

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

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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.

NOVEMBER, 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 Noon on Nov. 6 and 20; and Parcels up to 6 P.M. on Nov. 6 and 20.

The Royal Mail Steamship VOLTA is intended to be dispatched from LIVERPOOL on the 7th NOVEMBER, for Madeira, Teneriffe, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Cape Palmas, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Jellah Coffee, Lagos, Benin, Bonny, Fernando Po, and Old Calabar.

The next departure is intended to be the Steamship SENEGAL, which will leave LIVERPOOL direct on the 21st NOVEMBER, 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 8.30 A.M. on Nov. 7, and 8.30 A.M. on Nov. 21.

The above Packets 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, LATCHLAND, and CO., 24, Oswald-street; and in Liverpool, to ELDER, DEMPSEY, and CO., 48, Castle-street.

WEST COAST MAIL STEAMERS.

ARRIVALS.

African Steamship Company's Steamer Ambriz, Oct. 11.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Benguela, Oct. 13.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Benin, Oct. 14.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Monrovia, Oct. 25.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Volta, Oct. 27.

DEPARTURES.

African Steamship Company's Steamer Africa, Oct. 3.
British and African S. N. Co.'s Steamer Bonny, Oct. 10.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Ambriz, Oct. 17.
British and African Steam Navigation Co.'s Steamer Benguela, Oct. 24.
African Steamship Company's Steamer Benin, Oct. 31.

WEST AFRICAN MAILS.

LIVERPOOL, October 14.—The African Royal Mail steamer Benin, D. A. Cook, commander, arrived in the Mersey to-day with mails and passengers from the West and South-west Coast of Africa. She brings 280 ounces of gold-dust. No news of importance.

LIVERPOOL.—The African Royal Mail Steamship Monrovia, Coward commander, with the mails, passengers, and 6,136l. 15s. 9d. in specie, arrived in the Mersey, on October 26, from the West Coast of Africa, Madeira, and Teneriffe. At most of the ports on the coast trade was good. The Monrovia's dates are—Opobo, the 15th of September, and Cape Coast Castle, 15th. At the latter place, health and trade were good. The Monrovia brings no news of any importance.

The British African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer Volta, arrived in the Mersey, on October 27.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER AMBRIZ.

Mr. T. M. Reathenbarrow, from Fernando Po; Mr. A. Van de Geer, Old Calabar; Mr. A. A. Birrell, Bonny; Mr. A. B. Rhodes, Little Popo; Captain Roberts, Lagos; Miss Scott, Cape Palmas; Lieut. Barnes, Cape Coast Castle; Mr. R. A. Sherman, Monrovia; Mr. R. Shiers, Dr. Wright, Mr. J. Sinclair, and Mr. G. Allen, Sierra Leone; Mr. A. River and D. Jose Zamoran, Grand Canary; and Mr. and Mrs. Lelly, Madeira.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER BENGUELA.

Mr. A. Ellis and Mr. Russell, from Bonny; Mr. H. Kaupman and Mr. R. Smith, Cape Coast Castle; Mr. and Mrs. Wawn, Captain Granby, Mr. H. W. Pratt, Sierra Leone.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER BENIN.

Mr. R. S. Stewart, from St. Paul de Loanda; Mr. J. A. Bennett, Kinsebo; Mr. S. Miguel Real, Eloby; Mr. J. R. R. Cessford, Cameroon; Mr. G. Nye, Little Popo.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER MONROVIA.

Captain Stewart and Mr. M. Matheson, from Sierra Leone.

ARRIVALS PER STEAMER VOLTA.

Mr. Roger, from Fernando Po; Mr. Goosey, Mr. Landen, Mr. Lyon, Mr. Rimmer, Mr. Kendall, Bonny; Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Wadison, Mr. Batho, Mr. Wilks, Lagos; Mr. Carter, Sierra Leone; Mr. Seeley, Madeira.

LOSS OF THE BRITISH AND AFRICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S STEAMER LIBERIA, IN APRIL LAST.

"The Sultan's yacht, Deerhound, was at Aden; the monsoon blowing so strong on the coast, it was deemed prudent to leave her there till the monsoon was over. She encountered a terrific gale on her passage out, in the Bay of Biscay, lost bulwarks and all things secured on deck. She was only fifteen miles from the African Mail steamer Liberia, when the latter foundered with all hands."—*Natal Mercury* (August Summary).

LONDON GAZETTE, October 9, 1874.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint William Warren Streeten, Esq., to be Queen's Advocate for Her Majesty's Settlement of Sierra Leone, on the Western Coast of Africa.

CONSUL AT SIERRA LEONE FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

We have received copy of a document from the Secretary of State's Office at Washington, to the effect that William H. Randall, Esq., of the firm of Randall and Fisher, of Sierra Leone, has been appointed Consul of the Government of the United States for that colony.

REVENUE RETURNS OF WEST AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

A Parliamentary Blue-book has just now been issued, from which it appears that the revenue from Sierra Leone last year amounted to 92,103l. 9s. 5d., and the expenditure to 89,808l. Governor Berkeley, in his report, dated the 23rd of June last, states that the year 1873 will ever be memorable in the annals of the West Coast of Africa, in consequence of the invasion of the Ashantee forces. At Lagos, the principal medium of communication with the interior, which had been closed for eighteen months, was opened about the middle of the year, and a large and steadily increasing trade has been carried on. A large demand was made upon the resources of the settlement for supplies of all descriptions for the use of the Gold Coast Expedition, and the price of labour and provisions had increased.

ASHANTI WAR.—It is stated that the Victoria Cross has been conferred upon Captain Sartorius for active and zealous service during the Ashanti campaign.

NEWS FROM THE GOLD COAST.

CAPE COAST CASTLE, September 15.—Mr. Strahan, the newly-appointed Administrator of the Gold Coast, took the oaths of office on the 11th inst., and the new charter was publicly read. Dr. Gouldbury has been sent on a mission to Denkers to obtain the release of the Ashanti prisoners, the King of that country having refused to deliver them. A force, composed of fifty Housas, was sent with the mission, and a fine of thirty ounces was imposed on the King. The mission has returned, having proved entirely successful. The Whydah natives are in revolt against the King of Dahomey, and refuse any longer to serve under his rule.

CAPE COAST CASTLE, September 21.—The rupture at Whydah has been temporarily settled, the King's party having the best of it. The affair has not had any effect on trade. Parties of traders from Beecush and Cotane are in the town, but they bring but little gold-dust, their object being to purchase native-made salt. King Koffee is still endeavouring to recover the revolted tribes to their allegiance, but with no success. Captain C. C. Lees, Lieutenant-Governor, left yesterday for Lagos. The health of the Coast is improving.

COURTS' (COLONIAL) JURISDICTION.

The following has been published, by command of Lord Carnarvon, in the *Gold Coast Gazette*, No. 36, August 29th, 1874:—

An Act to regulate the Sentences imposed by Colonial Courts where jurisdiction to try is conferred by Imperial Acts.

WHEREAS by certain Acts of Parliament jurisdiction is conferred on Courts in Her Majesty's Colonies to try persons charged with certain crimes or offences, and doubts have arisen as to the proper sentences to be imposed upon conviction of such persons; and it is expedient to remove such doubts:

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as The Courts' (Colonial) Jurisdiction Act, 1874.

2. For the purposes of this Act,—

The term "colony" shall not include any places within the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, but shall include such territories as may for the time being be vested in Her Majesty by virtue of an Act of Parliament for the Government of India, and any plantation, territory, or settlement situate elsewhere within Her Majesty's dominions, and subject to the same local Government; and for the purposes of this Act, all plantations, territories, and settlements under a central Legislature shall be deemed to be one colony under the same local Government.

3. When, by virtue of an Act of Parliament now or hereafter to be passed, a person is tried in a court of any colony for any crime or offence committed upon the high seas or elsewhere out of the territorial limits of such colony and of the local jurisdiction of such court, or if committed within such local jurisdiction made punishable by that Act, such person shall, upon conviction, be liable to such punishment as might have been inflicted upon him if the crime or offence had been committed within the limits of such colony and of the local jurisdiction of the court, and to no other, anything in any Act to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that if the crime or offence is a crime or offence not punishable by the law of the colony in which the trial takes place, the person shall, on conviction, be liable to such punishment (other than capital punishment) as shall seem to the court most nearly to correspond to the punishment to which such person would have been liable in case such crime or offence had been tried in England.

