

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: it 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.

Vol. XIII.—No. 151.]

LONDON, THURSDAY, JAN. 29, 1874.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
(Subscription, 6s. per Ann.)

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AFRICAN AGENCY

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

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

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

F. FITZGERALD, Esq.,
121, Fleet-street, London, E.C.

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

FEBRUARY, 1874.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The Steamers of this Company now leave Liverpool every alternate Saturday. Cargo is received at the Loading Berth (North Side Coburg Dock) up to 6 p.m. on the day prior to sailing, unless previously full.

The Royal Mail Steamship **SENEGAL** is intended to be dispatched from LIVERPOOL on the 14th FEBRUARY, for Madeira, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Grand Bassam, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Bonny, Fernando Po, Gaboon, Black Point, Landana, Congo, Ambrizette, Kinsembo, Ambriz, and St. Paul de Loanda. 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.

Passengers will embark by Steam Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 2 p.m. on the day of sailing.

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Bills of Lading of the Company's Form can be obtained from THOMAS MURRAY and SON, 91, Buchanan-street, Glasgow; and D. MARPLES, 50a, 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 ELDER, DEMPSTER, and CO., 48, Castle-street.

WEST COAST MAIL STEAMERS.

ARRIVALS.

African Steamship Company's Steamer Africa, January 9.
British and African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer Volta, January 19.
African Steamship Company's Elmina, January 26.

British and African S.N. Co.'s Steamer Liberia, January 3.
African S.S. Co.'s Steamer Benin, January 10.
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LAMENTED DEATH OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.

We have received the following communication: "The Chairman of the Eastern Telegraph Company presents his compliments to the Editor of the *African Times*, and begs to hand him the following message received yesterday morning from the Company's agent at Aden: 'Livingstone died of dysentery while travelling from Lake Behme to Unyanyembe. Body embalmed and preserved in salt by his Nassick boys, who are conveying it to Zanzibar en route for England.'

ADEN, January 26.—Dr. Livingstone died in June of dysentery at Lake Bemba, after wading through water for four days. His body has been preserved in salt by his native servants, and is proceeding to Zanzibar.

The following telegram, dated Aden, the 27th instant, has been received at the Foreign-office, from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Zanzibar: "The report of Livingstone's death is confirmed by letters received from Cameron, dated Unyanyembe, October 20. He died of dysentery after a fortnight's illness; shortly after leaving Lake Bemba for eastward, he had attempted to cross the lake from the north, and, failing in this, had doubled back and rounded the lake, crossing the Chambize and the other rivers flowing from it; had then crossed the Lupula and died in Lobisa, after having crossed a marshy country with the water for three hours at a time above the waist; ten of his men had died, and the remainder, consisting of seventy-nine men, were marching to Unyanyembe; they had disembowelled the body and had filled it with salt, and had put brandy into the mouth to preserve it. His servant, Chumas, went on ahead to procure provisions, as the party was destitute, and gave intelligence to Cameron, who expected the body in a few days. Cameron and his party had suffered greatly from fever and ophthalmia, but hoped to push on to Ujiji. Livingstone's body may be expected at Zanzibar in February. Please telegraph orders as to disposal. No leaden shells procurable here."

A correspondent of the *Daily News* sends the following:—"ADEN, Tuesday.—Dr. Livingstone died at the end of May or the beginning of June between Lake Bemba and Lake Tanganyika, of dysentery, caused by wading through water for several days. His body has been preserved in salt by his servants. When Lieutenant Cameron wrote on the 22nd October from Unyanyembe, the body was expected to arrive in four days. Lieutenant Cameron was suffering from temporary blindness. He intended to proceed at once to Ujiji to get Dr. Livingstone's papers."

GORRA, January 27.—Herr Richard Brenner, the German African traveller, has sent a communication from Zanzibar to Dr. Petermann, announcing the death of Dr. Livingstone, and stating that it occurred on the 15th of August, in the neighbourhood of Unyanyembe.

WEST COAST NEWS.

The Africa reported the health and trade on the South Coast as most excellent. At Old Calabar, Bonny, Accra, and Cape Palmas the health was good, but trade dull. The trade at Sierra Leone was bad, but health good. Fever was, however, said to be prevalent in Lagos. According to later advices, the steamship Thames, Captain Hyde, which left Woolwich on the 12th of December, with ten of the surf boats on board, besides other cargo, arrived at St. Vincent on the 26th, and sailed the same day for Cape Coast Castle, which she would reach about the 1st inst. The Sprite, Captain Harrison, which sailed from Woolwich on December 21, reached St. Vincent on January 2, and left again with fresh provisions on the 4th; she carried the four large hospital boats which were required to carry the sick through the surf. The Ethelred, a London ship, en route to Cape Coast Castle with private merchandise, was at Cape de Verde Islands on the 10th of December. Luxuries, and even the necessities of life, are represented to be at famine prices at Cape Coast Castle, and the traders are making a rich harvest. The extra pay allowed to officers while serving in this expedition is to be a guinea a-day, with a field allowance of half-a-crown a-day. Admiral Sir William Mends and Admiral Beauchamp Seymour visited the Nebraska, and were much pleased with all Captain Brownlow's arrangements.

The African Royal Mail steamship Elmina arrived at Liverpool, January 26, with dates from Cape Coast Castle to the 3rd of January. It was reported that on Christmas Day Captain Glover had a brush with the enemy on the Eastern bank of the Volta. He lauded a number of troops under cover of a Gatling gun, and, after a sharp fight with the Awoonahs, drove them back.

CAPE COAST RAILWAY PLANT.—It is not expected that the ten miles, or thereabouts, of this railway which has been sent to the Gold Coast will be returned to England, as it will be more valuable in Africa than at home, irrespective of the cost of re-shipping.

TELEGRAPHIC AND OTHER NEWS FROM THE WEST COAST, OF THE ASHANTI WAR.

CAPE COAST CASTLE, December 16.—Sir Garnet Wolseley has requested Captain Glover to be ready to cross the Prah on January 15, for a simultaneous invasion of the Ashanti territory. The following officers are invalided, and have left in the Amethyst for Ascension, thence to proceed homeward by the Cape mail: Major Lazenby, Captain Thompson, Captain Gordon, Lieutenant Townshend, Lieutenant Fatchett, and Captain Crease. The troops are ready to land on January 1, and will march on the 3rd. They are in good health.

MADEIRA, January 2.—The transport ship Sprite arrived here on the 28th ult., and sailed again the following day. Surgeon-Major Mackinnon, having failed in his endeavour to establish a sanitarium here, has left in the Sprite for Cape Coast Castle.

SOUTHAMPTON, January 3.—By the arrival of the Teuton at Southampton, intelligence has been received of the death of the Hon. Captain Charteris, son of Lord Elcho, and one of the officers of Sir Garnet Wolseley's staff. His death took place at sea, on board the Simoom, on November 24. Lord and Lady Elcho were at Southampton awaiting his arrival, but the Teuton brought only his effects.

LISBON, January 4.—The African Company's steam packet Africa has arrived here from Cape Coast Castle. Seven deaths occurred on board.

VOYAGE OF THE SIMOOM.

The *Western Morning News* has received despatches from its correspondent at St. Helena and Ascension, dated the 7th and 13th of December, which give particulars of the voyage of the Simoom, and of the condition of her sick. They are as follows:—

St. Helena, December 7.—We have had a large arrival of wounded and general invalids here from the Gold Coast, per the Simoom, which arrived on the 3rd inst. Lieutenant the Hon. A. W. Charteris, aide-de-camp, died of fever on board on November 23rd. Thomas Pepper, 76th Company Royal Marines, also died on board, on November 23, of dysentery. To-day, Sergeant Masters, R.E., died on board here, and was buried on shore. Mr. Charteris, who was Lord Elcho's eldest surviving son, was buried with impressive solemnity at sea, in latitude 1 deg. 16 min. N., long. 3 deg. 28 min. E. The officers who were brought by the Simoom were Colonel McNeill, of the staff, wounded; Captain A. A. Godwin, wounded; Surgeon E. Connellan, Surgeon-Major R. W. Jackson, Lieutenant Graves, 18th Royal Irish; Lieutenant Jones, 2nd West India Regiment, wounded; Surgeon Burnett, and 100 men from the Army and Navy. From the fleet there were Lieutenant Maxwell, Navigating-Lieutenant Wigham, Paymaster Hyde, Surgeon Wood, and Assistant-Paymaster Hickson. The Barraconta was, it is said, to have brought the invalids, but at the last moment it was discovered that there were so many sick, and also that the Simoom was so sickly herself, that it would be advisable to send her away for a change.

