

*J. P. Hennessey*

# GOLD COAST.

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## DESPATCH

FROM

GOVERNOR J. POPE HENNESSY, C.M.G.,

AND

REPLY,

RELATIVE TO

HIS ESTIMATE OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF  
THE ASHANTEE INVASION.



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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,  
July 1873.

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LIST OF PAPERS.

No.					Page
1.	From Governor Hennessy to Earl of Kimberley .. .. .	June	19, 1873	1	
2.	From Earl of Kimberley to Governor Hennessy .. .. .	July	16, —	3	

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## GOLD COAST.

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Despatch from Governor J. Pope Hennessy, C.M.G., and Reply,  
relative to his Estimate of the Nature and Importance of the  
Ashantee Invasion.

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### No. 1.

*Governor J. Pope Hennessy, C.M.G., to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 9.)*

My Lord,

*Government House, Nassau, June 19, 1873.*

MY attention has been drawn to the following paragraph in the "Spectator," of the 24th of May:—

"The Ashantee war is likely, we apprehend, to become a somewhat unpleasant question, and the line of defence taken by the Colonial Office on the subject is not of a kind to propitiate opinion, which does not like to hear a public officer of great ability censured without papers produced, or opportunity of defence. Whether Governor Hennessy or Colonel Harley was right in his estimate of the forces and determination of the King of Ashantee, does not seem to be so much the question as Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen would have it believed. A more injudicious statement has seldom been made even by an Under Secretary, than his statement on the subject, and we observe that Lord Kimberley, on Tuesday, carefully refrained from pronouncing on the principal point involved."

2. Owing to my absence from England, I have no means of accurately ascertaining what Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen said. But from the foregoing paragraph and from some letters I have received from Members of the House of Commons, I fear there is little doubt, but he went out of his way to pronounce a censure upon me with respect to my views about the Ashantee invasion, before my despatches were published.

3. Though it is perhaps too soon to think of pronouncing who was right or who was wrong in this matter, I venture to ask your Lordship's attention to the following facts, which show how unjust Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen was to me when he informed the House of Commons that "Colonel Harley from the first, rightly appreciated the nature and character of the invasion, which were quite misapprehended by Mr. Hennessy."

4. Colonel Harley was Administrator of the Gold Coast when the invasion of the Gold Coast Protectorate occurred. I was Acting Governor-in-Chief of the West African Settlements, stationed at Sierra Leone, some hundreds of miles north of the Gold Coast.

5. I was the medium of communication between your Lordship and Colonel Harley, it being his duty, in the words of the Colonial Regulations, to transmit all official Reports and information to the Governor-in-Chief. My power of forming a correct judgment as to what may be taking place on the Gold Coast, would be seriously diminished if the Administrator failed to comply with these regulations.

6. My first answer to Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen is that, in all the despatches I wrote to your Lordship respecting the Ashantee invasion, I drew attention to the fact that Colonel Harley had broken the Colonial Regulations, and had kept back from me the early reports he had received of the invasion, though they were acted upon by Colonel Harley, and communicated by him, confidentially, to the officer in command of the troops. I complained that he had kept back these

reports from me, and from that day to this I have never seen them, as my successor, Mr. Keate, arrived at Sierra Leone before they reached head-quarters.

7. The last despatch I wrote to your Lordship on the subject of the Ashantee invasion was dated 13th February, 1873, inclosing a copy of the only despatch I wrote to Colonel Harley on the subject. In the latter, dated 12th February, I said to Colonel Harley "It is difficult, with the insufficient information before me, to form anything like a definite opinion upon what is really taking place in the Protectorate.

8. In my despatch to your Lordship, of the 8th of February, 1873, I dwelt upon two points of importance with respect to which I complained, that Colonel Harley kept me in the dark.

9 I pointed out that Colonel Harley first wrote to me on the subject on the 31st of January, 1873, his despatch reaching me at Sierra Leone on the 8th of February, whereas two or three mails before his despatch reached me a letter in his handwriting, marked Confidential, was received by the officer in command of the troops at Sierra Leone, dated 9th January, 1873, reporting an Ashantee invasion, and requesting some particular movement of officers or troops. Owing to the confidential manner in which Colonel Harley conducted his official correspondence with the military authorities, I was not made aware of it for a considerable time. In commenting upon the tardy and insufficient information given to me by the Administrator, I said, "Colonel Harley's letter to Captain Turton is dated 9th January, 1873. The letter he therein refers to, from Dr. Gouldesbury, the Commandant of Axim, reporting the Ashantee invasion, must have been dated one or two days before that.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Your Lordship will observe that, even now, Colonel Harley does not send me a copy of the Report he received on the 9th of January, 1873, from Dr. Gouldesbury, nor does he acquaint me with the fact that he then requested that another officer should be sent to Axim on account of the Ashantee movement in Assim."