GOLD COAST PROCLAMATIONS.

By His Excellency George Cumine Strahan, Captain Royal Artillery, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony.

WHEREAS Her Majesty Queen Victoria has been graciously pleased to issue a Charter under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom bearing date the twenty-fourth day of July One thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, re-roking so much of the Commission (also under the Great Seal) dated the nineteenth day of February, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, as provides for the government of Her Majesty's Settlements on the Gold Coast, and of Lagos; and constituting those Settlements into a separate Colony, under the title of the Gold Coast Colony, and making provision for the government of the said Colony, and respecting the powers and functions of the Governor thereof:

And, whereas Her Majesty has been further graciously pleased to issue a Commission, also under the Great Seal, bearing date the twenty-fifth day of July, One thousand eight hundred and

seventy-four, appointing me Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony aforesaid, with all the powers and authorities given in and by the hereinbefore recited Charter of the twenty-fourth day of July, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and the instructions under Her Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet accompanying the same, and such further instructions as may hereafter be given to me by Her Majesty, under her sign manual and signet, or by order of Her Majesty in her Privy Council, or through one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and according to such laws as are now or shall hereafter be in force in the said Colony:

And whereas Her Majesty has been pleased, in and by her said last-mentioned Charter and Instructions accompanying the same, to direct that the said Charter should be read and proclaimed within her said respective Settlements on the Gold Coast and of Lagos; and also that I should, in her Settlement on the Gold Coast, take the oaths directed to be taken in and by the aforesaid Instructions:

Now I do hereby proclaim and make known the aforesaid Charter of the twenty-fourth day of July, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, to all whom it may concern, and I do further proclaim and make known to all whom it may concern, that I have this day, at Cape Coast Castle, in the Settlement on the Gold Coast, caused to be read and published the aforesaid Charter, and have taken the oaths required to be taken by me as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Gold Coast Colony; and that all Officers and Ministers, civil and military, and all others the Inhabitants of the Gold Coast Colony, are enjoined and required to be obedient, aiding, and assisting unto me, the lawful Representative of Her Majesty in the execution of Her Majesty's aforesaid Charter Commission and Instructions, and of the powers and directions therein respectively contained, and to obey all lawful orders and commands I may give as such Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Given at Government House, Cape Coast Castle, this eleventh day of September, in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and of Her Majesty's Reign the thirty-eighth.

By His Excellency's Command,

FOSTER FOSTER, Acting Colonial Secretary.

God Save the Queen!

By His Excellency George Cumine Strahan, Captain, Royal Artillery, Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast.

WHEREAS it is expedient to prohibit the importation into the Settlement and Protected Territories on the Gold Coast of arms and munitions of war:

Now, therefore, be it known to all whom it may concern that, by virtue of the powers in us vested, we have prohibited, and do hereby prohibit, all persons whomsoever importing into the said Settlement and Protected Territories, as also from selling, bartering, giving, or transferring, in any manner of way, on the waters, rivers, and estuaries thereof, all arms, ammunition, and warlike stores of every and whatsoever description, excepting only such arms, ammunition, or warlike stores as may be specially authorized to be imported for the use of Her Majesty's Forces or of the Colonial Government.

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

FOSTER FOSTER, Acting Colonial Secretary.

August 14, 1874.

God Save the Queen!

By His Excellency George Cumine Strahan, Captain, Royal Artillery, Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast.

WHEREAS doubts may have arisen, or may arise, whether or how far lead bars are, or should be, considered or dealt with as ammunition or munitions of war, and it is proper that such doubts should be removed:

Now, therefore, all persons are hereby notified that lead bars are and shall be deemed and taken to be ammunition and munitions of war, and that the importation thereof into the Settlement and Protected Territories on the Gold Coast has been and is prohibited, excepting such limited quantities as may be allowed to be imported for industrial purposes under special permit for the importation thereof first obtained from the Collector of Customs at Cape Coast.

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

FOSTER FOSTER, Acting Colonial Secretary.

August 20, 1874.

God Save the Queen!

LAW AND JUSTICE, AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, September 20, 1874.

Sir,—We were, indeed, thankful to you for the observations and suggestions made by you to Lord Carnarvon relative to this unfortunate Protectorate, and only deplore they have not had their proper effect. Justice, in particular, is a mere mockery under the present system. A circuit Judge is the true remedy. It is impossible for Judges out here to administer justice without prejudice while they are continually feasted by the agents of mercantile houses. It is generally at these festivities that the agents take advantage of their hospitality, and initiate and discuss matters which ought not to be spoken of except in the open court.

As to modifying the Jury laws, we refer you to what Sir William Hackett said before the Committee of 1845; and therefore pray that you will use your influence to restore to us trial by jury in civil causes. If the officers at Sierra Leone would kick and beat human beings as if they were beasts, (see Evidence before Parliamentary Committee, 1865), and were made to pay dearly for such indulgences, we do not see why the Gold Coast should be deprived of the privilege of jury, in consequence.

With regard to the Bankruptcy laws, the object sought in their abolition is to ruin the petty traders, so that the whole trade of the Coast may be in the hands of a few principal houses.

I had intended writing a long letter about this, but the steamer has come in suddenly, and I must put off what I want to say until another occasion.—Yours truly,

O.

CAPE COAST IMPROVEMENTS, AND NEWS FROM ASHANTI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Cape Coast, Sept. 26, 1874.

Sir,—You will be glad to hear that Governor Strahan, having formed a decided partiality for Cape Coast as the seat of Government for the Gold Coast Colony, is actively pursuing those measures which seem to him to be indispensable for removing from its atmosphere those elements of unhealthiness which have made it in the past so fatal to your countrymen, and so much interfered with efficiency in Administrative and Judicial Departments.

Under Governor Strahan's decided and inflexible will, Cape Coast is assuming an entirely new aspect; the filthy hole, for such indeed it was, with its odious smells and disgusting deposits, is now being converted into a wholesome and agreeable place; so much so, that one can now go through any parts of the town without stopping his nostrils, as was heretofore inevitable. The streets are now regularly cleaned; and large dust-bins are placed in convenient places to receive the refuse of every house or hut; and the natives are beginning to learn that cleanliness is the order of the day. "Light and air" seems to be the motto of the Chief of the Executive; consequently, all old huts are being knocked down and cleared away in different parts of the town, for the formation of wide, open streets. The hills all round Cape Coast are being cleared of bush, &c., which is being burned under the Governor's personal superintendence.

Meanwhile, an economy in the public expenditure, bordering on, if not actually arriving at, parsimony, is creating some discontent, which may lead to violent complaints. Houses are knocked down without the least regard to the poverty of the owners, and without commiseration or compensation.

The latest news from the interior is that King Koffee is to be deposed; and that negotiations are being opened with the royal family of Denkers—who were the ancient royal blood of Ashanti—to ascend the tottering throne of Ashanti. But every item of news from Ashantedom is to be taken with caution and reserve.—Yours truly,

FAMTER.

REFUSAL OF STEAMERS TO TAKE OIL ON BOARD FROM AFRICAN SHIPPERS AT THE OIL RIVERS.

We have received from Opobo copy of a letter addressed from that place to the managers of one of the steamship companies, with a strong expression of desire that we should insert it as an "advertisement," the cost of which the agents of the writers were instructed to pay to us. The subject-matter of complaint is the refusal of a steamship captain to receive on board oil that native African traders were desirous of shipping; and this not because he had not room for their oil on board, but solely because they were native African traders. They state that they went on board the steamer on its arrival and told the captain they had oil to ship, when he replied that he would not receive any from Africans, as the European sub-agent had requested him not to do so; finally, that the chief European instigator of this did not ship a cask of oil by that steamer, and that the steamer left without having her proper load. We have thought it better and more just to the complainants, as their object will be equally effected thereby, without any cost to them, to make this statement,

instead of inserting their letter; and at the same time to inform them that we wrote immediately on the subject to the said managers of the steamship company, who assured us that they would not lose a mail in instituting inquiries, and taking such measures as might be found necessary.

ASHANTI.