ASCENSION, December 12.—Her Majesty's troop-ship Simoom arrived here to-day from Cape Coast, via St. Helena, with invalids; she had a better passage from the latter place than the former, but was still a long time en route. She brought upwards of 100 officers and men of both services, sixty of whom have been sent into hospital, including Paymaster Hyde, of the Barraconta, and Assistant-Paymaster Hickson, of the same vessel. Colonel McNeill, of the staff, goes by the mail to Madeira to recruit, and Captain Godwin, Surgeon E. Connellan, and a dozen men go home. Some of the officers brought by the Simoom will return by her to the Cape Coast, including Surgeon-Major Jackson, Lieutenant Graves, Lieutenant Jones, Surgeon Barnett, and Lieutenant Maxwell. It is stated that the Simoom is to remain at Ascension for a week or ten days, and that after provisioning and coaling, she will return to Cape Coast about the end of the year.

PROMOTIONS, HONOURS, ETC., FOR SERVICES IN THE ASHANTI WAR.

COLONEL FESTING.

By a graceful act of authority Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, Royal Marine Artillery, has been "specially promoted to the rank of colonel in the Army for his distinguished services on the Gold Coast." When this news reaches West Africa it will afford just gratification to the soldier who has so well earned his step, and impart a new stimulus to his comrades. Colonel Festing's name was identified with the strife from the outset. He it was who commanded at Elmina when the first victory was won, when blue-jackets, marines, and black troops gave the Ashantees the earliest taste of real warfare. Since that time the gallant Colonel has been in the front, and has more than once revived among the Ashantees a recollection of their initial defeat. It was by his side that young Eardley Wilmot fell, and we shall yet hear again of one whose merits have been justly and promptly recognized. Special promotion is no slight honour, and this most recent instance will gladden the hearts of our Royal Marine

Artillerymen, who will exult in the merited advancement of a brave and steadfast comrade. The public also will be pleased to see that there is no disposition to overlook shining ability and faithful service; for few things strengthen authority so much as the fair distribution of rewards.

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HERMAN ADAM GORDON.

A general order, issued by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, dated January 1, states that Lieutenant Alexander Herman Adam Gordon, of the 98th Regiment, is promoted to the rank of captain in the 84th Regiment, as a special recognition of his valuable services with the Housas and other forces under his orders whilst operating against the Ashantees on the West Coast of Africa.

VICTIMS OF THE ASHANTI WAR.

THE HON. MR. CHARTERIS.

The news that Captain the Hon. Mr. Charteris has succumbed to the fever which attacked him on the Gold Coast, will create a painful impression among all who have followed the brief history of our unfortunate war in that region. Our correspondents have related the circumstances under which this gallant officer was compelled to leave the scene of active exertion which he had chosen in the spirit of a true soldier; and we have now to add, that he died on his homeward passage in the Simoom. Mr. Charteris was only in his twenty-sixth year. He began his military career in the 71st Foot, and not long since exchanged into the Guards; but when Sir Garnet Wolseley was forming his staff, he volunteered for service in Africa. In the light of subsequent experience, it may be doubted whether he should have been allowed to expose himself to the dangers of such a climate as that of the Gold Coast. In the middle of November Dr. Home was reporting that 48 per cent. of the officers who went out with Sir Garnet Wolseley, or followed him within a fortnight, had been down with fever or other illness; but, as a rule, they recovered speedily; while from the first it was noticed that Mr. Charteris was suffering severely. The death of so young and popular an officer, whose admirable qualities had endeared him to all who knew him, reminds us powerfully of the heavy price we are called to pay for the honour of winning victories in West Africa. Lord Elcho, who once more loses his son and heir, has the consolation of knowing that his sorrow is shared by the whole nation, and that Mr. Charteris was not taken from among us, before he had given proof of qualities which had he been spared must have won him a high place in his noble profession.

DEPLORABLE SICKNESS AND MORTALITY IN THE ASHANTI WAR OPERATIONS.

It is stated that, after an arduous service of five months, but four marines and none of the blue jackets originally engaged remain, the rest having either died or been so incapacitated from performing their duty by the insidious effects of the climate as to necessitate their being sent home. A party of 101 invalids arrived at Ascension on the 19th December.

Cape Coast letter of 16th Dec. states that the following officers, who are invalided home, left in the Amethyst for Ascension, thence by Cape mail to England: Major Lazenby, Captain Thompson, Captain Gordon, Lieutenant Townshend, Lieutenant Fatchett, and Captain Crease—a formidable list for one vessel to take. Captain Forbes, 2nd West India Regiment, is invalided home; very bad attack of fever; goes home by the steamer which carries this letter.

From Ascension, letters dated December state: "There are so many sick and invalids at Ascension that the schoolroom and observatory, and indeed every available place, have been put in requisition. The men in hospital at Ascension are quite done up, and few will return to the Coast again."

ASHANTI WAR PREPARATIONS.

JANUARY 5.—The steamship Nebraska has been surveyed for the Ashanti War service. She can take 700 men comfortably. She is too large to come alongside at Woolwich, and will therefore be dispatched from Portsmouth. It is intended that on her arrival at the Gold Coast she shall take the place of the Simoom at Cape Coast Castle, and be a home for Royal Marines, as well as a hospital for both marines and seamen, for since the Simoom has been sent to be a depot ship at St. Vincent, there has been no special vessel on the coast to take her place. It is believed that advantage will be taken of this large ship to send out detachments of troops to reinforce the regiments now upon the coast, for by the time she reaches her destination sickness will no doubt have reduced the effective strength of the army very much, and six or seven hundred men fresh from England would at such a moment be most acceptable. It is understood that the Government is hesitating about sending out these new drafts, but the military authorities are very anxious that they should go, and it is thought unlikely that the success

of the expedition will be jeopardised by the neglect of such a necessary precaution as the relief of disabled men.

JANUARY 7.—The Nebraska will be No. 15 in the Ashanti War service. She is to take out 150 sheep to Ascension, where they are required to revictual such of the ships as may call at that Island. H.M. screw steamship Lancelot is also refitting for the Ashanti War service.

JANUARY 10.—As the Ashanti Expedition, to be successful, must be all over by the end of March, and the time remaining for sending out supplies is short, the Government is hastening to the utmost the departure of the ships under orders. Her Majesty's storeship Supply, two guns, sailed from Deptford yesterday morning about eight o'clock, and the Nebraska, which left the Tyne at half-past twelve on Sunday afternoon, is looked for at Portsmouth this morning. Captain Brownlow, the Admiralty surveyor, has made the speedy preparation of his ship a constant occupation during the past week, and her fittings have been nearly completed in seven working days, which is regarded as exceedingly quick work, seeing the size of the vessel and the fact that time was lost in twice removing her. She has taken in 400 tons of coal on the Tyne, making no less than 1,600 tons of fuel now on board, and she will fill up with more coals and stores at Portsmouth. Woolwich, where hitherto the freights for the Gold Coast ships have been accumulated from all parts, is now preparing to send goods of certain kinds manufactured at the Arsenal by rail to Portsmouth for conveyance in the Nebraska, but there is no more ammunition to go. The immense quantities already sent must be far exceeding the requirements of the campaign, and it is a common remark in the Arsenal that if "every bullet has its billet" there will not be a black man left in Ashanti. It appears to be finally decided by the Government not to send out any more troops; but a number of officers are to go in the Nebraska. The ship is in command of Captain Baker, an experienced officer, accustomed to carrying troops, and last in command of a large steamer, the Vibilia, employed in carrying passengers through the Suez Canal to Calcutta. She has a crew of 115 all told, which will indicate the great size of the vessel. The Lancelot is reported to be progressing rapidly with her fittings, and she is expected to be ready on Saturday next.

The following officers will proceed in the steamship Nebraska from Portsmouth for service at the Gold Coast: Staff-Surgeon Reid, R.N., Staff Surgeon Coates, R.N., Surgeon Magraue, R.N., Sub-Lieutenants E. S. Masters, E. Stanley, C. B. Lyster, C. Cox, S. F. Foster, C. Grant, J. C. Doyle, and P. G. Kerans, all of the 2nd West India Regiment; Sub-Lieutenant J. Tinkler, of the 1st West India Regiment; Engineer J. Johnson, R.N., for H.M.S. Decoy; Lieut Gardiner, 2nd West Middlesex Militia; and Lieutenant S. H. M. Le Marchant, of the Guernsey Militia. The last two officers being anxious to join in active service are granted free passages but pay their own mess expenses. Dr. Reid will be medical officer in charge, Drs. Coates and Magraue being also on the medical staff of the ship, together with a dispenser, four sick berth stewards, twelve hospital attendants or nurses, and one writer. The staff will be borne on the books of the flag-ship, H.M.S. Active, and the Nebraska in expected to arrive at Cape Coast Castle, and relieve H.M.S. Simoom as hospital ship, about the 10th of February. The Lancelot, which having been purchased by the Government, is to be re-christened H.M.S. Wye, will probably follow a fortnight later or perhaps at a longer interval, in order to bring in fresh supplies towards the close of the expedition, which it is hoped will be by that time on its return from Coomassie. The order that the Lancelot—or Wye—should go to Woolwich to load has been countermanded, and according to present arrangements, her cargo will be sent to her at the Victoria Docks. Six large cases received at Woolwich from Messrs. Savory and Moore, chemists, of New Bond-street, who fitted up the Victor Emmanuel, have been ordered to be sent on to Portsmouth for conveyance in the Nebraska to Sir Garnet Wolseley. They each contain a pair of medical field panniers to be carried by a mule. These panniers have been constructed and fitted in accordance with the experience of Staff-Surgeon Fitzgerald with the French and German ambulances in the late War, and the manufacturers have kept a number of them always ready by request of the Government; but the reason they have not been sent out to the Gold Coast before is because it was thought impossible to make use of horses or mules in the expedition. They contain almost every conceivable resource for supplying the surgical wants of an army in the field, including thirty different drugs (those of a poisonous character in patent bottles, which only emit their contents drop by drop), medical comforts, operating instruments, splints, blankets, sheeting, lint, bandages, &c., and they are so constructed that portions may be detached and made available as dressing trays, each properly furnished for immediate use. Each pair of panniers, by an ingenious arrangement of double lids, forms an excellent operating table. The six pairs sent are the

first ever ordered for active service, and if they reach their destination in time, they will doubtless be found very useful.

