

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.

OCTOBER, 1874.

BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The Steamers of this Company now leave Liverpool every alternate Saturday. Goods will be received at the Loading Berth (North Side Coburg-Dock) until 8 p.m. on Oct. 8, 13, and 22; and Parcels up to 6 p.m. on Oct. 9, 14, and 23.

The Royal Mail Steamship BONNY is intended to be dispatched from LIVERPOOL on the 10th OCTOBER, for Madeira, Teneriffe, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar.

The following departure will be the Steamship ROQUELLE, which will leave LIVERPOOL on the 15th OCTOBER, for Madeira, Grand Canary, Grand Bassa, Cape Palmas, Grand Bassam, Assinee, Winnebah, Whydah, Fernando Po, Cameroons, Gaboon, Black Point, Landana, Congo, Ambrizette, Kinsembo, Ambriz, and St. Paul de Loanda.

The next departure is intended to be the Steamship BENGUELA, which will leave LIVERPOOL direct on the 24th OCTOBER, for Madeira, Teneriffe, Sierra Leone, Monrovia, Cape Palmas, Half Jack, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar.

Passengers by above Packets will embark by Tender from Prince's Landing Stage at 10 a.m. on Oct. 10, 11 a.m. on Oct. 15, and 8.30 a.m. on Oct. 24.

The Packets of 10th and 24th 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.

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. Goods for Loanda will be charged an additional 5 per cent. on Freight and Primage to cover Lighterage.

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 ELDER, DEMPSTER, and Co., 48, Castle-street.

WEST COAST MAIL STEAMERS.

ARRIVALS.

British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Loanda, August 31.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Roquette, Sept. 8.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Africa, Sept. 8.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Cameroon, Sept. 14.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Bonny, Sept. 24.

DEPARTURES.

African Steamship Company's Steamer Biafra, Sept. 5.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Loanda, Sept. 12.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Soudan, Sept. 15.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Elmina, Sept. 19.
British and African Steam Navigation Co.'s Steamer Cameroon, Sept. 26.

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

LIVERPOOL, August 8.—The British and African Company's steamer *Rochelle* arrived here at 8 p.m. to-day, from the West Coast of Africa and Madeira, with three passengers.

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 31.—The British and African Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Loanda*, James Sullivan, commander, arrived in the Mersey on August 31, with sixteen passengers and 6,000*l.* in specie.

LIVERPOOL, September 8.—The African Royal Mail steamer *Africa*, E. Addison commander, arrived in the Mersey to-day from the West Coast of Africa. She brings no news of importance. Health and trade at most of the ports were good.

The British and African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer *Bonny*, Capt. Charles Hamilton, arrived in the Mersey on the 24th inst.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER LOANDA.

Captain J. Owen, from Fernando Po; Captain R. Bannerman, *Bonny*; Mr. L. Garlat, Lagos; Rev. G. B. Schiek, Jellah Coffee; Capt. S. C. Holm, Captain G. Frothingham, and Mr. J. William, Accra; Capt. R. Davies, Monrovia; Governor G. Berkeley, and Dr. T. Farvis, Sierra Leone; Mr. J. Topp, and Mr. G. R. Wood, Bathurst; Capt. Jarvis, Dr. A. Mason, and Mr. J. Bains, Madeira.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER AFRICA.

Mr. J. H. Ellis and Mr. J. John, from Old Calabar; Mr. J. Holt, Fernando Po; Mr. R. Knight, *Bonny*; Señor J. de la Torre, Señor L. de Garcia, and Mr. Smith, Lagos; Mr. J. Merry, Jellah Coffee; Miss De Bregg, Cape Palmas; Dr. Eddy, Monrovia; Mr. Grant, Sierra Leone; the Marquis de Candia, Lady L. Cologao, and Dr. Marston, Tenerife; Mr. C. Wilkinson and Mr. J. Wilkinson, Madeira.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMSHIP CAMEROON.

Mr. J. F. Bell, from *Bonny*; Mr. S. R. Stanforth, Mr. A. R. Elliott, and Mr. Letourneux, Lagos; Sub-Lieut. Ellis, and Sergeant-Major Mosse, Sierra Leone; Mr. Derwent Smith, Tenerife.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMSHIP BONNY.

Capt. Gibson, from *Bonny*; Mr. Ballard, Accra; Mr. Bounard, Lagos; Rev. L. Wellnesley and Mrs. Wellnesley, Sierra Leone.

THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

CAPE COAST CASTLE, August 8.—Captain Lees was received in Kumasi with every demonstration of respect and good feeling, the King and Queen-mother both coming out to meet him. Dancing and great rejoicing followed. It is rumoured that Captain Lees has gone on to Juabin. The Ashanti Ambassador still remains here, but all chance of rupture is past. The news from Quitta is good. The people are all quiet in the town, but a little feeling has been exhibited by the inland inhabitants, who do not appear to relish the change of rule. Trade along the Protectorate is good and improving. Measures are being taken effectually to improve the sanitary condition of the town.

GREAT FIRE AT BONNY.—The British and African Steamship Company's steamer *Cameroon* arrived in the Mersey, on the evening of September 12, from the West Coast of Africa. On August 14, a terrific fire broke out in the native town of Bonny, and destroyed about half of the place, the houses of Oko Jumbo and other native chiefs only escaping destruction by the merest chance. When morning broke a few smoking embers were all that were left of the most crowded half of the town.

RIVER GAMBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Bathurst, Sept. 10, 1874.

Dear Sir,—I am sure you will be glad to hear from me that everything has been going on well since the arrival of the new Administrator; and that, so far as I can see and hear, everybody seems rather satisfied with the state of things now in Bathurst. I am writing, of course, as regards the native traders, as I have no right to give a report as to the European ones. The abolition of imprisonment for debt has been a great boon to the people. It not only restored many to health, but has also given relief to their before-pining and hopeless relatives. Trade is going on briskly; and it is rumoured that the traders are about starting a Commercial Society; but whether this is really true or not, I cannot say. Is there any hope of the troops returning to this part of Africa? The want of them is greatly felt by the community at large. We long for the power to prove to you our gratitude for the noble deeds you have done for the sons of Africa.—Yours, &c.,

NATIVE.

DEATH OF M. GUIZOT, MANY YEARS PRIME MINISTER UNDER LOUIS PHILIPPE.—M. Guizot died at Yal Richer on Saturday, Sept. 12. This eminent statesman was born at Nismes on the 4th of October, 1787, and consequently had nearly completed his 87th year at the time of his death. The funeral took place at the St. Owen Cemetery, and was of a private character.

CAPE COAST NEWS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 14, 1874.