By M. BONNAT, LATE CAPTIVE IN KUMASI.

M. Bonnat, the French gentleman who was released from Kumasi by Sir Garnet Wolseley's capture of that place, after several years' detention there, has published articles lately in the French provincial journals relative to Ashanti and his captivity. From the last published—which gives a succinct account of the Ashanti invasion of the Protectorate, in which Sir Charles MacCarthy lost his life; and of subsequent proceedings up to and inclusive of the Ashanti invasion of Krepee in 1868, in which he renders due honour to the indomitable Krepee chief, Domprey, killed in the last battle fought with the retiring Ashantees—we extract the following, which will be read with much interest. After reciting how the Ashantees invaded Krepee, &c., he adds:—

"It was in this expedition that I was made prisoner, together with two missionaries and one lady belonging to the Basle Mission.

"The capture of a large number of slaves, the plunder of the missionary establishments and of my small factory, far from satisfying the Ashantees, only caused the more ardent desire in them to penetrate to the European establishments on the Gold Coast, where they hoped to find an immense booty. It was this motive that decided them to take up arms anew at the end of 1872; and it is a great error on the part of the English press to seek to cast the responsibility of this war on the Gold Coast authorities, the representatives of the British Government; or to attribute it in any way to the latter having taken possession of the Dutch fort at Elmina. This war was decided upon, as I have already said, long before there was any question of the cession by the Dutch; and I can further affirm that if the latter had retained Elmina, the invasion would equally have been made by the Ashantees, and with greatly-increased chances of success.

"The visible progress, in every point of view, made by the British Protectorate during thirty-five years had strongly aroused the attention of the Ashantees. With their usual perspicacity they had arrived at the conclusion that unless they associated themselves in some measure with this progress, it would become a mighty enemy that would eventually overpower them. They themselves felt the influence of this progress. I will give a few proofs.

"In the third year of my captivity I was on one of the little hills above Kumasi. There, on a very pretty spot, I cleared a small space of ground, and made a plantation and garden, with a small habitation in the European style. The Ashantees were extravagantly pleased with this work of mine. Numbers of them came to see it, and complimented me with much warmth. The King heard speak of it, and sent two of the chiefs of his household to look at it. Their report caused him to send for me, as also for Mr. R—, one of the other European prisoners. He addressed us as follows: 'It is very probable that I may ere long restore you to liberty; but before I allow you to go, I very much wish that you should do something that may remain as a souvenir of you. I have heard that M. Bonnat has built a pretty house on a hill on the other side the marsh; and I should be glad if you would do something of this kind for me. Will you do it?' This was at the time when the victorious army of Ashanti was ravaging the Protectorate. We consented with similar politeness to that which the King had observed toward us. Our reply made him radiant with delight. He made us forthwith a handsome present, and placed at our disposal eighty Coast prisoners, many of whom knew a little how to work. We began without delay, made bricks, and speedily commenced a very pretty house. Many of the Kumasi chiefs and the King himself came often to examine the work, and ask for explanations. Seeing that the King interested himself so much with this construction, I undertook another—viz., a rotunda, or grand pavilion, of twelve yards (metres) diameter, supported by sixteen columns. This class of edifice, altogether unknown among them, excited their interest and admiration in the very highest degree. While I was engaged in this work, the King desired us to plant some trees in the European way; then to make him a wide, straight road, planted with trees on both sides, as he had been informed was done in Europe and on the Coast. Finally, he asked me to sick him a well; and it is difficult to imagine where the King would have stopped in his demands if I had not observed to him that it was necessary to complete one thing before beginning another.

"It was toward this time that—being already initiated as regards the language of the country, and in continual contact with all classes of society, from the slave to the prince, from the page and

buffoon to the King's councillors—I was enabled really to study Ashanti as I had wished to do. I had gained their sympathies, and they replied with all frankness to my questions. I became convinced of the progress, slow but sure, of the new ideas that had found an entry into Ashanti, and which were mining and penetrating it throughout. Liberty, the security of property as well as of person, which existed under the Protectorate, made the Ashantees feel the burthen of the despotism which weighed upon them, and of the expeditions which impoverished them. The people longed for a change in the condition of public affairs.

"So soon as I became convinced that this was the general though secret opinion, I did not neglect any opportunity of giving an impulse to such ideas, and place lucidly before the eyes of the Ashantees the state of inferiority of their country. At the same time I showed them the greatness at which they might arrive by such reforms as I indicated; and I dwelt the more on this because I knew that all my words were reported to the King. I made it a special point to demonstrate the folly and the cruelty of their human sacrifices as well as of their fatal consequences; and the injustice of plundering expeditions, which, according to general opinion, prevented the Ashantees from having large and rich plantations or breeding cattle. I dwelt with them on the subject of the flourishing commerce that had enriched Ashanti during the first twenty years of the preceding reign; and showed or reminded them that it was to war alone their ruin was to be attributed. M. Ramseyer also enforced this view in his conversations with them; and we had the satisfaction, before we left Ashanti, to see that our words had not been without effect."

ANOTHER CRY FROM CALABAR RIVER, WITH NOTES OF EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COURT OF EQUITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AFRICAN TIMES.

Duke Town, Old Calabar, August 31, 1874.

Sir,—Informing you of an action here in the river of Old Calabar by some of the European gentlemen who are stationed here as supercargoes, of which you will find the full statement in the inclosed, I hope and pray that your kind assistance may prevail to put some stop to the proceedings of these gentlemen in this river. We are greatly ill-treated by these people for no cause. We come here only to seek for our daily bread, as they do; but they will not leave us alone, continually advising the natives to chain and brutally use us, as if we were not British subjects, the same as themselves.

Your humble servant craves and begs of you, Mr. Editor, to insert this in the *African Times*. CHARLES E. ALLEN.

(Inclosure.)

Report Founded on Notes of Evidence.

Sir,—Having heard the statement of the Sierra Leone men, and of the two white men connected with the mail steamer Bonny; and having heard and perused notes of evidence given at sundry meetings of what is called the Court of Equity—one set of said notes having been taken by the Sierra Leone men, and the other by a European, a member of the Court—I consider myself to be in a position to give an impartial account of a sad occurrence which took place in the Old Calabar River, on Saturday August 15, 1874. I shall in the meantime avoid mentioning names; and should I feel constrained in the course of my narrative to indicate any opinion of my own, I shall place such indication between brackets, so that if the reader chooses, he can pass over the opinions and confine his attention to the facts. On the day above named, about 11 A.M., a gig on the way to the mail steamer Bonny came into collision with a canoe which was also on its way to the steamer which had just arrived. These white gentlemen were in the gig, which was manned with the usual complement of Kroomen. There were four men in the canoe, and they had only one paddler, who was also the steerer of the canoe. The occupants of the canoe were Sierra Leone men. On seeing the gig coming dangerously near, one of them cried out, "Mind your helm! mind your helm!" In a second or two one of the Sierra Leone men received a stroke on the breast from one of the gig's oars, which knocked him over into the canoe on one of his neighbours; another oar struck the paddler and steerer, and at the same instant the collision occurred. From the stroke of the oar or the jerk of the canoe when struck, or perhaps from both causes, the paddler was pitched into the water. The gig party went on to the steamer, without waiting for a moment to ascertain the result of the collision. The canoe party and other spectators declare that the gig party went on their way, laughing at what had occurred. The man thrown into the water kept himself afloat for, apparently, from eight to ten minutes, crying "Help! help! help!" His own party were unable to aid him, being left without a paddle, and so much water being in their canoe that they were afraid to remain in it; and in spite of the opposition of the Kroomen, they clambered into one of the boats. They implored the Kroomen to save their countryman, and offered a reward for doing so, but not one of them would move.

It is even stated that at one time the drowning man got hold of the edge of one of the boats and was beaten off by the Kroomen. The gig party, two of whom seem to have known quite well, before or immediately after leaving the gig, that there was a man knocked out of the canoe into the water, went on board and received their letters. By-and-by one of them came to the gangway, and seeing the man still in the water, called to his Kroomen to pick him up. The Kroomen did nothing, and testify that they never heard the order. Another canoe with Sierra Leone men, and another gig, were on their way to the steamer and went to rescue the drowning man, but—*too late!*

[I feel justified in expressing at this stage my opinion that the blood of another victim of inhumanity—not of the Calabarese, however—was already crying to the Judge of all the earth for vengeance. I am blaming no individual in particular; but here is the broad fact—a fellow-man was struggling with death for eight or ten minutes, in presence and in immediate vicinity of a number of both whites and blacks, who were quite able to save him; but not a single effort was made for this purpose by those able to accomplish it till the opportunity had passed away. I cannot help charging all who had power to rescue the man and who did not exact that power, with criminal negligence.]