JANUARY 16.—Imperative orders have been given that the Nebraska transport must sail from Portsmouth for the Gold Coast, to-morrow (Saturday) morning, at a quarter before eleven, and all the officers who are going in her as passengers are directed to be on board by ten o'clock. Sub-Lieutenant Tyn-dal, of the 2nd West India Regiment, is the only officer who has been added to the list of those selected to proceed in this ship. The cargo to be taken on board at Portsmouth has been increased to 1,000 tons, and it has been decided to send out four large boats in the ship, one a steam launch, 42 feet long; one a paddle-box boat, 34 feet long; and two gigs of 23 feet each. The medical stores were embarked yesterday, and the 150 sheep will be taken on board to-day. There is a large ice-house on board, which, at the suggestion of Captain Brownlow, is to be utilized in order to take out a supply of ice. It will contain twelve tons, and if only a quarter of that quantity reaches Cape Coast Castle it will be a great boon. The Nebraska will call only at St. Vincent's on the voyage out, and may be expected to reach her destination in sixteen days, as she made a good passage of forty hours from the Tyne, during which she averaged nine knots, going only three-quarters speed. Some stores for the expedition which have reached Woolwich, including another ten cases of breech-loading double-barrelled guns for Captain Glover, have been sent on to Portsmouth, where the work of loading is going on under high pressure, as the time available is so short. The Admiralty authorities wish to get H.M.S. Wye also under weigh to-morrow; but this seems utterly impossible, as she has hardly begun to take in her cargo, and her fittings are not half-finished. She will not call at Woolwich, but pass on to Greenhithe, in order to adjust her compasses. This ship will also call at St. Vincent's and take in supplies of fresh meat and vegetables for the army. The excitement of preparation at Woolwich Arsenal has diminished, and the belief seems to be that the Wye will be the last, or the last but one, of the ships employed upon the Ashanti expedition.

JANUARY 19.—The steamship Nebraska, the fifteenth of the transports engaged for the Ashanti expedition, sailed from Portsmouth Dockyard on Saturday afternoon, at a quarter to one o'clock, with stores for the Gold Coast. She also took out as passengers a number of naval and military officers, and a staff of doctors and nurses to be attached to herself as the second principal hospital-ship on the West African station. The iron cots with which she is fitted are similar to those on board the Victor Emmanuel, and are constructed on a plan designed, after much thought and many experiments, by Captain Brownlow, surveyor of transports, upon whom and his principal, Admiral Sir William Meade, the labour of fitting out this expedition has largely devolved. The ship was inspected a day or two before her departure by the Medical Director-General, Sir A. Armstrong, who expressed himself much pleased with all the arrangements made, and said that he had nothing more to suggest. The Nebraska having sailed, the only vessel remaining under orders for the Ashanti expedition is Her Majesty's ship Wye (late Lancelot), still in the Victoria Docks, where, according to all appearances, she will remain at least a week longer, as the refitting which has to be done to put her into man-of-war trim is of a somewhat extensive character. Navigating Lieutenant G. A. Broad has joined the ship on short notice, and is in charge during the necessary absence of the captain, and Navigating Sub-Lieutenants Edward Leah and Thomas White have also received their orders to join. Of the ship's crew, only a chief carpenter's mate, a chief boatswain's mate, and a quartermaster are on board; the remainder will probably, according to practice, receive their orders only at the last moment. It is not expected that the ship will take out a large quantity of stores from England, but the principal object is to get her away with all haste, in order that she may be employed in conveying live stock to Cape Coast Castle from the Isle of St. Vincent, where there is a large depot of good English cattle, very different from the diminutive animals on the Gold Coast, where the average weight of a beef carcass is about ninety pounds. On the return voyages the ship will carry invalids, if there are any, and the main deck or hospital has been fitted with clip-hooks for suspending the cots, while new cabins have been erected for sick officers, adjoining the saloon, nicely furnished, and painted in a French grey tint, very agreeable to the eye. The ship's boats are being provided with masts and fittings for awnings by Messrs. Forrest, and an awning has been supplied to cover the whole ship. Messrs. Humphrey and Tennant are making some additions to the engines, which, although well adapted for speed, are contrary in principle to those of Her Majesty's ships generally, in which they are constructed horizontally and low down in the water, so as to be out of reach of the enemy's shot. Four good-sized sheep-pens are being put up, in which the Wye will probably take out eighty sheep; new skylights and ladderways have been fitted to all the hatchways.

ASHANTI WAR OPERATIONS.

CAPE COAST, December 16.—A bridge has been constructed over the Prah, and it is now expected that the disembarkation of the troops who are on board the Tamar and Himalaya will take place on the 8th of January. Their sanitary condition is good, and the health of Sir Garnet Wolseley is much improved. The Control are sending up large quantities of stores by the native allies, and by female carriers, of whom we have now a large number at work. Road-making, too, is progressing favourably. The path has already been widened as far as the Prah, and the labourers are now at work levelling it. I hope that all will be ready by the time the first detachment of white troops come along. The weather is still somewhat unsettled. We had a hurricane of wind and rain three days since. At Captain Glover's camp all is nearly prepared for an attack upon the Awoonahs and other unfriendly tribes east of the Volta. A camp of 5,000 men has been formed at Bissapa, forty miles up the Volta; another, of the same strength, is being formed of the Accra men at Gravia, ten miles up the Volta, and their forces would cross simultaneously and sweep the banks of the Volta, the Creppoes, a people living beyond, co-operating with them. Another force will cross near the mouth of the river, and will march along the spit between the lagoon and the sea as far as Quittah. The movements will be commenced in three or four days from the present time, and the force is so strong that they will make very short work of the Awoonahs. As soon as the operations are over, or as soon as the natives get over the feasting and jollity with which their victory will be celebrated, the force, together with 11,000 Akims now assembled at Zankitta, will march upon Kumasi. Sir Garnet Wolseley has requested Captain Glover to cross the Prah on the 15th of next month, that being the day upon which our advance will be made from Prabsu. If any possible exertion upon the part of Captain Glover and his officers can place his army at the indicated spot by the day mentioned, it will be there; but in dealing with a native army it is impossible to make any calculations as to the time in which any movement can be carried out. Fickle, touchy, hot-tempered, and self-important, both chiefs and people require delicate treatment, as Captain Glover has no means of coercion. The telegraphic party commenced their work of laying—or, rather, erecting—a wire, which will be carried to Kumasi. The infantry, not being required at present, were sent off for a fortnight's cruise, and will return in time to land on the 1st of January. Only 400 will land each day, the huts erected at the various camps being only sufficient to accommodate that number. On the 14th all will be concentrated upon the Prah in readiness for the start next day. A great many of the Ashanti sick seem to have perished in crossing the River Prah. The air is tainted with their dead.

The *Daily News* correspondent writes on the same date: "At present the only point towards which every effort is bent has been the accumulation of means of transport. The women have, perhaps, on the whole, furnished the largest and most constant supply. The Piccanini brigade, each little thing carrying 25lbs., has contributed its share. As fast as tribes have been sent in by the officers commissioned to the native kings, all but the more warlike, who number very few, have been draughted into the Control Department. But as fast as fresh men are poured in, more desert. The country is so densely overgrown that it is impossible rapidly to catch those who make off. As soon as the men have made as much money as they care to get at the time, or the women as much as will buy them the clothes they want, they make off. The moment the men think they run any risk, they drop their loads and run. The difficulties in such a country are enormous."