10. In the same despatch, of the 8th February, 1873, I added that Colonel Harley had also "kept me in total ignorance, as far as any communications public or private from him, of his proceedings at Elmina, the angry retort of the King, and the return of the present of 25*l.* he had sent the Elmina Chiefs." On these grounds chiefly I stated I had lost all confidence in him. I concluded by saying, "If Mr. Keate's† illness should continue, and that I must remain here for some time longer, I trust your Lordship will allow me to transfer Colonel Harley to the Gambia. Having lost all confidence in him, it would be unfair to the public service, and to him if I did not ask your Lordship to do this."

11. The return by the Elmina Chiefs of Colonel Harley's Government present of 25*l.* was a grave incident. It took place before the Commandant of Axim reported the disturbances. Yet, though I had always impressed upon Colonel Harley that Elmina was the key of the Ashantee question, he never reported the incident to me, nor gave me the smallest hint of the differences arising between himself and the King of Elmina.

12. I cannot avoid saying that, if Colonel Harley had complied with the Colonial regulations and transmitted to me in due course the reports and information on these subjects that it was his duty to send, I believe the state of affairs at Elmina, and in the Protectorate generally, would be different from what it is now. It is not, however, for the purpose of saying this that I refer to the breach of the Regulations, but with the object of relieving myself from the unjust censure of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen. The Under-Secretary's words would have produced a different effect in the House of Commons, if he had added the plain fact that, whatever opinion I entertained as to the Ashantee invasion, and whether that opinion was right or wrong, I had, in every despatch, complained of the material information that Colonel Harley was keeping back from me, and that inclosed in my last despatch to your Lordship about the invasion, and amongst the very last words I wrote were the following:—

"It is difficult, with the insufficient information before me, to form anything like a definite opinion upon what is really taking place in the Protectorate."

13. I still think that a frank and immediate communication to the King of Ashantee and the continuance of a conciliatory policy to the Kings and Chiefs in the territory I transferred, instead of the disputes and arrests that began the year 1873,

\* Asterisks in original.

† Mr. Keate, however, was then on his way out from Liverpool to Sierra Leone.

would have prevented the raid on Assim being converted into an Ashantee war. If Colonel Harley had given me timely notice of the troubles in which he was becoming involved, I believe the intimate and friendly relations I had always maintained since April 1872 with the King and Chiefs of Elmina would have been of some advantage in securing a pacific result. This is, however, a matter of opinion, in which I may or may not be mistaken.

14. One thing, however, seems clear, that the object Parliament had in 1865 (after seeing how the former Ashantee war was provoked) in establishing a Government-in-chief at Sierra Leone was nullified on this occasion by Colonel Harley's failing to communicate with me.

15. On some not unimportant points of detail on which I spoke to Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen at the Colonial Office, I think the Under-Secretary will now admit that I was right; I refer to the strength of the Ashantees and to the value of the Houssa force.

16. I told him twice that he underrated the strength and intelligence of the Ashantees. In the interval between my interviews with him I had an opportunity on the 29th of April of expressing my views in public, and in the report of my remarks which appeared in the "Times" on the 1st of May last, Mr. Hugessen might have read the following words:—

"From conversing with people who had lived among the Ashantees, Mr. Hennessy had come to the conclusion that we ought to have a clear understanding with the Ashantees, who were respectable for their strength and intelligence."

17. It was not, however, until the 9th of May that Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen acknowledged that the strength of the Ashantees had been seriously underrated by Colonel Harley.

18. I also expressed at the Colonial Office and in my despatches, the opinion that the Houssa and Fanti police constituted an effective and cheap contingent; I have now before me an unofficial letter of Colonel Harley, setting forth a very different opinion.

19. But the result, up to this, of the proceedings in the Protectorate shows that I was not wrong about the best force for dealing with the emergency.

20. As Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen censured me at a time when the West African papers were not printed, and no one could, therefore, set him right, I venture to ask your Lordship, as an act of justice to an absent officer, to cause this despatch to be laid before the House of Commons.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. POPE HENNESSY.

## No. 2.

*The Earl Kimberley to Governor J. Pope Hennessy, C.M.G.*

Sir, *Downing Street, July 16, 1873.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 19th ultimo, complaining of a statement made by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen in reply to a question in the House of Commons, upon the 9th of May, on the subject of the Ashantee invasion.

I make the fullest allowance for the difficulty of forming a correct judgment as to the character of this invasion at a distance from the scene of action, but, in justification of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's statement, I need only refer you to your despatch of 13th February, 1873.

In accordance with your request I shall lay your despatch before Parliament, accompanied by my reply.