When at length several of the Sierra Leone men reached the quarter-deck of the steamer to receive their letters, they fell in with two of the gig party, and spoke somewhat sharply to them for, firstly (as they view the matter), allowing their gig unnecessarily to strike the canoe at all; and, secondly, for going on, laughing, and using no effort to rectify the mischief they had occasioned. This led to an altercation between the parties, which was interrupted by the captain of the steamer instructing the quartermaster to order the black men to leave the steamer and get into their canoes. While descending the ship's ladder, one of the Sierra Leone men repeated what he had said previously, when one of the gig party called to him, "Come up here and repeat that." The black man felt that to return to the quarter-deck, whence he had just been ignominiously expelled, and which was occupied by a considerable number of whites, would be simply to expose himself to insult and abuse; so he declined to go on board again, and added, "But come to the beach, and I will do so," or "I will speak to you." There is a slight variety in the evidence of both blacks and whites as to the exact words used. Some of the white gentlemen say that the words were, "Come to the beach, and I will do for you," and the construction they put upon the words is this: "Come to the beach, and I will murder you." The speaker declares that his meaning was simply "Come to the beach, where I shall be able to speak freely, and then I will repeat what I have said."

The gig party, all three, then went off to King Archibong, to demand from him protection, as their lives were in danger! It is difficult to believe that they really thought so, from the fact that, subsequently, the gentleman who acts as prosecutor in the matter, and who was specially addressed by the Sierra Leone man, offered to stop further proceedings if the speaker would give him a written apology for speaking as he did. To this proposal the reply was, "No; you charge me with threatening your life,—prove your charge."

[Again I pause to ask, who can wonder that the canoe party should speak somewhat sharply to the gig party? They had seen their countryman struggling with death, and his death they attribute to the rashness and negligence of the gig party. I think I have a right to ask, what would the gig party and their friends have said, what would they have done, had the "accident" of the collision been followed by a different result—one of their party been plunged into the water, and the canoe party gone merrily on their way? I think, and many besides myself, that under the circumstances much stronger language than that imputed to the canoe party would have been quite excusable.]

WILLIAM ANDERSON.

(Appendix to above.)

The Court of Equity held a series of meetings during the course of the following week (some of them appear to have been of a most extraordinary character), at which charges of white against black, and black against white, were made, and, after a fashion, considered. Both parties have communicated with the Consul; and it is to be hoped that when he visits the river, he will make a thorough investigation into the whole matter. It appears to me that from the strong class feelings prevailing at present, neither of the parties more immediately concerned can be expected to deal with it impartially. There are two questions of importance which will probably be brought before the Consul on his next visit—viz., What is the position of natives of British territory in other parts of the West Coast of Africa when they settle in such places as Old Calabar? and What are the powers of members of the Court of Equity? In regard to the former question, the doctrine of our late Consul (Mr. Livingstone) was, that such parties had no claim on him for protection; that they are, to all intents and purposes, subjects of the native authorities,

and at the same time amenable in some measure to English law. I never could see the correctness of this view. My idea is that allegiance and protection are correlative terms; that if I have no claim on a Government for protection, that Government has no claim on my allegiance. In regard to the latter question, the powers claimed and acted upon by some members of the Court—e.g., ordering the native authorities to apprehend and imprison parties claiming to be British subjects, without any authority from the Court, and without condescending to satisfy the native chiefs that such parties have been guilty of any crime—seem to me to be of a somewhat dangerous character. I suspect, however, that this manner of action will be found to have been *ultra vires*. WILLIAM ANDERSON.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

SEPT. 26 to OCT. 3.

GINGER.—African, 53s. to 57s. per cwt. No sales.
GUINEA GRAINS.—1 ton at 23s. per cwt.
GROUND NUTS.—3,190 bags, at 13l. per ton.
PALM KERNELS.—500 bags, at 14l. 10s. per ton.
PALM OIL.—With arrivals there has been a fair business concluded, at prices slightly in buyers' favour; 800 tons sold on the spot and to arrive; Irregular at 30l. to 32l., Bonny at 33l. 7s. 6d. to 33l. 5s., Old Calabar at 33l. 10s. to 33l. 7s. 6d., Lagos at 34l. to 34l. 5s., and Benin at 34l. 5s. per ton.
COTTON.—Market improved, and prices, in some instances, rather higher. Sales of the week, 80,000 bales. African, 6½d. to 6¾d. per lb.

OCTOBER 3 to OCTOBER 10.

GINGER.—African, no sales; 53s. to 57s.
EBONY.—45 tons black, at 7l. 15s. to 8l. for small, and 11l. to 14l. 2s. 6d. per ton for large.
BARWOOD.—40 tons, at 5l. 2s. 6d. per ton.
CAMWOOD.—A small parcel of inferior, at 32l. 5s. per ton.
PALM OIL.—With a moderate demand, the business is only small, at prices in some instances slightly in buyers' favour; 250 tons sold; Irregular at 31l. 10s. to 33l., Bonny at 33l. to 33l. 2s. 6d., Old Calabar at 33l. 7s. 6d. to 33l. 10s., Benin at 34l., Lagos at 34l., and Congo at 36l. 5s. per ton.
COTTON in extensive demand throughout the week, but the supply was too abundant to allow of any advance in price. Sales of the week, 123,600 bales. African, 5½d. to 6½d.

OCT. 10 to OCT. 17.

GUM COPAL.—African, 74 barrels, 4½d. to 6½d. per lb.
EBONY.—27 tons Gaboon; 8l. to 8l. 5s. for flat, and 11l. 2s. 6d. for round.
CAMWOOD.—About 15 tons sold at 36l. 5s. to 34l.; but chiefly at 32l. 5s. to 34l. per ton.
INDIA-RUBBER.—10 tons African flake at 1s. per lb.
PALM KERNELS.—1,800 bags and 40 tons at 14l. for low, and 14l. 10s. to 14l. 15s. for good; and 450 bags to arrive at 14l. 15s. per ton.
PALM OIL.—With considerable arrivals, the demand is good, and prices of all sorts are well supported, some descriptions being 10s. dearer; 1,500 tons sold on the spot and to arrive; Irregular at 31l. 10s. to 33l., Bonny at 33l. 2s. 6d. to 33l. 10s., Old Calabar at 33l. 7s. 6d. to 34l., Lagos at 33l. 17s. 6d. to 34l., Benin at 34l. to 34l. 5s., New Calabar at 35l. and Congo at 36l. 15s. per ton.
COTTON.—Fair demand. No change in quotations. Sales of the week, 73,000 bales.

OCT. 17 to OCT. 24.

GINGER.—21 bags African, at 56s.
BAR WOOD.—20 tons, at 5l. 15s.
PALM KERNELS.—700 bags Lagos, at 14l. 15s. per ton.
ADANSONIA FIBRE.—111 bales, at 12l. 2s. 6d. to 12l. 5s. per ton.
COTTON.—Market quiet, and quotations slightly reduced. Sales of the week, 66,000 bales. Prices, African, as before.
PALM OIL is in continued good demand, and prices favour sellers; sales, 1,000 tons; Irregular at 28l. to 33l. 2s. 6d., Bonny and Cameroons at 33l. 10s. to 33l. 15s., Old Calabar at 34l. to 34l. 5s. (chiefly the former), Benin at 34l. 5s., New Calabar at 35l., and Brass and Niger at 35l. 10s. to 35l. 15s. per ton.

"ST. JAMES'S MAGAZINE."—Mr. L. A. Chamerovzow's tale, "The First Foot," will commence in this magazine about the middle or end of November.

A petition to wind up the African Barter Company (Limited) has been presented to the Court of Chancery.