Sir,—The *Eboe* was so slow in coming out that the *Bonny* arrived here one day before her. . . . Captain Lees is up in Ashanti, endeavouring to settle the disturbance between the King and his refractory chiefs. Whenever things get quiet in Ashanti, trade will become very brisk. Captain Strahan is, I think, getting on well in his government—slowly, but well. He has been to ELMINA twice to decide the plan on which the people are to build the new town; he has given instructions to Mr. Lawson, the native engineer from Sierra Leone, to lay out plans for a town for the natives to build, which is to contain some 6,000 inhabitants. Mr. Lawson is also to prepare a plan for a drawbridge over the Elmina River, and a permanent bridge over the Sweet River; and he is also charged to survey the Sweet River to a considerable distance in the interior. It is supposed that, after completing his labours at Elmina, Mr. Lawson will be sent to Accra to lay out a plan for a considerable town there. The road from Anamaboe to Cape Coast is being properly made, and the Colonial Engineer has been sent to survey for one from Anamaboe to Salt Pond. Captain Strahan has promised the King of Anamaboe that he will visit the town at an early date. The road from Cape Coast to Prabsu has been put in decent repair. The other day Captain Strahan made an unexpected visit to the Collector's office, and overhauled the books. All this is well, and looks like progress. Things are very quiet, however, just now, and trade is dull; but we expect it to be very brisk after the return of Captain Lees.

August 15.

Our latest news from Ashanti states that Captain Lees is now at Juabin, the King of which place has been using the name of the Governor to induce most of the tributary kings to secede from Ashanti and join with him. He is said to have so far succeeded that he has got two large provinces to join him. This is how he manages it: he sends to the chiefs to say that the English Government intends next dry season to attack Ashanti again, and would kill the whole of them; and as he is now English, he advises them to join him. With his cane-bearer he sends two or three vagabond Houssas (of Captain Glover's former force), who find now an easy berth at Juabin. These men appear as the representatives of the Governor, and confirm what the messengers of the King of Juabin say. In this way they are led readily to believe the King, and send deputations "to eat fetish" with one another. It will, therefore, be very difficult for Captain Lees to succeed in bringing them back to their allegiance to Kofie Carry-Carry.

August 16.

You were perfectly right in your letter to the Colonial office about the King's son. He should be sent to Sierra Leone—not to England—for education. It is not at all certain that Carry-Carry will continue to be King of Ashanti; there is a strong party in favour of dethroning him, and placing his nephew, Quaca Duah, son of the late king, on the throne. It is not at all improbable that this may be accomplished ere long.—Yours truly,

C. C.

CAPTAIN LEES' MISSION TO ASHANTI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, August 31, 1874.

Dear Sir,—You will, I know, be anxious to learn how Captain Lees' mission to the Ashanti countries progressed and terminated; and I think you will be pleased with the results, so far as they have transpired. It is not easy to know exactly all that occurred, but I think you can rely on the following so far as it goes:

You will remember that the message of the King to the Governor-in-Chief was in the form of a deprecation of collision between himself and his late associate or tributary kings, and especially between himself and Juabin. He had been trying by all possible means to bring the Juabins to serve under him again, but they refused. He then sent threatening messages to them, whereupon they took up arms against him, and were joined by Quocoofoo and Mampon.

On the arrival of Captain Lees, the King endeavoured to impress on him the importance of his power; but he was soon undeceived, as the homely truth was soon brought to him that he had none. He wanted to have all the chiefs again under his government; but he was told that the British Government is perfectly neutral in the matter; if the chiefs like to return, they may; but if not, they may remain as they are. He was very much annoyed and downcast at this decision, but there was no help for it. He was plainly told, should he go to war against Juabin, that Quocoofoo, Mampon, and others would join them; and the result would be, that he would be dethroned and somebody else put in his place. After a good deal of palavering, he gave in, and Captain Lees, after much talk, got him to agree to the five following propositions:—

1. The separation and independence of Juabin.
2. That there must be general peace between all parties.
3. That all prisoners in the possession of each party should be delivered, so that those who wish to return may do so.
4. That roads to the interior be kept opened, and no party shall be molested whilst passing through for trade, &c.
5. That all old quarrels are to be buried, and not to be raked up again.

After the King had agreed to these, Captain Lees went to Juabin, saw the King and Chiefs, and then explained to them all the advantages they would obtain by this arrangement, which they finally agreed to accept. The King of Ashanti wanted them to come and eat fetish with him, or ratify the agreement in Kumasi; but the wily Juabins were too wide awake, and would not, as they said "Koffee Carry Carry has got very bad fetish." He, however, sent his messengers to the capital of Juabin, and the five propositions were ratified by the eating of fetish.

On Captain Lees' return to Kumasi, the King complained of the Quocoofoos, and wanted Captain Lees to endeavour to bring them under his sway again. He went to the district, but in the meantime informed the King that, should the people refuse to come back to him, he could not force them, but only advise them to live in peace. On his arrival they vehemently refused to go under Koffee Carry Carry again; they said that they were ready to serve the golden stool of Ashanti, but that they object *in toto* to serve Carry Carry; that he had killed all the principal chiefs in the place, and consequently they would have nothing more to do with him. Captain Lees told them that he could not force them to serve the King, but he made them take the oath that they would keep the peace, open roads, and leave off kidnapping. The King was very much disappointed on Captain Lees' return, but could not help himself. He then made a complaint against the people of Konton-Assie. It appears that whilst in the zenith of his power, and from what is called time immemorial, these people have sent to the King of Ashanti every morning, with the exception of two days in the week, fresh river fish; now they refuse to make the usual supply and to serve him. This pains Carry Carry very much; and without them he cannot get such a good supply of fish as heretofore. Captain Lees undertook the journey to this place, and saw the Chief. The road was one of the worst that it is possible to imagine. The Chief refused to have anything to do with the King of Ashanti. He told Captain Lees to look at his village, how it was overgrown with weed; that since Carry Carry came to the throne he has taken all his people to go to war, and a great many have, in consequence, died; and he was not going to submit himself to such treatment again. He took fetish to keep the peace, open roads, and not molest the people of the King. The King was not very much pleased with this decision; but he has no power whatever to force his own decrees, and therefore must abide by it. There seems to be some idea that, as the seat of Government, Captain Strahan prefers Cape Coast to Elmina and (there being no earthquakes here) to Accra. It is said that he thinks he can make it more healthy by sanitary measures than Elmina, with its neighbouring mangrove swamps, would be. This would not prevent everything possible being done to make Elmina a good landing and shipping port. Some decision will, no doubt, soon be come to; and whenever it may be known you shall, of course, hear of it without delay.—Yours truly,

HOW JUSTICE IS ADMINISTERED ON THE WEST COAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

West Africa, August 18, 1874.