CAPE COAST, Dec. 27.—The Sarmatian, with the 42nd regiment on board, has just arrived. The troopships Tamar and Himalaya, which have been cruising about with the 23rd and the Rifle Brigade on board, have now been recalled, as landing of all the troops is to begin the 1st or 2nd of January. Major-General Sir Garnet Wolseley, with his staff and the Naval Brigade, 400 strong, left here to-day for the Prah. Scouts have advanced seven miles beyond the Prah without encountering the enemy. The Ashantees have left many dead on their line of retreat. Chamah was attacked and destroyed on the 24th December by the Commendah people. Captain Glover is still detained near Addah by the unwillingness of the natives to cross the Volta for Fetish reasons. Fears are entertained that it may be impossible for him to co-operate with Sir Garnet Wolseley in time. There is no doubt whatever that the country for miles beyond the Prah is deserted, in every sense of the word by the Ashantees. They would appear to be making their retreat on Kumasi with all possible speed. They would wait for nothing, and, according to the reports of our scouts, they leave behind, in their flight, implements and other objects of personal use.

Sir Garnet Wolseley has issued an order of the day instructing the troops how to act on the march to Kumasi. It opens with

explicit and urgent directions for the protection of health. It then explains the Ashantee tactics, and how they are to be met; the troops being assured that, with their breech-loaders, every man of them is a match for twenty Ashantees. The order speaks encouragingly of the climate of the interior, and assures the men that the operations beyond the Prah will last only a few weeks. It concludes as follows: "When once a position has been gained, it is to be held resolutely. In warfare of this nature, there must be no retreats. No village or camp is to be set on fire except by order of the major-general commanding; officers and men are reminded of the danger and delay which occur if a village is set on fire before all the ammunition and baggage have made their way through it. All plundering and unnecessary destruction of property are to be strictly repressed; officers are to be strictly responsible that, when a village or camp is occupied, their men are kept together, and prevented from dispersing to seek plunder. The importance of kindness from all ranks to the friendly natives, who are employed as carriers, is strongly urged: if the carriers are ill-treated, the troops run imminent risk of being left without food and ammunition. It must never be forgotten by the soldiers that Providence has implanted in the heart of every native of Africa a superstitious awe and dread of the white man, that prevents the negro from daring to meet him face to face in combat. A steady advance or a charge, no matter how partial, if made with determination, always means the retreat of the enemy. Although, when at a distance, and even when under a heavy fire, the Ashantees seem brave enough, from their practice of yelling and singing and beating drums in order to frighten the enemies of their own colour with whom they are accustomed to make war, they will not stand against the advance of the white man. English soldiers and sailors are accustomed to fight against immense odds in all parts of the world. It is scarcely necessary to remind them that when in our battles beyond the Prah they find themselves surrounded on all sides by hordes of howling enemies, they must rely upon their old British courage and discipline, and upon the courage of their comrades. Soldiers and sailors, remember that the black man holds you in superstitious awe. Be cool; fire low, fire slow, and charge home; and the more numerous your enemy, the greater will be the loss inflicted upon him, and the greater your honour in defeating him."

CAPE COAST, December 29.—Our road to the Prah is in a very bad state, caused by the late heavy and unseasonable rains. The latest advices are to January 10 (Cape Coast). Sir Garnet Wolseley was on the Prah. The 42nd and the Rifles were well advanced on their way thither. The advanced guard was entrenched thirteen miles on the Ashanti side of the river. The Ashanti villages near the road could not be occupied by the troops, because of the stench from the dead bodies of retreating Ashantees who had died there. The 23rd were still on board ship, waiting for greater accumulations of stores up the country. The little army was to cross the river on the 15th. It is to be supposed that Kumasi will by this time know what white soldiers really are.

OPINIONS ON THE ASHANTI WAR.

[Continued.]

The *Times*, on the 7th January, remarked that "if we are not prepared to aid and conduct the civilization of Western Africa, we must at least not interfere with it by weakening the leading race and strengthening the hands of the most degraded and barbarous tribes we can discover anywhere in their neighbourhood. Any Government at all is better than incessant disorder, and, if we destroy one form of rule, we shall be under a moral obligation to supply another which may take its place to control and to protect. Our course already is far from clear, and every fresh advance we make in a wrong direction must render it yet more difficult for us to withdraw. Sir Bartle Frere has pointed out to us, with all candour and clearness, the extent of the duties which he thinks we should undertake, and has proved to us that each new step forward is the necessary consequence of the one before it. If we choose to do as he advises us, let us at least do so with our eyes open. Let us neither blunder unwillingly into conquest and empire, nor prepare for our wretched neighbours long years of disturbance and suffering, and then leave them to their fate, protesting, when the result displays itself, that we did all with the best possible intentions, and that no one could have foreseen the consequences." [With many plausible phrases there is a sad want of sound judgment and good policy in these remarks.—Ed. A. T.]

MR. BRIGHT ON THE ASHANTI WAR.—At a meeting of the Midland International Arbitration Union, the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting earnestly desires that some attempt should be made to settle the matters between this country and the Ashantee people by negotiation, and, if expedient, by the arbitration of some friendly Potentate, such as

the King of Holland, and that if these attempts are not successful, efforts should be made to bring the war to a close with as little bloodshed as possible, and that the resolution be sent to the Prime Minister and the senior member for the borough, accompanied with an earnest letter from the chairman requesting their attention to the views." The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Charles Sturge, J.P., has received a letter from the Right Hon. John Bright, in which Mr. Bright, after thanking Mr. Sturge for the resolution, expresses the opinion that the war is the consequence of a wrong policy and of years of neglect. He hopes no man in England wishes it to continue. Mr. Gladstone's reply has not been received. [Mr. Bright is quite right as to the years of neglect, and that "no man in England wishes the war to continue," but we must add, beyond the time that is necessary for reverting the possibility of any future Ashanti War.—Ed. A. T.]

FERNANDO PO.

EFFECTIVE INTERFERENCE OF A PRIMITIVE METHODIST MISSIONARY.
We regret we have not space for the full insertion of an interesting account sent to us by our agent, Mr. Stone, at Fernando Po, of the wonderfully successful interference of the Primitive Methodist Missionary there, in saving some native lives. It appears that a madman had murdered a man and his two sons in the bush, where they had gone to collect bamboo and make mats. The native chiefs near, having discovered the bodies and seized the murderer, went to the village to which he belonged and seized also the madman's two brothers. They were about to kill these three in retaliation for the other three lives, when Mr. Luddington, who had travelled twelve miles into the bush (on slight effort) for this purpose, interfered to save their lives. All his entreaties, that the lives of the two innocent men should be spared, having proved ineffectual, Mr. Luddington stepped aside and fell on his knees in prayer. Our informant proceeds, that when the heathen kings (or chiefs) saw him pleading with his God on his knees, it produced a great effect on them. They began reasoning among themselves, and finally resolved that if this man was sent by God they ought to listen to him; and they gave up the two innocent men to him. According to the further report of our correspondent, Mr. Luddington's work among the heathen is appreciated by the traders as well as by the ordinary inhabitants of the place.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

JANUARY 10 TO 17.

PALM OIL in moderate request, and 450 tons sold; Irregular at 28s. to 34s., Bonny at 33s. 10s., Old Calabar at 34s., Benin and Lagos at 34s. 10s., New Calabar at 35s. 10s., and Brass at 36s. 15s. per ton.

COTTON.—Market firmer, but prices unchanged.

JANUARY 17 TO 24.

PALM OIL in regular and steady request, and about 500 tons sold; Irregular at 27s. to 34s., Bonny and Accra at 33s. 10s., Old Calabar at 34s., Lagos at 34s. 10s. to 34s. 15s., New Calabar at 36s. 10s., and Congo at 37s. per ton.

COTTON.—Very moderate demand, and prices lower. Ordinary and middling, and fair and good fair, 5½d. to 6½d. Sales of the week, 60,000 bales.

COMMODORE COMMERELL.—CAPE TOWN, December 16.—Commodore Commerell is improving in health, and has been present for a few hours at a ball given in the Government House. On January 7, Admiral the Hon. F. Egerton, M.P. for East Derbyshire, delivered a lecture at Chesterfield on "Ashanti and the Gold Coast," in the course of which he read the following letter from Commodore Commerell in reference to the treachery of the Chamah people: "Simon's Bay, November 21.—I had arranged with the officer in command of the troops to send an expedition up the Prah to cut off the enemy when crossing the river, and I wished to supply a tribe which held the left bank of the Prah with some powder and lead, and to see if any of the enemy were on an island said to be a couple of miles up the river. It was of consequence not to make a display of force, as the enemy, seeing his rear threatened, might have retreated before the soldiers were ready. I had no more idea that the Chamah fore the soldiers were ready. I had no more idea that the Chamah people would have fired on us than the Cape Coast people would have done so, for the chief had been sending us supplies, and besides other friendly acts had restored an interpreter who had fallen into his hands. Had I had any idea of treachery, of course I would have taken measures against it."