I inclose, for your information, a copy of the correspondence which has been presented to Parliament on the affairs of the Gold Coast, in which you will find printed your statement that Colonel Harley failed to give you the information with which you should have been furnished, together with Colonel Harley's explanation.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

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DESPATCH from Governor J. Pope Hennessy,  
C.M.G., and Reply, relative to his Estimate of the  
Nature and Importance of the Ashantee Invasion.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command  
of Her Majesty. 1873.*

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J. L. Furber.

# GOLD COAST.

## DESPATCHES

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

# ASHANTEE INVASION

AND

# ATTACK ON ELMINA.



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### LIST OF PAPERS.

Serial No.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	From Colonel Harley ..	June 23, 1873	Inclosing correspondence with, and reports from, Lieut.-Colonel Festing and Captain Fremantle respecting destruction of portion of Elmina and subsequent engagement with Ashantees ..	1
2	„ „ ..	June 23, 1873	General state of affairs in the Protectorate ..	11
3	From Captain Fremantle..	June 17, 1873	Respecting destruction of portion of Elmina and subsequent engagement with Ashantees ..	12



## Despatches on the subject of the Ashantee Invasion and Attack on Elmina.

### No. 1.

*Colonel Harley to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 14.)*

My Lord,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 23, 1873.*

MY despatch of the 10th instant will have placed your Lordship in possession of the state of affairs up to that date, and the few lines I was enabled to send at the last moment by despatch of the 13th instant, owing to the delay of the steamer, will, however, imperfectly have prepared your Lordship to hear of the bombardment of the King's quarter at Elmina.

2. I now very respectfully submit for your Lordship's information Lieutenant-Colonel Festing's report of the operations which he undertook, in concert with Captain Fremantle, the Senior Naval Officer, and which appear to have been as well executed as planned.

3. Your Lordship will observe that not only was time given to the people of Elmina to deliver up their arms, but it was renewed for an hour, and again extended for half an hour, making the notice in all three and a-half hours. During this time the Chiefs held two palavers in the castle, evidently to gain time, and to dissuade Colonel Festing from the prompt action which he took.

I have since been told that the Chiefs said "the Dutch often threatened them but always gave way at the last," and they doubtless hoped such would have been the case now; but, my Lord, I would not have consented to the proclamation of martial law had I not felt satisfied that temporizing any longer would be fruitless of any result except evil to us, and that the time had come for the action of a firm decision, by which it would be shown unmistakably that the authority of Her Majesty's Government must be felt and respected, and that no half measures could be any longer tolerated. I confess I am glad that the Elminas escaped with their lives, although it would have been well could their arms have been seized before they got out of the town, but I believe that everything was done by Colonel Festing that could be accomplished at the time, and that the distinction of the King's quarter was then a just and sufficient punishment for their treachery and disloyalty.

4. In the afternoon, when they came on, joined by the Ashantees, and attacked our forces, intending, if possible, to destroy the loyal part of the town, they were again severely punished, as they deserved; but your Lordship will see, I am sure, with satisfaction, the small number of casualties on our side in comparison with that of the enemy, a return of which is appended to Colonel Festing's detailed report herewith.

5. I have ventured to express my approval in an official manner of the valuable services which have been rendered by Colonel Festing and Captain Fremantle, with the forces military and naval under their command, which I submit for your Lordship's information.

6. I have also concurred in the recommendation of Colonel Festing that the ruins of the King's quarter should be levelled, consisting of but bare walls, and that a new site be chosen for the native town at some distance from the castle, as the proximity of the old town was always a danger, and I have been surprised that the Dutch should have allowed them to build their huts under the very walls of it.

7. The return of the second King and sixteen of the Elmina chiefs who took the oath of allegiance strikes me as evidence of their having now made their

decision in favour of British rule rather than pass over to Ashantee, where, no doubt, the King would be ready to welcome them.

8. I inclose for your Lordship's information a copy of Colonel Festing's report to the Secretary of State for War and to the Admiralty with which he has favoured me, so that your Lordship will be in possession of all the details of the operation.

9. The main body of the Ashantees is now at Effootoo, equally distant from Elmina and Cape Coast, between 10 and 12 miles, but they have advanced parties at villages only distant about 7 miles.

10. The traders of Cape Coast are still full of alarm and fear without taking any steps that I am aware of, to either assist the Government or help themselves, which, however, I have endeavoured to allay by requesting the Senior Naval Officer at Cape Coast (Captain Blake) to land some seamen and marines, in all fifty men with two officers, which has been done with Captain Fremantle's approval, and they are quartered in the Castle. I should here mention to your Lordship that, as Elmina is the point of attack, Colonel Festing and Captain Fremantle have made it their head-quarters, and I have reason to think that Colonel Festing's energy will do much there to restore order, as I regret to have to acquaint your Lordship that Captain Turton, 2nd West India Regiment, has had to be invalided, his health having completely broken down. Should it be sufficiently restored on his arrival in England I have requested him to call at the Colonial Office and afford your Lordship such personal information as he can well give, as perhaps from having been in command at Elmina, for some time, and acting as Mr. Hennessy's private Secretary at the time of the transfer he will have a more intimate knowledge of all the circumstances than any one else I know.