Dear Sir,—In your deep interest for Africa, you will excuse my saying that you cannot possibly insist too much upon the point you have dwelt upon in your two last issues—viz., the mode of the administration of justice in the new Government of the Gold Coast; for I am certain you must have heard often from other sources how great maladministration has been in time past, lately, and is even now practised by local magistrates. I will give you an evidence of this. Mr. X., our Chief Magistrate, acts the part of counsel in every case where his friend Mr. Y. is concerned. This Mr. Y. is the agent here of Mr. — (of — in England), the trustee and receiver of the estate of A., B., and Co., and C. and Co. From the moment Mr. X. landed here, Mr. Y. (knowing he has many cases to come before Mr. X. in court, some of which he is aware he has little or no grounds in) took care to give board and lodging to Mr. X., and they have become so intimate that, although Mr. X. has since procured his own lodgings a long way off, he has several times heard cases in chambers at Mr. Y.'s house, and in those cases Mr. Y. was plaintiff. One or two cases have been thus handled, Mr. X. acting more as counsel than as judge; so that the parties concerned would have appealed to the Sierra Leone Court of Appeal, had not an insuperable difficulty been in the way, which frightens poor or prudent

traders from incurring the risks which they would otherwise run. I will give you one instance. A Mr. D. gave Mr. E. a bill of exchange on A., B., and Co., in 1872, for 150*l.* The bill was returned dishonoured. Mr. E. sued Mr. D., and obtained judgment from the then Chief Magistrate, Mr. F. Mr. E. issued a writ to recover 150*l.* from Mr. D. Mr. D. having accounts with A., B., and Co., pending settlement with Mr. Y., and Mr. E. owing A., B., and Co. 101*l.*, Mr. D., in open court, requested Mr. Y. to debit his account with the 101*l.*, and he would give Mr. E. the balance—viz., 49*l.* Mr. Y. agreed to this before Judge F., and ordered his clerk to give Mr. E. a receipt for 101*l.*, which the Sheriff considered as partly satisfying the judgment debt of 150*l.*, and therefore recovered from Mr. D. and paid to Mr. E. only 49*l.* and the costs. Now Mr. Y. and Mr. D., six months after, came to settlement of account, and it was alleged that Mr. D. had to pay Mr. Y. a large balance. Mr. Y. now objected to Mr. D.'s account to Mr. E. of 101*l.*, and sued Mr. E. for it. Mr. Magistrate X. would not look at the receipt of Mr. Y.'s clerk, produced by Mr. E., nor listen to any representation from Mr. E., but accepted Mr. Y.'s denial of all knowledge of it as true, although Mr. Y.'s clerk and the Sheriff could have been examined if the Judge would only have listened; but being aware that Mr. E. is not in a position to overcome the great barrier in the way of the Court of Appeal, took advantage of it, and did his own way for his friend. I give you this simple detail of facts as a small proof of the evils resulting from having local Judges; and it would be a great blessing to us all if we could have Circuit Judges: although where Europeans and Africans are concerned in court, there will not always, perhaps, even then, be that fair impartiality in allowing for the African's defects in English in representing his case, yet there will be by far a better decision, where a gentleman is appointed as Judge, and is not, in any sense, *resident*.—Yours truly,

L. M. N.

THE GOLD COAST COLONY.—£70,000 IN HAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Gold Coast, August 30, 1874.

Sir,—Now that Lagos and the Gold Coast have been separated entirely from Sierra Leone, and united administratively under the name of "The Gold Coast Colony," there will be abundant and splendid opportunity of doing great good. On the Gold Coast, and independent of Lagos, there is understood to be at this present time a cash balance of about 24,000*l.* in the chest. There is also, it is said, some 11,000*l.* remaining unspent in the hands of the Crown agents, of the 40,000*l.* granted to the Colony in October; and if to this be added the late Parliamentary grant of 35,000*l.*, there is now a grand total of 70,000*l.* for this division of the new Colony to start with. I do not know about the present state of the Lagos chest; but as trade seems to be now flourishing there, and the general outlay has been reduced, the period of deficits ought to have passed away altogether, and it is to be hoped for ever, from that also. Have we not here just reason to expect that measures for the public prosperity and good will be now vigorously pursued?

HOW THINGS ARE DONE AT FERNANDO PO.—JUSTICE MUST BE DONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Accra, August 14, 1874.

Dear Sir,—I feel very much inclined to corroborate the statements in the *African Times* respecting the merchants and a merchant Postmaster. In fact, his statements are correct and true. I had been for many years residing at Fernando Po, but the unjust dealings of the Spanish Government and the European merchants and the merchant Postmaster have caused me to leave Fernando Po for this place. One of the principal British merchants there, and who has done so much to make the place bad to others, was a bare sailor picked up from a wrecked vessel by a woman near Fernando Po Island. This lady was kind enough to make him a clerk in her establishment; but (could you believe it?) within a few months he robbed the lady of 5,000*l.*, which caused her ruin up to this present day. The whole of the inhabitants at Fernando Po know about this stolen amount. With this same sum of money he took and opened very large establishments at sum of money he took and opened very large establishments at Fernando Po, &c. It is too true that many letters were sent to England against young traders who are labouring most honestly in order to gain their livelihood; and more also, and what is worse, many of them have been imprisoned for debts which they did not owe. With regard to the merchant Postmaster, none expected better of him, being trained amongst the "boobies" race at Fernando Po. Consul Livingstone, who appointed him as a temporary Postmaster, when he was about to leave for England, expressly ordered that the Post-office duties should be performed within the Government-house. It happened that Consul Livingstone died whilst proceeding to England, on the voyage. The Postmaster having heard of his death, at once removed the Post

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1874.

SUBSCRIPTION PAID.

An Old Subscriber, Gambia

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FORGERIES ON THE WEST COAST.

THE forger has, we regret to say, been again busy on the West Coast. Some years ago, while steam communication between the West Coast and England was in its infancy, and consequently slow and infrequent, forged bills of lading, and other forged documents, from the West Coast were far from being unknown in England—so far, indeed, from being unknown that, except in the hands of merchants of position and character, it was not considered at all safe to make advances on them. With more rapid communication between Great Britain and the West Coast, the forger, having no longer time in his favour, seemed to have disappeared altogether, and we hoped and believed that he had done so; but a recent fact proves that he had not; and that, although his difficulties had been greatly increased, he might still practise his nefarious trade with temporary success. On the arrival of the steamer Africa from the West Coast ports, early in September, we received a document brought by her, purporting to be a bill of lading of eight puncheons of palm oil, shipped by the Elmina at Bonny, and consigned to us; as also another document, purporting to be a cash order for 621., signed by the purser of the Elmina. It soon appeared that no such oil had ever been shipped on the Elmina; that the initials appended, purporting to be those of Capt. Rattray, were forged; and that the signature of the draft, purporting to be that of Mr. F. Purser, the purser of the Elmina, was also a forgery. The bill of lading stated that the oil was shipped at Bonny by W. W. Johnson. On consultation with Mr. F. Purser—being anxious, of course, to trace out the forger—we found that he had no difficulty in identifying the writing as that of a West African who embarked on board the Elmina at Fernando Po, with expressed destination to Sierra Leone; but whom Mr. F. Purser recognized as being one Shepherd, who had been convicted of forgery some time ago at Lagos. Shepherd, *alias* Johnson, left the steamer at Jellah Coffee, instead of going up to Sierra Leone; and Mr. Purser very thoughtfully sent some intimation on shore as to the character and identity of this new addition to the Jellah Coffee community; but the villain was rapid in his movements. He appears to have gone on at once to Quitta, and there succeeded in obtaining advances on the forged documents above mentioned. They were then sent on to us from Quitta as valuable ones, which they purported to be, and were believed to be. We entertain no doubt whatever that, having succeeded in robbing our correspondent, he found some excuse for leaving Quitta without delay—possibly, and indeed probably, by the very steamer, the Africa, which was bringing the forgeries to us. The forged bill of lading we returned by the next steamer from England to our correspondent, who had sent it to us. The forged draft we placed in the hands of Mr. F. Purser, purser of the Elmina, which left Liverpool on the 19th inst., who, by permission of the Board of Directors of the African Steamship Company, kindly promised to use every effort for stopping the criminal career of this Shepherd or Johnson, or whatever he may be now calling himself, on the West Coast. We should not have given this publicity to the deeds of the forger if our journal had been going out also by the Elmina; but as that steamer will be a fortnight in advance of the September number of the *African Times*, we record the facts, with the hope of preventing other innocent and unsuspecting people being im-