SUPPLIES FOR THE TROOPS, &c., AT CAPE COAST.—ASCENSION.
—The Simoom is taking large quantities of provisions, live stock and turtle back to Cape Coast for the fleet, and also a quantity of donkeys for transport. It is said that there is a much larger supply of these useful animals at St. Helena than at Ascension, but while the Simoom was there no one knew they were wanted.

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The African Times.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1874.

MARRIAGE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

ONE of the most sumptuous marriages of modern times was celebrated at St. Petersburg on the 23rd instant. On that day Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna, daughter of the Emperor and Empress of All the Russias, was joined in wedlock with Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, son of the Queen of Great Britain and Empress of India. Our Sierra Leone readers, and many others now scattered along the West Coast who were then at Sierra Leone, have, we do not doubt, preserved a lively recollection of the visit of His Royal Highness to their shores, and will, we are certain, unite with us, and all other British subjects, in the desire that this Royal pair may be greatly blessed and be greatly happy.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

So unexpectedly, that political opponents have termed it a *coup d'état*, Mr. Gladstone issued an address to his Greenwich constituents on the 23rd inst., announcing that the House of Commons would be immediately dissolved, and new elections be ordered, for the House to meet on the 5th of March. This has since been done, and, at the time of our going to press, constituencies and candidates are busy in all the cities, boroughs, and counties about the new election.

We have made some remarks elsewhere on that portion of Mr. Gladstone's address relating to the Ashanti War.

THE ASHANTI WAR.

WE have continued in our present number the record of preparations for, and opinions respecting, the war, with such dependable news of onward progress in the expedition as has been furnished from time to time by our own correspondents, and the correspondents of the London daily press who accompany it. Up to the 20th inst. all the details were of measures adopted, and the greater or less success attending them, for opening and perfecting a route for the troops and supplies as far as the River Prah, and the accumulating there of a sufficient quantity of the latter to justify an onward movement in Ashanti territory toward the capital, Kumasi. The British troops sent out for this march to Kumasi were not allowed to land until the road and supply preparations should be adequately perfected. As the ships bringing them arrived off Cape Coast, they were again ordered off to sea, to cruise until the 1st of January, when they were to return and land their precious freights. By telegraphic news received on the 21st, *via* Lisbon, having been brought as far as Madeira by the *Elmina*, and thence to Lisbon by H.M.S. *Enchantress*, we learned that the debarkation had commenced on the 2nd inst.; that the troops were then in good health; that the onward movement was to begin immediately; and that the River Prah—the sacred boundary of Ashanti—was to be profanely passed by the little army, on a pontoon bridge, the 15th of January. Exploring parties had been sent forward, who found the country deserted for several miles on the Ashanti side of the Prah; and everything seemed to indicate that the first stages of the invasion would be passed through without any resistance being encountered. Later intelligence, brought by the steam transport *Manitoba* to Madeira, where she arrived on the 26th, has reached us by telegraph on the 27th. So far, nothing could be more satisfactory, save and except that there was still so great a deficiency of

carriers, that it had been thought best for the 23rd, which had landed, to re-embark and remain on board ship until further supplies could be pushed forward on the line of march. Knowing how strong are the superstitious fears of the Fantees about crossing the Prah, we cannot but feel great apprehension as to an adequate number of carriers being found for the Ashanti portion of the route—from Prah to Kumasi. On the 2nd of January, envoys from Kumasi came down with letters addressed to Colonel Harley, and which were, of course, delivered to Sir Garnet Wolseley. These letters, it is said, only served to show that the King had very little knowledge of what had taken place; and they reported that the white prisoners at Kumasi (the missionaries, &c.) were quite well. On the 4th, the envoys were treated to an exhibition of the fire of the Gatling guns. These are similar to those deadly weapons, the mitrailleuses, of which our readers will remember so much mention was made during the Franco-German War. This exhibition is said to have greatly distressed them, as well it might if they thoroughly comprehended the havoc those deadly machines would make among their people at a distance of half a mile. On the 6th, when the bridge was ready, the envoys were allowed to pass over it on their way back to their master. On the same day Major Russell's brigade advanced to Obiasi, eight miles beyond the Prah; and subsequently a force, under Lord Gifford, was entrenched at Essiamau, thirteen miles beyond the Prah. The envoys were so alarmed at this, that they said there would be other envoys from Kumasi within a few days. The native roads were found to be better than had been expected. In villages off the road there were a great many Ashanti dead—victims, seemingly, of disease and starvation. On the 11th it was known at Cape Coast that Sir Garnet Wolseley had arrived at the Prah with his staff. The Rifle Brigade and the 42nd were well advanced on their way, and would cross into Ashanti, as before fixed, on the 15th. The soldiers of the West India Regiment were serving with extra pay as carriers, and were working well and cheerfully. Captain Glover was expected to find his way across the country to join Sir Garnet on the 15th, with about 1,500 men, Houssas and Yorubas chiefly, the residue of his force being still near the Volta. The *Manitoba* brought 114 invalids from the Coast, but the health of the troops was reported to be tolerably satisfactory. The distance of Prah from Cape Coast, as now reported, is seventy-five miles only, instead of ninety. Should there have been a similar error on the Ashanti side, the distance from Prah to Kumasi will be found to be only sixty to seventy miles. We hope this will prove to be the case. To Kumasi the troops must go; and the sooner they get there the better. We hope that in our next month's issue there will be found despatches from Sir Garnet Wolseley dated from the capital of Ashanti. What terms Sir Garnet may grant the King, should his throne endure the rude shock, and his empire not fall in pieces (as we believe it will), of course we cannot pretend to know; but those terms, however satisfactory they may be in other respects, will not be what they ought to be, if they do not secure an entire discontinuance of the bloody human sacrifices that have made Kumasi one great human slaughter-house; and also, free access to the interior. Our opinion of the metallic riches of the country is long since on record; and it is time that, by some means or other, those great golden deposits should be made available for the use of the civilized world.

MR. GLADSTONE'S DECLARATION ON THE ASHANTI WAR.

IN Mr. Gladstone's address to the electors of Greenwich, issued on the 23rd inst., in which he solicits their votes at the approaching General Election of Members for Parliament, he writes with regard to the Ashanti War, "With regard to the unhappy war on the Gold Coast, our object has been to prosecute it with vigour, subject to a due regard to the exigencies of climate and the value of human life, and only within the limits which justice and future security prescribe. We shall aim at the establishment not only of peace, but of friendship with the Ashantees, and

we shall, I hope, seek to draw from what has happened a lesson on the duty of avoiding in future the first entrance into equivocal and entangling engagements. Meantime, we repose the utmost confidence in the British General, officers, and soldiers; and we cherish the hope that we are about to emerge at an early date, and on good terms, from the conflict." The address from which this extract is taken, is one of great power and intense interest, shadowing forth, as it does, changes of extreme importance to the whole British community, and which must influence materially the future destinies of the country. Nor have we any fault to find with the above observations relative to the Ashanti War, except in the paragraphs as to "the establishment of friendship with the Ashantees," and "the duty of avoiding in future the first entrance into equivocal and entangling engagements." The latter is a fine phrase, meaning nothing, and copied out of Mr. Bright's textbook—a bad volume for a Minister to study as regards foreign relations. Should equivocal and entangling engagements appear to be necessary in the future, for forwarding some great object of Imperial policy, they will be entered into then as they have been entered into in the past. One unacquainted with the history of our connection with the Gold Coast countries, would imagine that, by some act of official stupidity, we had recently entered into engagements which had led to this Ashanti War. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Our engagements with the Gold Coast at this time—those engagements which have forced us into the present Ashanti War—are the unavoidable legacy of the foreign slave trade we ruthlessly carried on there for more than a century, and the efforts since made by the conscience-stricken British nation to put a final end to that abominable traffic. We were thus naturally led to, and detained on, the Gold Coast. We could not remain there without being supreme, and asserting and exercising our supremacy. In the exercise of this supremacy, we became naturally the protectors of the Gold Coast against enemies by sea or land. We consequently took upon ourselves the direction of its external relations, among the chief of which were those with Ashanti; and if there is now a war between us and Ashanti, that war is not the result of Fantee action, nor of "our having entered into equivocal engagements," but of a culpable neglect and mismanagement on our part, the responsibility for which does not attach to the present Administration alone, but to many successive Administrations, which have chosen to shut their eyes to, and take no efficient measures to prevent, results which every unofficial person connected with those countries could foresee. Then, as regards friendship with Ashanti, as a result of the present advance on Kumasi. Should the Ashanti power survive the victory which we are bound to obtain over it at whatever cost, there could not be any friendship between it and us, except by a total change in its principles, customs, and character. Kumasi is a charnel-house, a slaughter-pen, where the blood of innocent human victims is incessantly flowing. Hitherto we have not been responsible for this, save that by a national effort, such as Ashanti has now forced upon us, we might have put an end to it. But if we entered into relations with it (after having conquered it) that would re-establish and perpetuate it, we should be responsible, and guilty as a nation, before God and man. Friendship between light and darkness is not less impossible than friendship, under such circumstances, between Christian Britain and the Ashanti which has been known of up to this present time. But our own opinion, expressed at the commencement of the present operations, and which we still retain, is that there will not be any danger of our falling into such a snare of guilty complicity with a murderous superstition, because the Ashanti power, losing all its prestige by our successful advance on Kumasi, will fall in pieces. It has only existed hitherto through the mutual jealousies of divers peoples, whom it has played one against another, while using them all for its aggressive operations. We may be mistaken; but this, we repeat, is our confirmed opinion; and it will be well for the Administration of which Mr. Gladstone is the head that this contingency should be maturely considered, in order that they may be

able to deal in the most advantageous manner with the emergency should it arise.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH IT?

