." Well might the same or another also write—"The town, or rather the Europeans of the town, are delighted at the arrival of Sir Garnet Wolseley. They are discontented in the extreme with the conduct of affairs here during the last eighteen months, and hail with pleasure and hope the arrival of the new Governor as the commencement of a new and prosperous era." Sir Garnet intimates that every day's experience teaches him the utter worthlessness of the native allies. How different might have been the report had such a man as Sir Garnet Wolseley been Administrator at Cape Coast when the Ashanti invasion commenced! Our readers cannot forget that the Fantees fought two or three well-contested battles with the enemy; and that they were only prevented keeping the field by insufficient supplies of ammunition—by having no commissariat, and by other causes, which might have been remedied by an active Administrator in the field, instead of an inert dignity, shutting itself up in Cape Coast Castle. Sir Garnet

* Sir Charles Adesley. † The Earl of Derby.
‡ Mr. Bright. § 1 Kings xx. 23-34. || 1 Kings xx. 42.

Wolseley will no doubt find it difficult to restore the morale of the natives, who, it should be borne in mind, are agriculturists and fishermen—and not warriors by profession, as are the Ashantees. In the same way that by our rule in the country during the last forty years we have destroyed all power of the native kings and chiefs over their nominal subjects, so, by repression of all native feuds, &c., have we made the natives more and more a non-combatant people. It is to be deplored that Sir Garnet has not been able to get much efficient aid from them hitherto; but we must bear in mind that the British Government is chiefly to blame for this. No peace having been made since 1864 with Ashanti, the Protectorate was liable to invasion at any moment, and ought to have been organized for defence. Even had the Fanti Confederation been welcomed, as it ought to have been under such circumstances, instead of being brutally repressed, there would have been such combined action, commencing with the Akims, as would have effectually checked and repulsed the invasion. The *African Times* was accused of being at the bottom, as it was termed, of that movement of confederation. This was true enough. The animating spark came from us, and we have no reason to regret it, save that the proposed organization was not allowed to be carried out. Our advice—and it would have been followed—was that, so soon as Her Majesty's Government had adopted the Confederation, and agreed to the principle of granting to it a sufficient revenue, a body of 1,000 picked men should have been formed, armed with the most efficient modern implements of war, and fully instructed by Government officers in the use of them. A body of practised Riflemen, &c., such as this, made confident by their superiority in arms, would have formed an efficient nucleus for fifty or one hundred thousand irregular combatants, and have settled at once any Ashanti invasion. These, with a military road to the Pra from Cape Coast, with one also from Accra to Kroboe and the Volta, were the *African Times* plans. Had they been permitted to be carried out, civilization would have penetrated to Kumasi without a war; the development of the immense gold and other resources would have rapidly progressed; and Great Britain would have been saved the lives of many brave men, which must now be sacrificed, with, perhaps, a million or two of pounds sterling. "Man proposes, but God disposes." We accept the decree. Ignorance, prejudice, and folly, instead of wisdom, prevailed in the councils of Downing-street, on this Gold Coast question, and "the end is not yet."

WHEAT CULTIVATION.

Our friend, on whom we have the chief reliance as regards this important matter, writes by the last steamer: "I think the wheat may now get a fair trial. I will lose no time in distributing it for this purpose, both in the Western and Eastern Districts (of the Protectorate)."

THE ROUTE TO COOMASSIE.

A correspondent, who has been more than once in Coomassie—a man of acute observation and much intelligence, who always knows what he has seen— informs us that the present path to Coomassie is, of course, only a rude forest path, but can be quickly improved. The country throughout the entire distance from Cape Coast to Coomassie is undulating; there are not any high hills except those called the Adansie, which are about forty to fifty miles from Coomassie. These are from 1,000 to 2,000 feet high—but there is a secret pass not generally known, by which they can be avoided. The Soubine (the stream around Coomassie) is a small and unimportant stream, always fordable. The distance from Cape Coast to Coomassie, as the path runs, is nearly or quite 200 miles English.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION WITH WEST AFRICA.

An esteemed correspondent, commenting on the news which had been received at Cape Coast, of an intended extension of the Lisbon and Brazil Cable to St. Vincent, and the possibility of Her Majesty's Government continuing it thence to the West Coast Settlements, writes: "I am delighted to find that a cable is being laid to the Cape de Verde Islands. In the present day, when such a widely different policy has obtained as to Government matters, under which policy our administrators seem to possess little or no discretionary power of action in great emergencies, rapidity of communication with the Colonial-office is the only

security against great disasters. An outlay of 10,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* last March or April, by an able administration, in subsidizing the tribes, and enabling them, by being properly fed and supplied with ammunition to keep in the field, would, in all human probability, have saved the hundreds of thousands of public money which will now probably have to be spent in destroying the power of the Ashanti invader."

PRECAUTIONS FOR PRESERVING THE HEALTH AND EFFICIENCY OF THE TROOPS.

Of course we do not know what the multifarious medical store chests despatched to the Gold Coast may contain, but as we have not seen any notice of them, we infer that neither Lamplough's Pyretic Saline nor Warburg's Tincture have been included. If it be so, we fear their absence will be regretted when it is too late.—*Ed. African Times.*



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For BILIOUS CONSTITUTIONS, giving rise to vitiated Secretions, Indigestion, and Eruptions on the Skin, a teaspoonful should be taken daily with the dinner, in a tumbler of water.

"On the recommendation of several officers, who had some of your Pyretic Saline in the West Indies, all of whom speak in the highest terms of it, we were induced to try it for the first time in this Province, from the ascertained merits of your preparation. After use in the fever-stricken districts by which we are surrounded, we firmly believe that the use of your Pyretic Saline will do more to prevent fever than all the Quinine ever imported can cure. We write thus strongly, because, both from personal experience and observation, we believe we have at length found a REMEDY against the ever-present fevers of these parts, which cost the British nations hundreds of valuable lives in Peschawar alone."

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THOMAS B. ACQUAH.

MARRIED.

CROOKE—SCHOLAR.—Mr. Nathaniel S. M. Crooke, Primitive Methodist schoolmaster, and Miss Jane Alice Scholar, were married in the Primitive Methodist New Chapel, Santa Isabel, Fernando Po, on Thursday, the 18th of September.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The mail steamship Ethiopia, which arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, brings reports that a statement to the effect that Dr. Livingstone was at San Salvador had caused an expedition of the inhabitants to proceed inland for 300 miles in search of him, but no tidings could be ascertained.

THE LATE CONSUL LIVINGSTONE.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mr. Charles Livingstone, during his voyage homeward from Old Calabar.

CAPTAIN CROFT, the Commodore of the African Steam Company's fleet, died on the homeward voyage of the Ethiopia, of which steamer he was in command. His loss is much deplored.



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The Packets of the 30th to Madeira, Teneriffe, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Lagos, Bonny, Old Calabar, Fernando Po, Gaboon, Black Point, Landana, Congo, Ambrizette, Kinsembo, Ambriz, and St. Paul de Loanda. Also taking Goods for transhipment, by Branch Steamer, from Bonny to Opobo, New Calabar, Brass, and Benin.

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