posed upon by him; and also that some of our readers may recognize him, and be instrumental in putting a stop, for a time at least, to his career of crime. The wide publicity given to matters reported by our journal, may not unreasonably be expected to produce this result, as it will be the duty of any and every one of our readers who may identify this Shepherd or Johnson in their community, to give information to all around them of the criminal course which he has hitherto pursued; so that every possible obstacle may be placed in the way of his making further victims.

ACCRA GAOL AND YARD.

WE have received a long letter, complaining of the gross irregularities, and other matters of just complaint, in the management and supervision of Accra Gaol. The evils chiefly complained of are said to arise principally through the unfitness of the gaoler for the post he occupies. It is stated that the prisoners—both debtor and criminal (and all seem to us, by the account given, to be huddled together)—are always intending to report him to the Commandant; but that the Commandant had not, when our informant wrote, made any visit of inspection to the gaol for above two and a-half months. This is said to have given such a feeling of irresponsibility to the gaoler, that he has greatly abused his position, ordering and, above all, permitting things which reflect great disgrace on the authorities. Among other things, the water seems to be brought by convicts from Usher Fort for the supply of the prisoners; and the supply which ought to be for the use of the prisoners, is given away to friends of the gaoler, while the debtors and criminal prisoners are dying with thirst. The debtor prisoners, it is said, cannot get water to drink from the Government tank, but it has to be purchased by or for them, the charge being one shilling for a pot of good water and threepence for *blackish*; and that, as it is impossible they should continue to be thus supplied, either at their own expense or that of their creditors, it may be expected that they will, many of them, really perish through want of water, as they cannot, moreover, get any with which to wash themselves, which will certainly tend rapidly to loathsome sickness and death. Our informant asks whether, under the law of imprisonment for debt, it is intended that the debtors shall be brought into the gaol to be killed; or whether they are supposed to be lodged there in order to induce them to pay their debts? Criminal prisoners, who may be able to pay in money or rum, are further stated to be allowed the most shamefully licentious indulgences. We must say that if a tithe of what our informant writes—details of which we cannot possibly give—be true, the negligence of the superior authorities has led to most cruel and disgraceful evils, which call for immediate action on the part of the Commandant; or, if he continue to neglect his duty in this respect, on the part of the Governor, Captain Strahan, who, as we have understood, effected a great reform in the Gaol of Lagos by his visits to that establishment and the abuses he there corrected. We are not dealing here with the question of imprisonment for debt; and it must not be for one moment considered, because we call for reform in the system of treatment of debtor prisoners, as well as that of criminal prisoners, that we have therefore fallen away from our often expressed conviction, that imprisonment for debt, as debt, is an abomination that ought not to be permitted longer to exist in any dependencies of the British Crown. That conviction was a conviction on principle; and to it we immovably adhere.

VINDICATION OF THE HON. GEORGE BLANKSON.

It is scarcely necessary to say that it was with us a foregone conclusion, that the absurd charge of treason brought against the Hon. George Blankson, at a period of great popular excitement in Fanti, would not bear the test of judicial examination. We were scarcely prepared, however, for anything so flimsy, unsubstantial, and mythical, as the whole thing appears to have been. We had fancied there might have been some misconstrued action, the entire innocence of

which would be immediately made manifest on inquiry; but that, when called upon to state on what that charge was founded, everybody in any way mixed up with the rumour in which it originated should shrink from tendering any evidence whatever in justification, is certainly calculated to excite surprise, if not to confirm the supposition we hazarded at the time, that malevolence, which did not hesitate to play with the life of an honourable man, was at the bottom of the whole affair. Mr. Blankson has published an account of the judicial investigation undertaken at Cape Coast by Mr. Marshall, the Chief Magistrate—and we congratulate him on having done so—that every one who cares to read,* may see for themselves that the charge, which had nearly cost him his life in an outburst of popular frenzy, was but “the baseless fabric” of a spectre conjured up by malice or by fear. For one who had occupied such a position as that enjoyed by the Hon. George Blankson, it was indispensable that there should be some published record of a judicial investigation, that sets for ever at rest the unsubstantial but perilous charge which rendered it necessary for the British authorities to imprison him during several months in Cape Coast Castle, as the only way in which his life could be saved from the violence of a people infuriated by disaster and suffering; and in that state easily to be goaded to the most lamentable excesses. The Government would find it difficult to give any adequate compensation for Mr. Blankson's sufferings; but we think it is incumbent on them to pay him the full amount of the value of any property of his that may have been destroyed under the fearful circumstances, from the extremest possible evils of which, he so narrowly but so happily escaped, by his six months' incarceration.

THE NEW GOLD COAST GOVERNMENT AT JELLAH COFFEE AND QUITTA.

It is not necessary we should remind our readers that we have for a long time advocated an extension of Gold Coast jurisdiction to the eastern side of the River Volta, throughout those territories formerly ceded to the British Government by that of Denmark. There were many reasons, and very serious ones, why this was imperatively called for. Because the Fort at Quitta got into grievous disrepair some ten years ago, the small detachment of West India troops until that time stationed there was withdrawn. The natives then fell gradually under the influence of Ashanti, with whom they formed alliance; and to whom they were of essential use in the supply of arms and munitions of war, as well as of many useful articles. We dare not say much about the slave sales of boys and girls which they also made there, seeing that similar atrocities were permitted at Cape Coast, where the British Government had its chief seat of authority. Having an immunity from the import duties which were levied at all the ports on the western side of the Volta by the British authorities, these trans-Volta districts enjoyed advantages in trade, which led to the settlement of not a few traders there. The accounts which reached us from time to time were of a very unsatisfactory nature; strongly elucidating that, however satisfactory these trading operations in native territory might be to men or firms whomade themselves powerful, and could sufficiently bribe the native kings and chiefs, they were far from being so to the weaker traders, who, when wronged (and this was of but too frequent occurrence), were entirely at their mercy, and almost hopeless of obtaining redress. It was with the extension of British authority, occupation, and rule to these districts, as recognized integral portions of the new Gold Coast Colony. It would have been unfair to the countries west of the Volta, that they should be subject to heavy import duties on certain articles, while their neighbours on the east side of that river, and trading with the same people in the interior, were free from such duties. We naturally expected that the imposition of duties at Jellah Coffee, Quitta, &c., would at first cause some dissatisfaction; but we believed this would be but transient, and that counterbalancing advantages derived from the presence of British authority, if