THERE are many things in connection with the Gold Coast War, of which this question might be, and will be, asked of Her Majesty's Government, so soon as Parliament re-assembles. They have been greatly blamed during the recess for not having fully explained their views and objects in the war before the prorogation. We have never endorsed these complaints. There can be little doubt that all they contemplated in the commencement of operations, was to free the protected territories from the destroying enemy; and so to punish the latter for their wanton and unprovoked aggression, as to deter the Ashantees from future invasions. To have asked them, however, to state the limit of punishment, and of operations, and measures which they had determined upon as sufficient for that object, would have been as impolitic as unjust; and it has been to us a source of great satisfaction that there were no Houses of Lords and Commons in session during the last six months, to goad and force Her Majesty's Government to statements by which they would have been compromised, respecting matters which depended so much upon contingencies that could not be foreseen. And although it may be urged, on the re-assembling of Parliament, that they must now have had sufficient time, and adequate information, to enable them to fix and define the limit of military operations, and the guarantees and safeguards to be exacted on the occupation of Kumasi, we hope they will have strength and courage to resist the demand. All that they or we know, up to the present moment, is, that the desolating invaders have been so deterred, by the destructive weapons employed against them by the white man, and by the preparations making for the invasion by him of Ashanti, that they have hastily retreated within their own borders; leaving in their track painful, yet satisfactory, evidences of the effective punishment they had received from the mere handful of men employed against them. This—and that the border populations of Ashanti had deserted their villages, and fallen back towards the capital with the retreating army—is, we repeat, all that can even now be stated with certainty. Surely, under such circumstances, it would be premature and unjust to demand statements which might fetter and embarrass the Government in its future dealings with a question that may be greatly more important than is now generally supposed; important not only to Africa and to Great Britain, but to the whole civilized world. But although, as above stated, we hope they will have strength and courage to resist the impatient demands that may be made upon them by political adversaries, and crotchety adherents and independents, we at the same time greatly fear they will not have that strength and courage—the strength and courage to demand a vote of confidence, which may leave them free to do what may appear to them best for the public interests, subject, of course, to that Parliamentary criticism and supervision, which cannot fail to be exercised while the Houses are in session. We again deprecate all hasty decision as regards Ashanti. Great Britain has, through the operation of past omissions and errors, been imperatively called upon to make sacrifices in the present military operations that pain and grieve us all; sacrifices not of mere money only, but of the health and lives of valuable men, whose duty it is to perform the national will, as expressed in the orders of Her Majesty's Government. But although we deprecate all hasty decision as regards Ashanti, there are some points connected with the present operations respecting which a positive decision has, or ought to have, been made, and should therefore be expressed. We put aside, as unworthy of consideration, the pettish and dishonouring cry for the abandonment of our position on the Gold Coast, and, as a necessary consequence, the protection of the territories of which they constitute the seaboard. To abandon them would be a national crime, involving national dishonour and an equally certain national retribution. At the same time, it would be not a little disgraceful to continue our occupation without the adoption of systematic, continuous measures for making that occupation valuable

both to ourselves and the African people. Up to the present time we have done comparatively little. Had we done our duty—the duty of a nation at the head of the world's civilization—to a poor, weak, self-helpless dependency, such a catastrophe as the present Ashanti War, with its painful sacrifices, would have been impossible, as Ashanti itself would have been drawn within the restraining meshes of the network of an expanding civilization. Although we cannot admit that there has been anything to justify, there has certainly been something to extenuate the omission of duty in the past. The seaboard was in the hands of rival European possessors; our rival there, too, being one that did not care one jot or tittle about civilizing progress among the natives, but was ready to tolerate and uphold among them the most beastly practices of a debasing heathen superstition (in the same way that we formerly tolerated Suttee and Juggernaut abominations in the East Indies). At that time it would have been difficult to levy a revenue by duties on imports, the only practicable source of revenue, exceeding what was required for the most modest administrative and judiciary organization. Until 1868, there was indeed an annual deficit, which had to be supplied by the Imperial Treasury. This condition has finally ceased by the absorption of the Dutch possessions in 1872. One uniform scale of import duties can now be levied. Some slight indication of the possible ability of the countries to support taxation has been afforded by the operation of the new tariff introduced by Governor Pope Hennessy, immediately after the cession of Elmina and the other Dutch possessions. Although the new tariff was only in operation during three quarters of 1872, the duties received that year were not far short of 50,000*l*. The most reliable local opinions were to the effect that, had this Ashanti invasion not taken place, there would have been a revenue of from 60,000*l*. to 70,000*l*. for 1873. And it must be borne in mind that during this time there was no real Ashanti trade. Some Ashantees were allowed by the King to come down from time to time, but he never opened the great trade path after 1863. Now here is a revenue with which something good may be effected under a proper system, and the authority and supervision of good officials. Among the good measures to be adopted, and vigorously carried out, is that of the opening and maintenance of good, permanent, public highways. In the very first number of this journal, thirteen years ago, we insisted on the necessity of these, as the indispensable preliminaries to civilization, and to the development of the resources of the territories, only the mere fringe of the wealth of which has yet been touched. Our old readers are cognizant of the efforts we have continually made in this direction, and the foolish objections with which we have been met by inert officials. To meet the necessities of the actual military operations against the Ashantees, something like a highway has now been opened from Cape Coast to Prahsu. Now, with respect to this highway, the Government are in a position to make a definite statement, and ought to be called upon to do so. Whatever the course eventually determined on with regard to Ashanti—whether we are to be satisfied with having chastised that aggressive and abominable power, the excesses of which are dishonouring to, and a constant outrage against, humanity; or whether we may be compelled or induced, by causes and objects not yet known of, or not yet adequately appreciated, to maintain a permanent command in that country,—a good, substantial, permanent public highway, from Cape Coast to Prahsu, is of the most vital importance. Her Majesty's Government ought to be called upon for a positive and binding declaration that the beneficial results of the labour and money expended on the preliminary works of such road shall not be limited to the facilities that road is now affording for the march of troops, and the supply of provisions and materials of war to Sir Garnet Wolseley's expedition. It should be now exacted that this road be made something like what the old Roman roads were in Great Britain and other countries; and that small military ports be established and maintained at Mansu and Prahsu. There are many other measures which Her Majesty's Government might justly be called upon to

adopt and execute, among which are what may be requisite for putting an end to the removable unhealthiness of Cape Coast and Elmina, and improving the port of Elmina for the landing and shipment of goods, for which natural facilities exist, that are wanting elsewhere on those surf-beaten shores. These measures are, as before stated, indispensable for the development of those resources which the Gold Coast territories possess in abundance, of which no adequate estimate can be formed through present mercantile operations; and the revenue that may be safely estimated, will be such as to afford ample security for interests and repayment of any loans that may be found necessary, under imperial guarantee, for their more speedy execution.

THE BREMEN MISSIONARY AND TRADING SOCIETY.