AMERICAN COTTON CROP.—Advices from Washington received in Liverpool by telegram, October 16, state that as regards former estimates, the decline in the cotton crop in North Carolina is 2 per cent.; in South Carolina, 4 per cent.; and in Alabama, 6 per cent. The improvement in Arkansas is 8 per cent.; in Tennessee and Florida 4, and in Georgia 3. In Mississippi, Louisiana, and Virginia the ratio is unchanged.

The African Times.

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The African Times.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1874.

INAUGURATION OF A SMUGGLING ERA BY PROCLAMATION.

A CERTAIN place, which we refrain from naming, is reported to be paved with good intentions. Her Majesty's Government, from whom the order has, no doubt, first emanated, and his Excellency George Cumin Strahan, Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements on the Gold Coast, have been lately engaged in adding a few more stones to the pavement. Two proclamations, which will be found in another page of this number of our Journal, bearing date, respectively, the 14th and the 20th of August, have issued at Cape Coast, and, we presume, been simultaneously placarded in all the other sea-coast towns of the Protectorate. By these proclamations the "importing, selling, bartering, giving, or transferring in any manner of way into the said settlement and protected territories, and on the waters, rivers, and estuaries thereof, of all arms, ammunition, and warlike stores of every and whatsoever description, including lead bars, is most strictly prohibited." These proclamations, which are designated as "to prohibit the importation, &c., of arms, &c.," we have ventured—and, we think, with more correctness—to entitle "Proclamations Inaugurating an Era of Smuggling." As though there were not enough elements of evil existing in those countries, Her Majesty's Government have now thought proper, with the best intentions, to add the smuggling one. The smuggler is an unhappy creation, and will be prolific of evil. If there be a demand in those countries for arms and munitions of war, that demand will infallibly be supplied. If the demand cannot be supplied in a fair and open way through legitimate channels, it will be surreptitiously, and by organized infractions of law. The demand must be supposed to exist, or there would not be any need of proclamations prohibiting its being supplied; and we do not hesitate to say that no Government, except at a cost such as the Gold Coast Government cannot possibly support, can thus burk a craving demand by proclamation. The attempt must be a failure—a failure involving loss of revenue, and introducing, at that serious cost, a new element of demoralization. These proclamations do not name any special penalties to be incurred by persons violating all or any of the prohibitions thereby imposed. It is only reasonable to suppose that it is intended heavy fines and imprisonment should be added to forfeiture of contraband goods; and that if the amount and duration of these have not been already specified, they soon will be so. It is to be presumed, moreover, that, having once taken this decided course, the Administration will employ every possible means for making their prohibitions effective, and restraining the interior people from the use of any other implements of war, or of the chase, than the almost obsolete bows and arrows, spears, knives, and hatchets. We wish them joy of the task they have undertaken, and repeat what we wrote when Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Lowther broached the Government idea of a prohibition of the importation of arms and munitions of war—that, if the British Government in the Protectorate cannot be maintained without such prohibitions, it would be better for us at once to abandon the Gold Coast Settlements; leaving the people to themselves, or to become subjects of some other power which would understand how to maintain a government by commonly recognized means. Legislation, and government, and maintenance of empire by crotchets, must eventuate in failure; while the effort to accomplish it by men desiring to be looked upon as statesmen merits only

contempt. Let us pass briefly in review the extent, character, and situation of the coast-line along which this prohibition to import arms, &c., must primarily be enforced, and of the interior country, where the demand for these is supposed to exist. From Assinee, on the west, to Popo, on the east, there are five degrees, or three hundred miles of coast-line. By the river Assinee, and from any part of the Coast between the mouth of the river and Elmina—territory lately ceded by the Dutch—there is easy access to what were lately Ashanti territories—that is, to the countries north of the Prah river; while the relations existing between the Ashantees and the tribes on the eastern side of the Volta, lately taken under British administration, have been for a very long time of a most intimate character. To prevent the introduction of arms, powder, and other munitions of war along this extensive coast-line, inhabited by people who will certainly not feel any sympathy with the new prohibition on trade, would require an army of coast-guardsmen, or the constant presence of several war steamers; the former demanding an outlay on the part of the Gold Coast Treasury to which it would prove unequal; the other, the services of ships, which neither the House of Commons nor the Admiralty will be willing to supply. Even supposing that the local treasury could support the burden of such a coast-guard army, or that the Imperial Parliament or the Admiralty would give the ships, *cui bono*? There is the French Protectorate of Grand Bassam and Assinee, with the Assinee river and its tributaries flowing through those very interior countries from which we desire to exclude arms and munitions of war; and the only result, therefore, of an entire suppression of imports and trade along the British coast-line would be to create a large and important trade in these very articles at Assinee. If there be a determination on the part of the British Government that the interior people shall be cut off from the possession of all or any of the articles included in the proclaimed prohibition, the only mode by which it can effect this is by acquiring the French possessions of Assinee and Grand Bassam, with the coast-line east of Popo to the river Ogun, including Whydah and Porto Novo, involving an extension of jurisdiction and government not likely to be approved of at present in Great Britain. Need we proceed further in order to show how unreasonable and absurd is this new restriction imposed on the import and internal trade of the Protectorate? The mistake committed in this instance is as obvious as it is gross. But we will even go further than this. We denounce it as immoral, so long as we refrain from acquiring the right and power to prevent the importation of such articles into Dahomey. The character and practices of that kingdom are so well known that we need not expatiate on them here. Owing to the possession at Ashanti, and its tributaries toward the Dahoman frontier, of an armament at least equal to that of Dahomey, all the predatory action of the latter has, for a long time, been necessarily directed only in a northern and eastern direction. Abeokuta has proved to be an impassable barrier to their incursions eastward, while all the districts northward, to the eastern spur of the Kong mountain range, have been successfully placed under the contribution of blood, for those horrible customs which have gained for Dahomey so unenviable a reputation in Europe. The defenceless state of its western neighbours, through the operation of the prohibitions now imposed by the British authorities will, within a very short time, become known in Ahomey, and we shall hear of the devastating hordes of Dahomey being sent in that direction. What right have we to hand over those districts and peoples to the tender mercies of those most merciless of barbarians? By all that is great, noble, and worthy, we conjure the British Government to retrace the steps which it has so injudiciously taken in the late Gold Coast proclamation of which we have been treating; and abjure at once and for ever that crotchety legislation which can be prolific of nothing but evil. To create the smuggler on the one hand, and to hand over new districts to the blood-hounds of Dahomey on the other, will be exploits to which we do not care to give in advance the appellation they will deserve; and which history, less forbearing than we are, will not fail to bestow.

RECOMPENSE TO AFRICAN AUXILIARIES.

A GREAT country should never seem unmindful of services rendered, or defer the reward due to those who have rendered them. Even the greatest States and Governments have their times of perplexity and need, when the feeble aid of others who are very insignificant in their eyes may be of great importance. The late Anglo-Ashanti War afforded us an instance of this. It is impossible for any one to deny to Great Britain the name and title of a great Power. The enemy with whom she had to deal was only formidable because of the attendant circumstances of his position, and the character of the warfare that had necessarily to be waged with him. These were so special, that it became indispensable to organize special means for dealing with them; among these, not the least important was a corps of African Auxiliaries, to supply the place which ought to have been occupied by natives of the Gold Coast Protectorate. The Houssas to be obtained from Lagos were not sufficient for the purposes required, and a British officer proceeded to Bonny, in quest of further assistants. The readiness with which these were granted by the King and Chiefs of Bonny, at great personal sacrifice, need not now be stated; it is already a fact in history. The number of men organized and dispatched to the Gold Coast, under Prince Charles, the brother of the King, and Mr. Jumbo, son of the Chief, Oke Jumbo, did not much exceed one hundred. They proved, however, during the march on Kumasi, and in the actions that had to be fought in the bush between the British forces and the tenaciously resisting Ashantees, to be of an importance altogether out of proportion to their numbers. Even in the van, they performed duties of the most onerous and dangerous character. They were not a levy of raw recruits, unused to arms; but men who had been tried and disciplined in a disastrous civil war, all perfect in the use of the Snider, good marksmen, and bold, fearless men, well led and commanded. Of the corps of scouts organized so soon as the army passed the Prah, and placed under the command of Lord Gifford, the Bonny men were not the least distinguished. In Winwood Read's account of the final battle of Ordahsu we find him stating, "The Bonny men led the advance up the hill, followed by the Rifles, and the battle speedily began," and the Bonny contingent was, we believe, the only native African corps that accompanied the 42nd into Kumasi itself. The value of the services rendered by this gallant little band of African warriors has been attested by all the chroniclers of the military operations from the Prah to Kumasi; and yet we do not find that there has been hitherto any adequate Government recognition of those services, or proper reward for them. There was nothing, save the attachment of King George of Bonny to Great Britain, to induce him and his chiefs to send that contingent to the war; and we regarded their having thus sent them as very important, because it showed that, in any future operations in West Africa, should the necessity of such unhappily arise, we might count upon such bodies of men as these from Bonny, to perform those dangerous duties in the van of an advance through the bush, which Europeans could not so well undertake. But this prospect for the future could, of course, only be regarded as dependent on a proper recognition and reward by Her Majesty's Government; and, as above stated, such recognition and reward has not yet been bestowed. We have waited until we saw what the Government has ordered to be done as regards the Fantees, Accras, and others who did their duty in Sir Garnet Wolseley's and Captain Glover's expeditions; and it was with very deep and poignant regret that we saw no mention whatever made of the services of Prince Charles of Bonny, Mr. Jumbo, and the men under their command. We now repeat the sentence with which we opened these observations: "A great country should never remain unmindful of services rendered, or defer the reward due to those who have rendered them; and we do most earnestly entreat Her Majesty's Government, so to perform that duty which we think now devolves on them, as regards the officers and men of that Bonny contingent, as will fix in the minds of native African kings and chiefs along the West Coast, a firm and strong conviction of the justice and generosity of Great Britain