that authority were judiciously exercised, would soon reconcile all the hitherto oppressed and wronged; whatever it might do with the oppressors and wrongdoers, who would naturally dislike the curb thus placed in their mouths, to restrain them in the indulgence of their unjust greediness. The first account we have received of proceedings in the Court of the British Civil Commandant, fully justifies the expectations we entertained. We do not know anything of the parties concerned, or of the merits of the dispute between them. All we can see is, that the one who had been placed in log by native authority, has had judgment in his favour by the British Commandant after a patient hearing; and that the decision was received with joy by the natives, who felt grateful to the Queen for having sent her authority among them. It is not difficult to understand this. The native courts everywhere are well understood to be subservient to those who can pay best, as against those who cannot afford to pay. The weak find little or no protection in them; and the change from this to the decision in a British court, in cases where there cannot, by any possibility, be a suspicion or charge of undue partiality on the part of the magistrate or judge, must commend itself to the public sentiment. We feel that there must be a great arrear of unredressed wrong, of postponed justice, in these trans-Volta seaports; and we expect to hear of many other cases not essentially differing from that of Bruce v. Williams. There are not any powerful English firms there, whose influence might be supposed, as sometimes at Cape Coast and Lagos, to warp and bias the mind of the presiding judicial authority; and we have, therefore, every reason to expect decisions in disputed cases, which will give general satisfaction; together with a feeling of security on the part of the weaker members of the community, which will be well worth the payment of regulated Customs' duties, and be, indeed, thus very cheaply purchased. All that will be wanting there, as in the older settlements, will be the occasional visits of a Circuit Judge, who would correct any error into which the local authority may have fallen. We rejoice over this extension of British authority among the sea-coast populations between the River Volta, and the territory of Dahomey, and look for a great tide of prosperity, and advance of civilization in those districts.

THE COMPLAINTS FROM OLD CALABAR.

THE War on the Gold Coast, from the period of the crossing of the Prah by the invading Ashantees twenty months ago, and the Parliamentary and other public and official proceedings connected with it, and with the establishment of the new Gold Coast Colony, with coast extension over the old coast line purchased by Great Britain in time past from Denmark, have so occupied our columns, that we could not find time or space for a number of complaints of wrongs endured, and evil deeds committed in Native and British territories on the West Coast. If any of our readers have interpreted that comparative absence of complaints, as indicating that the West Coast was becoming an Arcadia, it is time that we dissipate the illusion by giving printed utterance to some of those denunciations and groans, perhaps too long suppressed by us. Of these, some will be found in the letters from Old Calabar inserted in our present number. These are not the first we have had touching the matters of which they complain; and perhaps it is scarcely necessary for us to say that we have greatly modified and softened them in publication. Half-educated West Africans who have wrongs and abuses to expose, seem to be under the impression that we have unlimited power to hold up individuals by name to public obloquy or condemnation, upon the mere statement of one, two, or three of their number—persons of whom we, perhaps, know little or nothing. We wish them to understand, once for all, that this is by no means the case. In the first place, our conscience would not permit us thus to attack or expose any individual, without the most incontrovertible evidence of the exact and unexaggerated truth of the prejudicial statements thus made—evidence which could not be said to be thus furnished. In the second place, we must inform them that there are very stringent laws of libel,

* See pamphlet advertised on page 35.

which we have no desire to violate, and never will intentionally violate,—laws, any infringement of which on our part would involve us in pecuniary sacrifices which we cannot afford to make, and which, we fear, the people of the West Coast would never reimburse us for if we did make them. With this preface, we call attention to those letters above referred to, and to other statements of similar character from other places that may appear now and from time to time in our columns. Both these Old Calabar complaints, which are not made to us now for the first time, are very serious ones—one of them in a moral and religious, and the other in a social point of view. We know that there is no portion of the self-imposed duties of our Missionary Societies to which they attach more importance, than the selection of fit and proper persons to carry on the great and inexpressibly important work of Evangelization among the heathen. When, therefore, complaints reach us of misconduct on the part of any of these messengers of the Gospel of truth and light, and purity and peace, we are by no means ready or willing to receive or credit them. We are but too willing to believe that there may be personal spite or exaggeration, or, at the worst, possibly some momentary lapse, which—however much to be regretted and deplored, because of the evil repute it may bring upon the holy work with which they are connected, and the hindrance it may place in the way of reception of those good tidings they are commissioned to proclaim—all human instruments are, unhappily, liable to. It is only when, as in this case of Old Calabar, we find reiterated statements of persistence in evil that, as now, we reluctantly decide to give them partial publicity. We had rather confine ourselves to the transmission of the statements to head-quarters—a course which we have in this present case pursued simultaneously with this publication—giving the transmitted statement full and complete, as we have received it, that those whose duty it is may institute without delay the necessary inquiries; if they find the statements to be well founded, may apply the proper remedy, and if they find the charges unjust, may vindicate in our columns (which are always open for such a purpose) the character and conduct that have been impugned. The other complaints, which refer to the conduct of agents, supercargoes, and European clerks of the great British firms trading with the River in question, and who have hulks stationed there for the carrying on of their trade—and which we have said are important in a social point of view—are more difficult to deal with in every way. We know by long experience that it is utterly useless to forward such complaints, with the charges they directly or indirectly contain, to the merchant employers of those agents, supercargoes, and clerks. These persons are sent out to the West Coast by their employers to make money—so to perform the duties with which they are charged, that they may be profitable to their employers. Whether they are so or not, is a question with which we have not any concern. The charges to which we give publicity are to the effect, that they use undue, oppressive, and what we should characterize as almost criminal means, for preserving to themselves and their principals a monopoly of the trade. It has long been widely known that they are not over-scrupulous, on the score of justice and humanity, in the means which they employ with this object, and in frustrating as far as possible every effort of Sierra Leone traders to purchase oil and ship it to England. But our Sierra Leone friends should bear in mind that these people have organized the trade there, at great expense and risk, at a time when there were not any West Coast native traders in a position to make even the slightest effort to do this; and that they cannot be expected to relinquish what they have thus organized, so long as it can be carried on profitably by them, without a struggle. That struggle, however, must be restrained within such limits, that it shall not infringe the rights of other British subjects to carry on their trade without let or hindrance. The great merchants represented by these European agents, supercargoes, and clerks, could not carry on their business there, without leaning on the protection and influence of Her Majesty's Government; which has always been ready to insist with the native kings and chiefs on the redress of any wrong done to