MISSIONARIES and muskets, gunpowder and the Gospel! Surely these form an incongruous heap. When we gaze upon it we are reminded of the inspired words, "Can men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles"? and what the Divine Word then pronounced to be impossible, we are bound to believe to be impossible still. Grapes do not grow on thorns, figs are not the produce of thistles; and the propagation of the Gospel of peace and purity will not be effected by the co-operative sale of those eminently carnal objects—muskets and gunpowder. We are constrained to these observations by a letter of the trading firm in Bremen, of the Bremen Missionary Society, which we publish in page 10. We are therein roundly called to account for aiding in the propagation of slanderous reports, and are told that the remarks appended by us to the extract we made from the *Standard* (and which had solely regard to the efforts made by us with Her Majesty's Government at the commencement of the Ashanti invasion, to prevent the supply of arms and ammunition through the Awoonah ports, Quittah, Jella, Coffee, &c.) were calculated to mislead the public. In those remarks we certainly had not the Bremen Society in our thoughts. We knew that through those ports the Ashantees have been accumulating stocks of ammunition and supplies of arms constantly since 1863, in preparation for the invasion they have at last effected; and we naturally took advantage of the paragraph in the *Standard*, to show the efforts we had made to prevent the continuance of supplies through the same channel. The alleged reason why we ought to have known that the statement contained in the *Standard*, and inserted by us in our December number, was false and slanderous, is, to our mind, a very curious one. We ought, it seems, to have known that it was so, because we must have known "that from the opening of the Bremen establishment on the Slave Coast, we have, until about three years ago, abstained from sending out powder or guns," and that they then only sent them because they were necessary to enable them to compete with English traders. It seems strange to us that we ought to have known that the Bremen establishment was not largely supplying arms, because they only began to sell them three years ago, compelled to do so by competition in trade. Might not that same competition, which first induced them to depart from the very proper restriction in trading matters, which they had at first imposed on themselves as a mixed Missionary and Trading Society, have induced them also to enlarge the supply to meet an increased demand? We have no wish to bear hard upon the Bremen Missionary and Trading Society, or we should carry our remarks much further, because we do not think that we were justly amenable to reproach for the insertion in our December number, and our having failed to observe the subsequent paragraph in the *Standard*, which we have now appended to the Bremen letter. But we may be allowed to express the hope that this unpleasant incident will not be unproductive of good. It will not be so, if, as we venture to believe, it should induce the Committee of the Bremen Missionary Society to reconsider their decision of three years ago, by which they resolved to cast aside the restrictions they had formerly placed on their trading transactions, and so to exalt trade above missionary principles, as to undertake the supply of articles, which they

had previously—and, as we think, properly—deemed it inconsistent with their missionary character to furnish. Because, as we understand the Basle and the Bremen Societies, missionary action is their *raison d'être*—the motive of their organization and labours; and trading is the mere auxiliary by which they seek to obtain those funds for missionary effort which they are not able to obtain by subscriptions for mere missionary purposes, in the countries from which they take their name. Both societies must know very well that their trading operations on the West Coast of Africa have been viewed with great dislike by the purely commercial and trading people there. They have always regarded them as an unfair competition; and, as a necessary consequence, we have been inundated with objections and complaints from merchants and traders respecting them. But although recognizing that there was some justice in the mercantile and trading complaints, we have not given currency to them, or supported them, because the Basle Missionary Society has undoubtedly produced very great and beneficial missionary and industrial results on the Gold Coast; and the Bremen Society, founded on similar principles, might be looked to for similar results. They will not continue to obtain these, however, if they allow trading considerations to outweigh missionary ones; and this they would certainly seem to do in consenting, for the sake of greater or more profitable trade, to supply objects which they had, on missionary principles, previously refused to deal in. We beg it to be distinctly understood that we are not now entering in any way upon the question as to the propriety or impropriety of ordinary merchants and traders dealing in arms or ammunition on the Western Coast of Africa, but only as to these being made articles of trade by societies bearing the exalted title of *Missionary*, and simultaneously engaged in preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have only further to add that, should the Committee of the Bremen Missionary Society, on mature reconsideration, be induced to revoke their decision of three years ago, and to resolve to discontinue in future the dealing in arms and ammunition at their establishments in West Africa, we shall have very much pleasure in recording the same in our columns.

THE ROMAN SYSTEM ON THE WEST COAST.

FROM the moment that a real, and not a mock British intervention on the Gold Coast was determined upon, we have regarded it as certain to be fruitful in results. It is impossible for a mighty empire like that of Great Britain to undertake such an expedition as that against barbarous Ashanti, on behalf of almost equally uncivilized Fanti, without necessities arising for changes, the effects of which will endure long after the brief struggle shall have terminated, and which may exercise an enormous influence on the future relations of the protector and protected. We see many of these changes coming into view on the near horizon. It is not necessary, however, that we should at present call attention to more than one of them. Ashanti must be conquered and humbled, or destroyed (the power we mean, not the country or the people). In the effort to effect this the first steps have been taken in a change that may be of vast importance. The power of Great Britain has, in many points, a resemblance to that of ancient Rome. Like that, it has to do with hosts of semi-civilized or barbarous people in regions distant from its centre, and in great varieties of climates; and it must be looked upon as a great waste of central resources and strength to be prodigal of the lives of its strictly imperial citizens, or subjects, in far distant countries, where the climate is unsuited to their physical constitutions. The Roman Governments understood this thoroughly. With forces drawn from countries already conquered, and an admixture of Romans, they conquered other countries. We do not say that under analogous circumstances Rome would not have sent to the Gold Coast troops corresponding in their army with those—the 42nd, 23rd, and Rifles—which we have dispatched thither; but one thing we do say, that she would forthwith have set about organizing tributary forces of less value to occupy and hold what these 42nd, 23rd, and Rifles should have subdued. The lamentable loss of life in West Africa has long since drawn our attention to

this matter. On the outbreak of the war, we inclined to urge upon the Government the advisability of looking for volunteers in the East Indies, among the Sepoys or Sikhs; but we imagined that Her Majesty's Government must know its own business best in such a matter. The Roman system has been adopted to a considerable extent in the East Indies; and this war has led to a commencement of it in West Africa. The West India regiments, hitherto generally employed, have suffered from the climate pretty nearly as much as the European troops would do; and have been not much less costly. The exigencies of the present expedition have led to the subvention, the drilling, and partial disciplining of Houssas, Yorubas, and others. We would have this beginning of change persevered with, and a system for West Africa, founded upon the principle of employing Africans for Africa, raised to the rank of a policy. Until such changes shall take place among the Fantee and other Gold Coast tribes, as should enable a dependable force to be organized among them, let the necessary force employed be composed of Africans from other countries, such as are now serving with Sir Garnet Wolseley and Captain Glover. It may also become a matter of Imperial policy to hold Kumasi. If so, let it be held by troops of this character, under British officers. They would increase day by day in efficiency; and every drilled and disciplined man of them, master of his Snider, and supported by Artillery and Rocket Brigade (and such corps could, no doubt, within a short time be formed with the same human materials),—every disciplined man among them, we say, will be more than equal to fifty of the hitherto renowned warriors of Ashanti, practised only in the use of smooth-bore trade guns and muskets, and supplied with ammunition rarely fatal in its effects at fifty yards' distance. The adoption of some such imitation of the Roman system in West Africa is of immense importance as regards its future. The British Government and people, although so deeply interested in, and so ardently anxious for, its civilization, have been almost afraid to touch it, because the doing so seemed as a necessity to demand the constant employment of British troops. No such deterrent would any longer interfere with the so much to be desired action of civilization upon barbarism, when once the formation of West African corps for West African service shall have been definitively adopted and pursued.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT IN THE SETTLEMENT OF LAGOS.

African Times Office, 121, Fleet-street, London.
December 18, 1873.

My Lord,—Since it became known on the West Coast of Africa that I had addressed your lordship on behalf of the people of Bathurst, praying that imprisonment for debt, as debt, might be at once and for ever abolished there, in conformity with the humane provision of the law in Great Britain, I have received several applications from prisoners confined in the Gaol of the Settlement of Lagos, stating that they are in the same hopeless state as those for whom I had interested myself at Bathurst; that several of them have been for a lengthened period (some for two or three or more years) in captivity; and that they are at present without any hope of release except by death.

I am not so well acquainted with the circumstances connected with the prolonged incarceration of these people, as I was with those of the Bathurst debtors, but I feel confident that your lordship will not knowingly allow the continuance of so flagrant an enormity, and so oppressive and demoralizing an injustice, as the perpetual imprisonment of debtors for debt in any one of the Crown colonies or settlements; such imprisonment having been long since abolished, and having altogether ceased, in Great Britain itself.

I therefore take the liberty of soliciting that your lordship will cause inquiry to be made into the matter of this alleged hopeless imprisonment for debt, as debt, in the Gaol of Lagos; with a view to the application to the Settlement of Lagos of laws similar to those now lately promulgated and about to be promulgated by your lordship's kind command in that of the Gambia.—I have the honour to remain, my Lord, your obedient servant,

F. FITZGERALD, Editor of the *African Times*.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Note.—Earl Kimberley replies that he has referred the matter to the Administrator at Lagos.

CAPE COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, December 16, 1873.