to those who volunteer their services when she has need of them; and impel them, in any future emergency, to rally with enthusiasm around her standard.

OPPRESSION OF SIERRA LEONE TRADERS AT OPOBO.

IN trade, as in politics, a change of system is certain to be attended more or less by convulsion. In a leader in our last number, motivated by communications received from Calabar River, we made some observations on the illegal, and in every sense unjustifiable, means alleged to have been resorted to by the European agents of European houses to get rid of the concurrence and, as is alleged by them, the espionage of Sierra Leone traders. We reminded the latter that it was reasonable to suppose the agents of European houses, conducting trade there at great expense, would not readily yield the monopoly they have so long enjoyed; but, at the same time, we cautioned the agents that, in defending their monopoly, they must be careful not to overpass the legitimate limits of trade competition. We stated, as is but too true, that it has long been widely known that they are not, many of them, over-scrupulous on the score of justice and humanity in the means which they employ for frustrating, as far as possible, every effort of Sierra Leone traders to purchase oil and ship it to England; and we insisted that the struggle between monopoly and freedom of trade must be restrained within such limits that it shall not infringe the rights of coloured British subjects to carry on their trade without let or hindrance. Very shortly after our last number was published, we received complaints from Opobo in the shape of copy of a letter which had been sent to the Liverpool managers of one of the two Steamship Companies whose vessels possess conjointly the monopoly of the steam-carrying trade of the West Coast. We decided, as stated elsewhere, not to insert it in our columns, though we were desired to do so as an advertisement to be paid for, because we felt assured that measures would be taken to put an end to the injustice complained of. But now, before going to press, we receive further confirmation of the truth of the statements before made. It is not, it seems, through one channel only that the coloured traders of Opobo have been prevented from shipping their oil. They are, it appears, for the present, altogether excluded from the enjoyment of the advantages of steam communication with England, so far as concerns the transmission of produce; and the oil, which they are not allowed to ship, is wasting on the sunny beach. Now this, instigated, as it is affirmed to be, by European agents, is an outrage on all fair trading principles. We could not understand, when the matter was first brought before us, by what means those European agents could have induced or compelled persons connected with the steamers to swerve from their duty, the path of which, as laid down for them by their employers in England, is clear and plain—viz., to take all proper cargo that offers, whoever may be shippers. The letters which we have now received state the *supposed* means by which these steamship people at the oil rivers have been thus impelled or induced to a departure from the duty they owe to the Steamship Companies whose servants they are. We say "supposed," because we can scarcely conceive the possibility of the statement made to us being correct in this particular. All we can say to our informants is, that we shall take without delay the necessary measures to prevent any public powers being used to their prejudice. They will know what this means. We shall do our duty for them in this, as we have in so many other instances—not with the expectation of any grateful acknowledgment of it (which past experience tells us it would be folly to expect), but because we conceive it to be our duty—a self-imposed duty, it is true, but not less a duty. We should probably have published the chief of the letters received in this present number had there been space remaining in our columns. We must defer them until next month. Our correspondents cannot conceive why agents shipping, each of them, probably 800 to 1,000 casks of oil a-year, should proceed [to such unjustifiable means to ruin the coloured traders, whose total shipments, all combined, do not ex-

ceed fifty to sixty casks a-year. But, in this respect at least, those agents are wise in their generation. Their aim is to destroy in the bud, if possible, a tree that will, if not thus destroyed, eventually overshadow them. The sooner, however, they dismiss from their minds all idea of the possibility of thus destroying it, the better it will be for them. They cannot destroy it. There are powers engaged in its preservation, and there is a principle involved in its existence, which forbid the possibility of their destroying it. They had better, therefore, refrain from efforts which cannot avail, and by which they may themselves be fearfully compromised.

THE ANNEXATION OF FIJI.

It is interesting to note the way in which Great Britain, notwithstanding all the sincere repugnance of its Government and the great majority of its public men of all parties, is impelled to territorial acquisitions imperatively necessary to the advancement of portions of the human race which have been hitherto plunged in the lowest abysses of heathen barbarism. With us it is an unalterable conviction that the hand of God is in all these things. In becoming the great Protestant kingdom of Europe, Great Britain took upon itself the foremost place in the van of human progress; and she is only true to her destiny and her work when she fulfils the obligations which that position involves. The year 1874 will be memorable in the history of those fulfilments. In it she has conducted to a successful issue operations begun in 1873 to rescue an important portion of West Africa from the periodical devastations of a most sanguinary heathenism, and opening the countries in which that heathenism has prevailed to those ameliorating influences which have been so mighty in their operations on the human mind, and on the character and aims of peoples. In it she has, after long years of refusal, accepted the sovereignty of that interesting nest of islands known as the Fijis; and which, but for this happy decision on her part, must have become an abyss of wickedness and misery which it would be difficult to find words to describe. We have noticed in another portion of our paper the telegraphic news announcing the important step thus taken by the British Government through the medium of its special representative, Sir Hercules Robinson. The cruel and abominable slave-trade which had made its head-quarters in these fertile islands of the Southern Ocean, is thus at once and for ever destroyed, and order will replace the chaos which had made its home there. The capabilities of those islands for contributing not only to the support of any possible population, but also to the wants of the civilized world, are reported to be of a very high order; and if the Fijians prove to be as accessible to civilizing influences as has been stated, any little administrative trouble which the government of this new dependency will bring with it, will be far outweighed by the happy results to be obtained. We await further information with deep interest; and in the meantime most sincerely do we congratulate Mr. W. McArthur, who has so laboured with the Government and the House of Commons to obtain their consent to receive Fiji under British rule. The annexation of Fiji cannot be disavowed in history from those persistent labours which were motivated by Christian zeal and an enlightened view of the duties, obligations, and true interests of this Great Britain, of which he has proved himself to be so worthy a son and subject. May he have many imitators! There are other corners of the world that need to be opened to the light of Christianity and civilization, which seem to be awaiting some similar action to that which has at last so happily prevailed in this matter of the Fiji Islands.

OUR LAST MONTH'S LETTER FROM OLD CALABAR.