them and their trade; and it will certainly be one of our objects to make that protection and influence efficacious for West African native traders, as it is for them—and even to procure that the same power and influence shall be used against them, for this purpose, if necessary, through their overstepping those limits within which trade struggles everywhere should be restrained. The advantage they have over all others by their stocks of goods ready for barter, their power of giving credit, and their hulks ready to receive oil to be trans-shipped for England by steamer or otherwise, ought in themselves to be sufficient to secure for them all that they can be in any way entitled to, without their resorting to unjustifiable and oppressive measures against their weak opponents, who may be striving to obtain a livelihood. Our complainants, however, go further than the mere complaint about wrongs done to them. They carry the war into the enemy's quarters by insinuating that they are dishonest in their dealings with their employers in England—unworthy of the confidence of those employers; and that the latter would obtain much better results in their operations if they would engage these West Coast educated natives, principally from Sierra Leone, as their clerks and agents. We have nothing to do with the first portion of this insinuation; the question there is entirely between the European agents, supercargoes, and clerks, and their employers; who, no doubt, believe they have good grounds for regarding them as faithful and dependable. But with respect to the latter insinuation or recommendation, that Sierra Leoneans should be employed instead; and that their employment would give the merchants much better results, we are sorry, indeed, to feel compelled to say that we are not able at present to endorse it. That such *ought* to be the case, is incontrovertible, but there must be a great change before we could feel a conviction that such *would* be the case. With sorrow and shame, we feel constrained to admit that, as a general rule, they have not established a reputation such as would encourage a feeling of confidence and trust in them. There are men among them who shed a lustre on their race for commercial probity, and the possession of those qualities which elevate a trading community; but these are the exceptions, not the rule. Had it not been so, there would at this time be few, if any, Europeans employed on the West Coast. The Sierra Leoneans have so great an advantage over them for service there, that all that is wanting among European merchants is *confidence in them*, to lead to their almost exclusive employment. Greatly, indeed, do we desire that they may speedily inspire that confidence; but until they do we cannot hope to see them in the chief positions of trust on the West Coast. We may, in a future article, enter into the question of what has led to the feelings of distrust in them which now so much prevail; and the degree in which these feelings are just or unjust. Justified though they may be in many respects by facts, we do not hesitate to state that they are not entirely so; and that the subordinate West African, has been but too often made the scape-goat for European delinquents.

MURDER OF TWO FRENCH EXPLORERS IN AFRICA.

The Geographical Society of Paris have received further details respecting the murder of MM. Dournaux-Dapéré and Joubert by deserters of the Chamba tribe, which add little to what was already known. It would appear that, when about seven days' journey from Ghadamés, they were met by seven persons who declared they were perishing from hunger, and asked their hospitality. Their account seemed so satisfactory that, after their being furnished with food, they were admitted into the caravan, when suddenly, taking advantage of an unguarded moment, the new comers threw themselves upon MM. Dupéré and Joubert, and their servant Ahmed-ben-Zerna, and murdered them. The Chambas then stripped them of their clothes and carried off all their property, with the exception of a few printed European books which they had left upon the ground. The account was brought back to Ghadamés by the camel-drivers—witnesses of the murder, who were spared by the assassins as neutrals. Had the unfortunate travellers not fallen victims to the Chambas, it is most probable they would never have reached the end of their journey, as a band of ten Tuareg Huggars were also on their track, but turned back when they heard the Chambas had effected their purpose. The guide Nabéur-ben-Rittahur, who had arranged

their murder with the Chambas, had been sent to prison by the caimacan of Ghadamés previous to their departure, his bad faith having been discovered by the travellers. It appears that the caimacan of Ghadamés had entreated them to desist from their journey to Ghât. Notwithstanding this catastrophe, another exploration of the Sahara towards Timbuctoo is being organized by M. Largea, of Geneva.—*Academy*.

AFRICAN EXPLORATION.

BERLIN, Sept. 4.—The African Exploration Society of this city is fitting out a second expedition to the interior of Africa. Herr Alexander von Hormayer, the well-known ornithologist, will be the leader of the expedition, and will go from Saint Paul de Loanda by way of Kassimbe to Moatto Jamba.

NOTES FOR HISTORY.—ORIGIN OF ASHANTI INVASION OF 1873-4.

Copy of Letter from Mr. Jos. Dawson, British Government Agent, detained Prisoner in Kumasi.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Kumasi, May 14, 1873.

Sir,—Your philanthropic labour for Africa and her people, but especially the interest you have exhibited towards us people on the Gold Coast, impels me not to withhold my pen from aiding that preservation of the history of our country which your heaven-born labour undertakes; praying at the same time that you will not deny me a space in your next number for the enclosed address, especially as it bears, I believe, the same burden as your indefatigable anxieties.

That of the Gold Coast being invaded by the people of the kingdom, from the capital of which I now write, your correspondents on the Coast must have undoubtedly, ere this time, have acquainted you, and perhaps given you some particular accounts from that side. I think, therefore, a few lines from this side will not be unwelcome to your readers.

The world will doubtless like to know the cause of the invasion; and perhaps also wonder at it when they have known it to be groundless.

The cause is apparently and superficially laid on a groundless tale made up, as being sent by the Administrator-in-Chief, about twelve months ago, that he sent to specify time (four months) of his coming to take away the power from the King of Ashanti, since he has taken Elmina and dependencies, even sending him a gold ring off his finger as a token of it; and in addition to which, the conveyer of this message, when interpreting a letter of the then Acting-Administrator, respecting the price he was willing to pay for the redemption of the white captives, had said in a disrespectful manner that "the Governor will pay nothing more than a thousand pounds, and if you do not allow my going to the Coast with the white captives, as soon as I cross the frontier river, Pra, to the British grounds, all communications to the Coast will be closed, and war declared against the kingdom." The Ashantees, therefore, would not wait to defend, but took the offensive part.

On the 14th of December last I met the vanguard of his forces at a village within three and a-half hours from the capital, so that I reached in time enough, and might have saved the young King from the great loss he has now sustained for no earthly benefit, if I had got him to yield to my persuasions. "No, as the young here," said he, "are wishful to see, so the young on the other side," he believed, "are wishful to see wonders."

After my three private interviews with him, he promised me a chance to communicate his grievances, but it was not given before the first battle, which, from accounts brought, was on Monday, the 3rd of March, within six days to three months of their leaving Kumasi. The news of the battle reached on the 20th, by messengers almost from all the chiefs, seven sword-bearers, with one prisoner, who was caught on the day after the battle. The news being sad, and contrary to the expectation of every one, there were only murmurings against the uncalled-for war, and the strong-headedness of the present king, and painful remembrance of their late king. The messengers were not allowed to mention the names of the killed. In the streets you found two and two standing, talking about the sadness of the news; and you heard that in a house where twenty started, if half-a-dozen return to it, they shall bless their God.

I was told privately that there were more than a thousand fell on that day. Now, such a gap being made in his camp, and seeing how bravely his armies were opposed, he deemed it a proper reason to have me called and asked to write to the Governor of his having no war with him and the Fantees, but only with the Denkeras, Assins, and Akims, whose return back from the Protectorate to submit themselves to his power, would be the only way to appease him.

Here, he thought people on the Coast are not aware of the old deceitful policy, and would, by hearing of his having no war

with them, withdraw themselves, and leave him to deal with the above-mentioned tribes as he pleased, that he may then turn against them afterward.