Sir,—The Ashantees are now on their own side of the Prah; they have now seen that they cannot make head against even the hitherto small British and native force led and officered by British officers, and backed by regular troops. In re-crossing the river they are said to have lost very many men. The King of Ashanti has sent down reinforcements to Amankoo-atsia, with large supplies of ammunition; and he has ordered him to offer the most determined opposition to our crossing the river, and to die with his whole army before he permits us to catch a sight of the walls of Coomassie. The Ashantees do not believe it possible for us to accomplish the feat of taking Coomassie, and have all resolved to fight and die to a man before we shall effect an entrance into their capital. Our General's sole difficulty is the want of an efficient transport; but as regards the capture of Coomassie, that is a foregone conclusion. Not all the might of Ashanti can avail them against the preparations that are being made, the new weapons of destruction with which we are armed, and the superior discipline, organization, and skill that will be brought to bear against them. They may resolve to die, and I suppose that is the best and all that they can do; for as to their being able successfully to resist the force that will be brought against them, no man of sense can believe such to be possible; and probably it is all for the best that our redoubted enemy should feel confident that we are unable to cope with them in their native wilds, as it will be likely to lead them, in their over-confidence, to try conclusions with us in a pitched battle, the results of which cannot but be fatal to them.

The field telegraph is being laid down from Government-house to Mansu, and will be continued to our most advanced outpost. The native levies are not coming forward with the alacrity that I at first anticipated; some of them do not appear to care about following the Ashantees up into their country, and would prefer being left quietly at home, to cultivate their ruined plantations and farms; so that, I am afraid, Sir Garnet Wolseley will not be able to collect together more than fifteen thousand men on whom he can rely.

It will be much to be deplored if some arrangements have not been made by which the railway plant, found useless for practicable purposes during this war, because there is no time to apply it, may be utilized in promoting the development of the resources of the country and its commerce.

It appears that a certain class of people make it their hobby to ridicule us, and to exhibit us in any but our true colours. I see that one gentleman has been writing to one of your contemporaries, that Antoo Otoo, the King of Abrah, was the first to bring down the news of his own defeat at Doonquash (when and where this occurred we do not know, excepting that it happened in some locality where the fertile and imaginative intellect of this person alone was present), in which he (Antoo Otoo) was materially aided by his "length of limb." Now, there is as much of truth in this assertion as if I were to tell you that the King of Ashanti was made of gold, instead of being flesh and blood, as all other ordinary mortals. It is becoming too much the fashion to run down us poor Fantees; and if those gentlemen who are so prone to indulge their fancies would but turn to the history of their own country, they would perceive that it is nothing more nor less than "history repeating itself." Somewhere about the year 447, when the Britons were being harassed by the Picts and Scots, they applied to Otius, then Prefect of Gaul, as near as my memory will serve me, in the following words: "The groans of the wretched Britons, to the thrice-appointed Consul Otius,—The barbarians" (and you were as barbarous in those days as we poor Fantees are now) "drive us into the sea, and the sea forces us back on the swords of the barbarians; so that we have nothing left us but the wretched choice of being either drowned or murdered." Failing in obtaining the succour you were so much in need of, you had to go on your knees to the Saxons, give way before the Danes, and so on you continued till you finally succumbed to the domination of William the Conqueror and his sixty thousand followers. It was your numerous principalities, such as now exist here, without cohesion, without leadership, that caused you then to fall before "the barbarians;" and I have not the least doubt that you were looked upon by those barbarians as arrant cowards as you consider us; and it has taken you more than nineteen hundred years since you were brought into contact with the Romans, who were then the acmé of civilization, to reach your present summit. What may not fifteen hundred years hence find us; and where may you not be then? If we are such notorious cowards, if the meed of praise due us is to be withheld, why then, in the name of all that is good, why then, I ask, do you not go and fight your own battles (for this war is none of ours), without calling upon us to bear the brunt? In all ages and in all times, never have two nations engaged in a war without one or the other getting the worst of it; witness the

Francio-German war, where the French, in no way the inferior of the Germans as regards courage, had to give way in almost every engagement before the superior skill, organization, and discipline of the Germans. Were the French cowards? Does it not bespeak a cowardly spirit to write what one knows to be false when he knows that that person has not the means of replying to him, since he can neither read nor write? And it is to be deplored that the writer of that article should so far forget himself, in his eagerness to write what may amuse the public, as to state what has no foundation in fact, and thus cast a slur on one of the best and bravest kings in the Protectorate. "Fit justitia, rust calum." Enclosing my card, I remain, Mr. Editor, yours truly,

THE BREMEN MISSIONARY SOCIETY RE POWDER AND GUNS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bremen, January 6, 1874.

Sir,—We observe with regret that in your paper issued on December 31st, you have, on page 221, copied an extract from the *Standard* of December 1st, stating that a Bremen establishment at Quitta had supplied the Ashantees with more than three-fourths of their powder, and lead, and guns; which statement you have further accompanied by remarks tending to further mislead the public.

We expect that, in justice to ourselves, you will also in your next issue give publicity to the enclosed copy from the *Standard* of December 15th, by which, on receipt of a detailed explanation from ourselves, the editor of that paper corrected the statements made by his Accra correspondent.

We are indeed astonished that you, who claim to be well posted in the affairs of the West Coast of Africa, should give your assistance to the spreading of such slanderous reports, whilst you must know that, from the opening of our establishments on the slave-coast, we have, until about three years ago, quite abstained from sending out any powder or guns, and that we have only, in order to be able to compete with the English traders, been compelled to export small quantities of these articles.

Since the beginning of last year we have quite stopped sending out any powder, and have, at a sacrifice to our pockets, cancelled our orders for the same in your country, of which a part was awaiting transshipment at Liverpool to the Coast by the regular Mail steamers.

In conclusion, we beg to state that, according to all the reports received here by ourselves and also by the Bremen Missionary Society, the Aunglos (the inhabitants of the slave-coast) have been so disgusted with their previous connexion with the Ashantees in their war against the interior Erre tribes, that they have since quite broken off their relations with that warlike nation, and have now barely any trading intercourse with them.

Expecting that you will not fail to give publicity to the extract from the *Standard* of December 15th, and also putting this letter at your disposal, we are, Sir, your most obedient servants,

FRIEDR. M. VIKTOR SCHNE.

Extract from the "*Standard*," December 15, 1873.

"THE SUPPLY OF WARLIKE MATERIALS TO THE ASHANTEES.—Our correspondent at Accra, in the letter we published on December 1st, stated that the Bremen factory at Quitta had supplied the Ashantees with three-fourths of their guns, powder, and lead. The owners of this establishment have informed us that this must be an error, they having, from the time the war was imminent between the English and the Ashantees, completely stopped even the small export of guns and powder which they had formerly made, in the usual course of the trade, to the West Coast of Africa. They also state that, to their knowledge, the Aungla, or Ahwoonab, as our correspondent calls them, and in the seaport town of which tribe Quitta is situated, have for some years had no friendly relations with the Ashantees, and have not even had trading connections with them (Ashantees); much less would they now be prepared to join that nation in their war with the British nation."

REVIEW.

Fanti and Ashanti. By Captain Brackenbury and Captain Huyshe. (Blackwood and Sons.)—Although far from being uniformly correct in its statements and deductions, this little volume is sufficiently so to be well worthy perusal by those who feel interested about the Ashanti War, and who are unacquainted with the subjects of the Gold Coast countries, our position there, and the circumstances which have culminated in the present military operations.

DEATHS ON BOARD AFRICAN STEAMERS.—There has been a most unusual sickness on board the African steamships. The Africa had six deaths on board, the Volta four, the Elmina four. We hope this death-roll will now be closed.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIPS EMPLOYED IN ORDINARY WEST AFRICAN SERVICE.

Attention has often been called, in our columns and elsewhere, to the comparative greater mortality and sickness on board Her Majesty's ships employed on the West Coast of Africa, and that on board well-appointed merchant vessels employed there in trading operations. This was one of the subjects briefly alluded to during the mercantile interview with Earl Kimberley in May last. There can be no doubt of the great mortality and sickness being the result of an improper selection of ships, as we showed a few years ago, when the yellow fever committed heavy ravages on board one or two of them at Sierra Leone. What can be expected in a tropical climate on board such ships as below described by one of the daily press correspondents on the Gold Coast: "If one has only a certain distance to go, and one wishes to be as long a time as possible over it, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to select a vessel better

fitted for the purpose than Her Majesty's ship Bittern. The slowest auxiliary screw collier that drops down the Tyne could walk round Her Majesty's ship Bittern, and she sails as badly as she steams. With their rolling propensities, the Bittern class are not comfortable ships to be in. The accommodation for the crew is scanty and ill-ventilated. The officers' cabins are little better than dog-kennels; the captain's state-room is a black-hole. Such is the Bittern." Is it not time that there should be some new reform in the administration of the Navy, by which a real and effective, and no longer a mock responsibility should attach to the authorities, whoever they may be, who order the dispatch of unsuitable vessels to tropical and other trying climates, to the shameful risk of the lives and health of officers and men. Such ships as the Bittern, as above described, are a disgrace to Great Britain, and the sooner they are got rid of from the Navy the better, whatever the cost of the reform by which this may be accomplished.—Ed. A.T.



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"Rawal, Pinder, Punjab, India, 28th March, 1871.

"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 nation hundreds of valuable lives in Peshawar alone.

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Winnabah, January 24, 1873.

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