In our last number we inserted a letter from Old Calabar, reporting very unfavourably on the conduct of some one of the missionaries there. The imputation really was that he had fallen into habits of inebriety; all other irregularities of conduct mentioned being merely the not infrequent results of such habits. It was not the first intimation of it

that we had received. We therefore did not insert it lightly. Looking at the injury which such conduct—if the report were true—must necessarily do to the great cause of Christian enlightenment among the heathen, we thought it our duty to insert it, and to make some remarks upon it in one of our leaders, in the hope that the notice thus taken of it, and further measures adopted by us, might lead to such a change as would put an end to what, if true, would be likely to bring reproach upon the Gospel message in that heathen land. We have since, however, deeply regretted the insertion. We are assured by the Home authority of the mission with which the said missionary is supposed to be connected, that it is *so impossible it can be true*—so impossible that there can be any real foundation for the report—that we are compelled to believe either that some effects of disease have been misinterpreted as being the effects of excess, or that some vile malignity has been at work. We therefore, without waiting for the reports from dependable authorities on the Coast to whom we have addressed letters of inquiry, hasten in this, our very next number, to express our sorrow that the said letter should have been inserted, and the said remarks made. Our readers need not now to be informed of the deep interest we take in everything that concerns the spread of Christianity and enlightenment among the natives of the West Coast; and that we look with special regard upon every labourer in the missionary field there as a fellow-labourer with ourselves—devoted, like ourselves, to the cause of Him through whom alone light breaks into the loathsome moral gloom of nations held captive by Satan at his will, and to whom the wondrous birth in Bethlehem and death on Calvary for human sin are unknown. And as our readers know this, they will not fail to understand how far the joy of being able to contradict the unfavourable report alluded to, and to state on such good authority that it was entirely without foundation, outweighs any personal feeling of humiliation in confessing that we have been led into error. We can have no doubt that the reports of the authorities of the Coast to whom we have referred for further inquiry, will confirm all that we have heard from the missionary authorities here, and shall therefore feel it to be our duty, when we receive them, to lose no time in laying them before our readers, for the more full and complete disputation of the unnamed missionary who, through error or malignity, has been thus traduced.

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 62*l.*, 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,

* It is so important that offences of such nature as that committed by the person named "Shepherd" or "Johnson" should be checked, and justice, that we have thought it necessary to republish this leader, which appeared in our September number.—Ed. A. T.

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 imposed 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.

THE TOBACCO CROP OF 1874.

The failure of the American tobacco crop for 1874, unfortunately, admits of no doubt; and smokers who inquire into such matters have grounds for feeling no little apprehension. The crop of 1873 was a full one; but owing to continuous droughts in most districts it was impossible to plant out the young plants in due season. The result was that at the close of the planting season the acreage under tobacco in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Southern Indiana was not equal to one-fourth of an average. Virginia was roughly estimated at one-half and Missouri at two-thirds of an average. To make matters worse, in many districts, after the young plants had been set, they were washed out of the ground by heavy rains. The result is that in the United States generally the yield will be only about one-third of an average, or, to put it in figures, there will only be produced this year about 88,000,000 lbs. of tobacco, as against 264,000,000 lbs. last year. In some large districts the falling off will be considerably greater, as for instance in Kentucky, where, judging from a recent report, from 75 per cent. of the counties there will only be about 13 per cent. of the crop of 1873. It may be added that in Germany there will be only about a one-third crop, and that not fit for the manufacture of cigars.

A rise in the price of unmanufactured tobacco is the necessary consequence of this failure of the American crop. The large stock of almost all kinds of tobacco in bond is, however, greater now than it was at the corresponding periods of 1873 and 1872, and will enable the trade to carry on pretty comfortably till next year, notwithstanding the "firmness of holders" and the speculative uncertainty of the market. However, as may be gathered from the monthly prices current, there has been an advance of 2*d.* per lb. on almost all kinds of American tobacco during the last two months, and a further rise has taken place on cavendish and negrohead within the last few days. As most smokers are,

or should be, aware, it is on the proportion of American tobacco used in the ordinary "cut" or manufactured articles, such as birdseye, returns, and shag, that their goodness depends. This proportion is from 20 to 25 per cent., the rest being made up by "substitutes," as they are called in the trade, such as China, Japan, and other inferior tobacco. Of course the higher the price given the better should be the tobacco, the best "golden birdseye" containing the largest proportion of the best "Virginia leaf," which is the highest priced tobacco used for "cutting" purposes, the other American tobaccos being Maryland and Ohio, and what is called "Western leaf," including the products of Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, and the Western States generally. Now an increased price in these products must necessitate one of two things—either the increased price of the manufactured article, or a larger proportion of "substitutes" used in the manufacture. Both alternatives are unpleasant for smokers to contemplate. They cannot regard with complacency either a deteriorated article or a rise in price, and yet it seems impossible to escape one or the other. Any considerable rise in prices would cause much grumbling among the working classes; and we certainly regret the prospect of the "poor man's luxury" being dearer than it is at present. Some of the Scotch manufacturers at Glasgow, which about 100 years ago had the monopoly of the tobacco trade of the three kingdoms and elsewhere, have raised the prices of their manufactured articles from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb.; but as yet, so far as we are aware, no English house has established an advance. The attempt to do so in one instance led to an immediate falling off in trade customers, and, we believe, to a recurrence to the old prices. What the ultimate result will be is not easy to conjecture. The stock in hand, as we have said, is great, and as there seems to be any amount of "substitutes," with the exception of Japan, ready to be sent us, there is little fear of any material rise in these, notwithstanding the great market speculation now going on in them. On the other hand, the failure of the American crop and the smallness of the old stock held on the other side of the Atlantic is causing large quantities of tobacco to be re-shipped to New York—a fact which will also tend to send up prices here.

As regards Havannah cigars, the prospects of smokers are also somewhat dreary, though connoisseurs whose means enable them to indulge in the best brands do not demand much sympathy. The gradually advanced prices of the last few years must undoubtedly be subject to a still further rise. The large stock in hand has as yet prevented any material advance, but this will soon be sensibly diminished. Recent advices from Havannah indicate that the market there has been very inactive for some time past. The smallness of the crop in all the districts is admitted; it may be taken as only about one-half the average, and generally of a quality not good enough for Europe and home factories. In the famous Vuelta Abajo, which produces the tobacco from which the choicest brands are manufactured, the crop is described as "mostly of slow growth and bad colour, which will not be suitable for working till the commencement of next year." When we add to this the fact that the continued distracted state of the country impedes home industry, and, further, that recent fiscal regulations have caused many firms to suspend manufacturing cigars altogether, a considerable rise of prices, especially in the case of first-class brands, is inevitable.

Altogether the prospects of smokers in general are not very cheering; but as the late Lord Lytton and other great authorities credit them with "thinking like philosophers," and also with acting as such, we have no doubt but that they will make the best of a bad job, and continue to smoke their pipes in peace.—*Standard*.

FROM THE EARL OF CARNARVON TO THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT AT CAPE COAST.

(From Printed Official Correspondence.)

Downing-street, May 14, 1874.

Sir,—I have received Lieut.-Colonel Maxwell's despatch of the 18th of March, submitting for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government the message delivered by the Embassy from the King of Ashanti after the ratification of the Treaty of Formanah on the 14th of March.

2. In reply to the King's first question, I have to instruct you to inform him that as misunderstandings have already occurred with regard to the precise nature and conditions of the "stipend" formerly paid to him by the Dutch Government, and confirmed (at twice the original amount) by Mr. Hennessy on the occasion of the transfer, I am not able to advise the Queen to consent to the continuance of this payment on its old footing. But in consideration of the re-establishment of peace between Her Majesty and the King, and of his solemn promises of good behaviour for the future, the Queen contemplates sending to Kumasi, at no distant date, a special Embassy or Mission, which, if the King shall have faithfully adhered to the Treaty, will be charged with the delivery to him of some suitable present as marks of her

Royal favour and good-will. He will understand from this that Her Majesty is disposed to put aside all recollection of past hostilities, and for the future to treat him as a friend and ally, provided that his conduct is henceforward upright and straightforward, and in accordance with the Treaty obligations which he has undertaken.

3. In answer to his second request, I have to desire that you will inform him that it is impossible for Her Majesty to direct the King of Ashanti to return to his allegiance under the kingdom of Ashanti, as he did not renounce that allegiance at the suggestion or under the influence of the British Government, but, on the contrary, was informed that if he wished to join the Wassaws or Denkeras, it was an arrangement with which Her Majesty's Government could not interfere, and that the act must be understood to be purely voluntary on his part.