However, this was providential, that I had the chance to communicate; and it is no doubt, the issue of the first battle being conveyed to the forces of the Protectorate stimulated them, that the Ashantees could not in any way match them in the second battle; and if it had been in a nice open field, and not in forest, they might have made an entire end of the Ashantees. An Ashanti friend, in private conversation with me, said, "Without an excessive drinking intoxicating liquor, one cannot live very well now in Kumasi, but still we will hold on,"—referring this to the sadness of the news. One becomes, therefore, anxious to know the cause of this great loss of his people, and the depredation of the Protectorate towns, the Administrator-in-Chief having sent to say this or that is quite far from being the cause. There has been preparation for this invasion ever since the death of the late king, "Kucku Duah," but the interchange, and its entailing session of the Elmina forts and dependencies, stimulated and brought it about.

That the King of Ashanti was to have been very much benefited by the interchange, owing to his relationship with the Dutch Fantees, &c., is too true. The incredulous is forced to believe by the message of the then Dutch Elminas to the King of Ashanti on the occasion, "What your Majesty suffered the loss of many years ago are all to be restored,"—meaning the passing Denkeras, &c., into the hands of the Dutch Government. But the Fantees would not have this; war ensued, in consequence, between them and Dutch Fantees. The Dutch Fantees sent to implore the succour of the King of Ashanti, who, owing to the latter affair of Goyenim (*etc*) had not had a proper chance to obtain all the necessities for war, so as to get up at once to meet the favourable opportunity, by putting the Fantees between two fires, before and behind. However, as he could not start the armies of Ashanti immediately, he sent the Chief Akyempon, through Assinee, with only a few people, so as to try his way to Elmina to aid them; while he was trying every stratagem to have himself supplied with all necessities to enable him to head his forces in the main road. Another hindrance also to the immediate start was that war between Dompere and the Akommo, which the Ashantees joined; and in which, to his great delight, although with very heavy loss, he obtained four European captives, through whom he had the chance of communication with the Governor, and pretended the peace by which he fully supplied himself for the present invasion. But he found the affairs altered in the Protectorate; he found himself late; first to come on account of the Dutch Fantees against the English, as the Elminas who sought his succour had passed quietly to the British Government, which protects their opponents so that they have become one body under one flag. Akyempon, who had safely got to Elmina, has been put out of it to Assinee to go to Kumasi. Secondly, he could not come on account of Gyenin again, since he has sent to say "to let the bygones be bygones, and to commence afresh," and now being ready again for invasion on account of Gyenin, and also to recover Elmina's relationship as to disunite them from the English Fantees, fearing that, now having become united, he could not get the necessary aid the Ashantees had of them before when he invaded; he put in mind to seek occasion, because he cooled his people down at the death of his late grand-uncle, only to prepare himself well; and now being ready, and elated with the flatterings of his people, giving him the appellation of "Great Warrior," and the making war a trade, being part of the oath prescribed to him by his people on the day he was throned; he and people were trying at this season to misconstrue the unguarded word of a messenger from the Protectorate, and make it an occasion for invasion. Now, being in this state, the Governor-General's or Administrator-in-Chief's Commissioner arrives with a proclamation of the session of the powers the Dutch possessed on the Coast to the British Government, which has given protection to Gyenin, in favour of the Fantees, their opponents. Ere this arrived, a letter from the Dutch Governor of Elmina, giving him notice of what is about to occur within four months' time, which letter was not opened until this day, the proclamation of the session having taken place, came to be read at the same time. Now, those who are acquainted with the Ashantees and their cross-questions have to judge how an unguarded mind may answer "Yes" alone, where much more explanation was necessary, and with the knowledge of the Administrator-in-Chief having sent no such message, being impossible to connect such message with that liberal stipend of doubling the amount the Dutch gave him, and especially being acquainted with the plot made ere the late king was interred, you would understand the charge being groundless or without foundation. Not touching the avaricious thirst after strength on the Coast of the Ashanti Power, which, like radiated turpitude, is never to be plucked up, the foundation of the present invasion is the case of Gyenin. They say the late king, Kucku Duah,

expired with the grief of it when the circumstance occurred, and as he could not get him sent back by the British Government, he convened a meeting of his chiefs, and informed them of an encroachment being made on the power of Ashanti, which demanded their serious consideration. "Now-a-days," said he, "when the oath of the kingdom is forfeited by any of you, and to escape the punishment you run away to the Protectorate for refuge, if I am to be denied of such one's return, it is for you to decide whether this kingdom will stand." These chiefs deliberated invasion, but the King was to wait a season. There and then got up his son, "Oroosoo Kokob," and swore that he would not wait, but he would start directly—at once to make such a deprecation in the Protectorate to the value of Gyenin; and if the white man (meaning the Governor of the Protectorate) be like a well-grounded palm-tree, that he shall not be able to unroot it up; he would break off its branches, equivalent to the value of Gyenin. This was the war of 1864. But this Prince did not satisfy the father; he was losing so many lives that the father's tender heart could not bear, that he was obliged to call him back. This closed the path of communication with the Coast, that they were thrown back in their preparation for stronger invasion. During the interval of this and the death of Kuku Duah, who in vain sought the opening of the path for free trade, and did it in such cunning way as not to expose the Ashanti full dependence on the Coast, there was no free trade, only petty trade on the frontier; and he died. While his corpse was lying on the bed, all the chiefs of provinces came to swear the oath of the kingdom to it, that they would not perform its obsequies (massacring persons for his accompaniment), but with the people of the Protectorate; since they have not avenged the unpardonable insult offered to him, which they know has caused his death. Here the present King, who, of course, had to supply necessities for it, not being ready, prayed and cooled them down till he was fully prepared. Now, at this season of preparation, the news of the interchange, embodied with so great interest in the favour of the Ashanti kingdom, reached Kumasi. The young King and his people hailed this with enthusiasm; without having recourse to arms, he is to have all that his grand-uncle sought for in vain—the return of tribes who have forsaken the kingdom, to its great hurt. The gods have done him this great favour, he thought, Gyenin also included, because he was placed under the care of the King of Denkeha, and now, all being transferred to the Dutch Government and people, his relatives, what joy! But this joy was very soon damped with very contrary news—not only the additional tribes lately added to be taken off back, but his rights, as he considered the Elminas, are entirely torn off from the ties of relationship with him. What does he care about the stipend being doubled, since the conquered right of his great-grand ancestor, Ossae Tutu, owing to the opposition of the very same Denkeras from whom this right was taken, being given back to him, he now sustains the loss of every right. "Now," as he thought, "on account of the root of Intsimdjakare, he sustaining the loss of what my great-grand ancestor, Ossae Tutu, conquered of him, will he not instigate the taking of Ashanti Power also, which was conquered of the very same root?" Connecting these circumstances, leaving aside the Ashanti Power's avaricious thirst after strength on the Coast, but taking first Gyenin, who escaped his punishment, being placed under the care of Kwarkefram, the King of Denkeha, owing to this very same man especially, whose ancestor's power was fed by the connection with the Elmina fort, an incident has occurred; the Elmina fort, or Dutch Fantees, have passed from his favourite friends to the Government which protects his opponents—circumstances which were never suspected. The Dutch Governor writes to give him notice of it; the English Administrator sends him proclamation of his having received all the power, &c., which the Dutch possessed. Combining these circumstances, Mr. Editor, with the envious feeling against the Protectorate, the Ashanti Power being always dependent on the Protectorate, the Ashantees thought it was high time to check the progress of encroachment on their power. But since he became well prepared for the invasion, he found the aspects of affairs altering very much against this opinion. He could not ground it on the account of Gyenin, since he had sent to inform the Administrator of the Protectorate to let the "by-gones be by-gones." The Elminas having now freely accepted the English flag, Akyempon, whom he sent to their succour, being sent out of Elmina, the English Government has taken the expense and trouble to bring him down from Cape Coast, and made ready to be sent to Kumasi. The only benefit he derives from the Dutch fort at Elmina—the stipend—is doubled for him. The Elmina never aided him with arms; hence, to ground this invasion on their account, when they have freely accepted their being united with the English Fantees, he could not. The opinions of some of his principal chiefs begin to incline against invasion, since they found the actions of the Administrators in general contrary to that of being enemies, especially one of them, saying publicly his consent to it, in the case of Akyempon being hurt

or detained, but he is quite prepared, and his bad advisers must hasten him to it, although Akyempon they had heard of being on the way with all his people; and since he must give reason for it to the British Government, which has given him no cause, the Government's envoy having carelessly said, "All communications to the Coast to be closed against the kingdom should be return without the white captives," was not sufficient ground for him; he must then turn and lay his reasons superficially and tamely on what he himself contradicted ere my having any interview at all with him, and in his letter to the Administrator, "Having no war with white man." If the Administrator's coming to take away power from the King of Ashanti has caused this invasion, why has he no war with white men? So if he has no war with the Fantees, why are Fanti free traders plundered of property, made fast in iron, and fed with pigs' food, and that very scantily? The world must now judge what has caused the lives of so many people. Strange association of occurrences: since they started, scores were drowned, tigers have been feasting on several, and those who have been sent to the interior frontier, lions have been playing a very bad game on, killing them by dozens in a day. But it is strange that none of these perils appear to move the young King to call his people back, notwithstanding their beggings to have them called, as they dare not come without, on account of the oath. I hope I shall have the chance again to write you. A pound of table-salt costs now more than five shillings. Three-pence worth I weighed to see, balanced with ten ackeys, gold weight.—I am, yours obediently,

(Signed)

Jos. Dawson.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

The Cottage, Fernando Po, August 8, 1874.

Sir,—A most brutal murder has been committed here at about 11 A.M. on Sunday last, the 2nd inst., just at the time the meeting of the United Methodists was dispersing, when a man, a native of Gaboon, and a subject of Spain, was stabbed to death instantaneously. This poor victim had been out in the morning to receive his wages from a Spanish gentleman, and returning home, report reached him of his wife being in a neighbouring house where some vicious acts were going on; he at once went to the very house and found things as reported. Filled with rage at such a disgraceful sight, he struck the man on the head with a hatchet; when another man, who has since been reported to be in a state of insanity, and one who had nothing to do with the affair, rushed in with a butcher's knife in his hand, and stabbed the man under the fifth rib with such violence that the poor fellow fell down and expired instantaneously. The sight was, indeed, a horrible one.

Much praise is due to the Spanish Government in this matter. No sooner did the report reach them than the authorities were on the spot; but too late for the Roman Catholic priest, who was almost the first to offer the usual ceremony, for the soul had taken its flight. However, the murderer was taken, together with the woman and another man, who are now in the lock-up, waiting for their trial.

Thus, you see, Mr. Editor, though the Primitive missionaries are trying their best to bring these benighted people into the light of the Gospel, yet still the devil, as a most powerful antagonist against religion, is hurrying away thousands to their untimely grave. We hope that our Government (the Spanish Government) here will make this fellow an example for the rest, so that each and every one will daily bear in mind, "Thou shalt do no murder"—a commandment too much broken here.—Believe me, Mr. Editor, to be, yours very truly,

CHARLES JOHN STONE.

EGYPT AND DARFUR.

An Alexandria correspondent writes, under date September 12: "Letters have been received from the Soudan, dated August 12. They mention that Colonel Gordon, with a portion of his staff, was at the mouth of the river Sobat occupied in constructing a fort, and forming at that spot the first establishment in a chain of posts towards the interior. The rest of his staff had gone on to Gondokoro, except one who had arrived at Khartoum, partly on account of sickness and partly as bearer of important despatches to the Khedive. On June 27, a few days after the battle with the troops of Darfur, the Governor-General of the Soudan left Khartoum for Kordofan, and it is stated that in the early part of August he would start for the frontier of Darfur. Troops and munitions of war were being continually forwarded from Khartoum to Kordofan, and everything indicated that the war against Darfur would be actively continued. We hear also from Cairo that troops and material of war are being sent to Sonakio. It may therefore be accepted as certain that an attempt will now be made by the Khedive to conquer and annex Darfur."

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

- The Ashanti War.* By Captain Henry Brackenbury. Two Vols., 8vo. William Blackwood and Sons.
The Story of the Ashantee Campaign. By Wenwood Reade. One Vol. Smith, Elder and Co.
Through Fantee Land to Coomassie. By Frederick Boyle. One Vol. Chapman and Hall.
The Heart of Africa. Two Vols. By Dr. George Schweinfurth. Translated by Ellen E. Frewer. Sampson Low and Co.

DEATH.

Died by drowning in the Lagos Bar, on Monday, the 20th July, whilst on his way homeward in the S.S. Africa, then in the Lagos roads, Tom John, commonly known as Captain John, a native of Freetown, Set: Kroo. He had been for fifteen years in the employ of Thomas F. Cole, Esq., merchant, and for fifteen years he served as a shipping agent. The deceased was considered the

best steersman for the Lagos Bar; and his loss is felt by his employer, his countrymen, and by the shipping portion of the community in general.

STRIKE IN THE POTTERIES.—Being unable to settle the dispute as to whether, during the winter months, they shall commence work at six and leave off at five, or begin at seven and leave off at six, the carpenters and joiners of the Staffordshire Potteries district are on strike. The hours of the men have but lately been reduced to fifty-four per week, and the wages raised from sixpence-halfpenny to sevenpence per hour.

THE CUSTOMS SERVICE ON THE GOLD COAST.—Mr. Malcolm Janson Brown, of the General Post Office, has, we learn from the *Globe*, been appointed by Lord Carnarvon, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to an important post on the West Coast of Africa. Mr. Brown has been one of Mr. Scudamore's principal assistants in the large undertakings which he has taken in hand.



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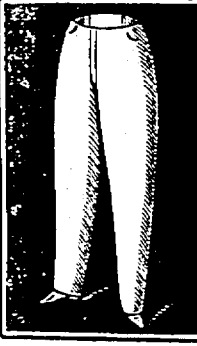
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