4. In regard to the third request, I have to instruct you to inform him that Her Majesty's Government have no knowledge of the King of Eastern Akim having forcibly taken hostages from Ashanti towns, but that inquiry will be made and justice shall, as far as practicable, be done. Unless force has been used by the King of Eastern Akim to compel subjects of the King of Ashanti to renounce their allegiance, the Queen cannot interfere, nor can she direct the King of Akim to give up persons who have voluntarily thrown off their allegiance.

5. With regard to the King's fourth request, I have to instruct you to inform him that I am unable even to lay it before the Queen. Her Majesty cannot give any sanction, express or implied, to human sacrifices, and she trusts that the King will be able, by setting the matter plainly before his people, to make them understand that these sacrifices are abhorrent to the religion and customs of all Christian people, and cannot be sanctioned or authorized even in the slightest degree.

6. In reply to his fifth request, I am to state that the Queen has been graciously pleased to consent to the education of the King's son in this country. But before any definite arrangements are made, it is desirable that I should be informed what is the age of the Prince; whether he is to succeed to the throne; and the probable period for which the King is willing that he should pursue his studies in England.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) CARNARVON.

ALLEGED THROWING OF CARBOLIC ACID UPON NATIVES.

Little Popo, Sept. 9, 1874.

Complaints have been made to us from this place that the captain of one of the steamers ordered carbolic acid to be sprinkled over Africans who boarded the steamer for purposes of trade. The writers say that it blistered their skin, and destroyed the sight of two eyes. We have brought the matter before the proper authorities, and are quite sure that it will be inquired into. From what we have heard of the experience of persons who have been up and down the Coast on board the African steamers, we can understand the desire of the captain to get rid of the crowds of almost naked intruders who throng their ships; more especially as both companies strictly prohibit that demoralizing petty trade between the sailors and the natives which has been so often complained of in our columns, and especially by educated African traders. We do not think that any unclothed natives have any right on board these ships without permission, and can imagine how perplexed the captain must be as to the mode of ejecting such unwelcome intruders. The steamers are not intended to be trading stores, in which every sailor is a shopman; and it is but justice to the regular native importing traders, who pay heavy freight and charges, that all illicit trading in European goods by officers or men on board should be put an end to. But to throw among these unclothed natives matters which are certain to inflict grievous bodily harm, is a process of ejection which cannot be allowed, and cannot be too strongly reprobated. We hope there has been exaggeration in the report that has been sent to us, and wait the issue of the pending inquiry before making any further comment. The following are extracts from the letters above alluded to:—

(First Letter.)

"It is customary with us natives here, whenever any steamer arrives, to go on board for the purpose of buying and selling to the sailors—sometimes to the captains. We went on board the — to buy nicknacks. The moment we went on board, the captain began to sprinkle carbolic acid on our bodies, which spotted our bodies and dimmed some of our eyes."

(Second Letter.)

"We desire you to help us in this affair of so great importance. Two of us are totally blind, and the rest spotted. Are we to be ill-treated without any justice being given to us? Our names are —, —, —, &c., &c., natives of Little Popo. Are we to claim damages; or a redress from the captain through you?"

BOOK NOTICE.

The History of Protestantism. By the Rev. J. L. WYLIE, LL.D. In monthly Parts, price 7d. Illustrated. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, London, Paris, and New York.

WHEN nearly ready for press, we have received the first monthly part of this most necessary, interesting, and well-timed publication. The progress of an excessive Ritualism which leads by so many roads to the errors and abominations of Rome, from which we were delivered at the Reformation, calls for a corresponding amount of counteracting Protestant effort; and we welcome this new publication most heartily. In the first chapter, which now lies before us, Dr. Wylie places Protestantism before his readers in its true character and position. After showing that Protestantism is not merely a principle, but the greatest of all principles, he thus concludes:—

"Protestantism is not solely the outcome of human progress; it is no mere principle of perfectibility inherent in humanity, and ranking as one of its native powers, in virtue of which, when society becomes corrupt, it can purify itself, and when it is arrested in its course by some external force, or stops from exhaustion, it can recruit its energies and set forward anew on its path. It is neither the product of the individual reason, nor the result of the joint thought and energies of the species. Protestantism is a principle which has its origin outside human society; it is a divine graft on the intellectual and moral nature of man, whereby new vitalities and forces are introduced into it, and the human stem yields henceforth a nobler fruit. It is the descent of a heaven-born influence, which allies itself with all the instincts and powers of the individual, with all the laws and cravings of society; and which, quickening both the individual and social being into a new life, and directing their efforts to nobler objects, permits the highest development of which humanity is capable, and the fullest possible accomplishment of all its grand ends. In a word, Protestantism is revived Christianity."

We sincerely and earnestly recommend all our reading friends who know and love the truth, and Gospel liberty, to subscribe to this new work, which shows the history and progress of Protestantism from its earliest period. With the first part or number, which we are now noticing, is given, *free of charge*, a copy (large, being 26 inches by 20) of the great painting by Mr. E. M. Ward, R.A., *Luther's First Study of the Bible*. For such a work as this we shall have pleasure in becoming the medium of subscription.

EUROPEANS AND NATIVES IN INDIA.

We hope that the trial, conviction, and punishment of Mr. Gerald Meares, the indigo-planter, accused of maltreating a dākharkuru, or post-runner, will convince our Indian subjects that we are not the despotic people, the "white devils," represented in the native press. We take it that the old constitutional maxim, "Every man has a right to beat his nigger," has received rather a check from what has occurred. In the beginning of the present year, one Panchoo, a runner, complained to the deputy magistrate of Jenidah that he had been horsewhipped. The complaint was dismissed. But in the month of June Panchoo came with another complaint to the effect that he had been seized by order of Meares, upbraided with having lodged a complaint, and then severely flogged. The affair was brought before the district magistrate, who, after much investigation, found that the planter and one of his servants were guilty of assault, and sentenced them to three months' imprisonment. Mr. Meares appealed to the High Court of Calcutta, and the two puisne Judges disagreeing, the case was argued before the full Court. One of the Judges declared Panchoo's story to be so contradictory as to be incredible. The Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Phear, however, thought the contradictions explicable, and upheld the sentence. So Mr. Meares was sent to prison. But the Lieutenant-Governor was memorialized by some 700 persons, including many of the chief European residents, to remit the sentence. On the other hand, the native press made the question a matter of race, and clamoured for execution of the sentence. They have had their way. Sir Richard Temple declined to interfere. He accepted "the correctness and justice of the decision passed by the High Court." Of course, the native press is jubilant; but the English journals are asking what is the good of belonging to the dominant race—asking it all the more earnestly because Meares' accomplice has been set at liberty.

THE EAST AFRICAN EXPLORATION.—Mr. H. M. Stanley, who has gone out on a special mission to Africa, writes that he had been well received by the Sultan of Zanzibar, and was actively engaged in completing preparations for his journey to the interior of the continent. Mr. Stanley and those who accompanied him were quite well.

AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—A call of 2l. per share has been made by the African Steamship Company, payable on the 9th of November.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

The Ashanti War. By Captain Henry Brackenbury. Two Vols. 8vo. William Blackwood and Sons.
The Story of the Ashantes Campaign. By Wenwood Reade. One Vol. Smith, Elder and Co.
Through Fante Land to Cocomassie. 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.

WHOLESALE COTTON ROBBERIES IN LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool police have succeeded in capturing no fewer than thirteen persons

who are charged with stealing and receiving cotton; and it is evident from disclosures made before the magistrates that there has been a wholesale system of robbery carried on. Two dealers, named Golding and Pickering, were accused of receiving nineteen bales of cotton. James Ogden, a well-known receiver of stolen goods, was charged with failing to account for his possession of a large quantity of the same product. After the apprehension of Ogden, several detectives concealed themselves in his warehouse, and took into custody ten porters and warehousemen, who during the day presented themselves, carrying samples of cotton. Two porters were committed to gaol for six months, and the other prisoners were remanded.



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

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The following departure will be the Steamer ETHIOPIA, on the 15th NOVEMBER, at 9.50 A.M., for Madeira, Grand Canary, Grand Bassa, Cape Palmas, Grand Bassam, Assinee, Winnebah, Whydah, Fernando Po, Prince's Island, St. Thomas, Gaboon, Black Point, Landana, Congo, Ambrizette, Kinsembo, Ambriz, and St. Paul de Loanda.

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