11. I very earnestly trust that I may have your Lordship's continued approval of the steps which I have taken in conjunction with Colonel Festing and Captain Fremantle, whose co-operation and readiness to assist the Government I take this opportunity of bringing to your Lordship's favourable notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. WM. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Fort St. George, Elmina, June 15, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in conformity with the decision arrived at on the 12th instant by your Excellency in Council, in placing this town and the surrounding districts under martial law, that I marched with a force of men at midnight to the castle.

2. According to the plan I had previously arranged in concert with Captain Fremantle, R.N., the disaffected quarter of the town was surrounded by troops and boats from Her Majesty's ships at 5:30 A.M., when martial law was immediately proclaimed, and orders issued to seize all arms, &c., but to molest no one, and to fire only on being attacked. A proclamation to this effect, a copy of which is inclosed, was then issued, giving the people a sufficient time to deliver their arms.

3. In about an hour's time several Chiefs of the friendly portion of the city came to discuss matters, upon which, after one discussion, we dispatched them to the town to tell the people we had no intention of altering our resolution.

4. A message then came from some chiefs of the disaffected quarter, proposing that we should go out of the fort over the drawbridge to meet them; we replied that we would see them if they came into the castle to us upon the battery rampart and would give them a free pass out of the castle.

5. In about another hour's time, several of these Chiefs came, but could give us no truthful reason why the arms were not brought to the castle as directed.

6. At this time we published another proclamation, a copy of which is inclosed, giving them one hour more, after which, should the arms not be forthcoming, we would bombard the town.

7. Wishing to give every opportunity to the people to become loyal and to attend to our commands, we deferred another half-hour, at which time (noon), no arms from that quarter having arrived, we opened fire all round the town which set it on fire. We discontinued bombardment before twenty minutes had passed.

8. A considerable number of armed men managed to elude our line of sentries at the back of the town through a prickly pear grove. These men assembled together and opened fire upon us. Mr. Loggie, with the Houssas, some Marine Artillery and Light Infantry, and 2nd West men, whose line they had broken through, returned their fire.

9. About this time, a report came to me that the Ashantees were advancing. Having ascertained that such was the fact, I determined to take the field, Captain Fremantle, with his usual readiness in co-operating, adding to my force the men from his boats.

10. These Ashantees came from the north, and were marching to join their Elmina friends.

11. We advanced all our available men against the combined forces of the enemy and succeeded with very slight loss in completely routing them, killing a few, and taking a colour. This being done, we returned to the Castle about 3 P.M.

12. About 5 I found that the Ashantees were coming in from the north in the direction of the friendly part of the town. Having allowed them to get quite close to the garden outpost, all the available forces were assembled, with the addition of the men from the "Barracouta's" boats (the only boats left in the river) who, at my request, Captain Fremantle immediately ordered to land, we advanced under cover to meet the enemy. They were in great force, estimated at 3,000 men, but the cool of the evening and the clear ground they had crossed over being in our favour, we did not take long to dispose of them. The Ashantees fought well, and tried to turn our right flank, but at this moment Lieutenant Wells, R.N., with the blue-jackets suddenly appeared, and drove them back. The Ashantees were now greatly startled, and began to waver. Seeing that our flank was secure, I now advanced all the line and drove them back into the bush.

13. Their loss was about 200 men, including the General in command and three other Chiefs, among whom was the Ashantee King's nephew, whereas in both engagements our loss was: killed, 1 private Royal Marine Light Infantry, and 1 private 2nd West Regiment; wounded, 1 officer (Mr. Loggie) and 4 men. We returned to the Castle about 7 o'clock.

14. I had the King's quarter of the town set on fire, and mean to complete its destruction by blowing the houses down as soon as it can be properly arranged.

15. The women and children from all quarters are in the fort in very great numbers with their stores, but I am endeavouring to clear as many away as possible in order to secure our people from sickness, who are all well at present.

16. I wish to bring to the notice of your Excellency the very valuable services rendered by Surgeon-Major Rowe and Mr. Loggie during the whole of the operations.

17. Nothing more has been seen of the Ashantees up to the present time, but I am keeping a good force in preparation for any further service that may be required.

18. Major Lazenby, with about 100 volunteers joined last evening, and I have kept them. Major Lazenby will be much required at present, and also Captain Despard, Mr. Loggie being wounded and the other officers having more to do than they should have on the very poor food that this Castle affords.

19. As for myself, I must remain here for the present, as it is of the utmost importance.

20. Had it not been for the kindness of Captain Fremantle in temporarily lending me the assistance of his own Clerk, an Assistant Paymaster, R.N., I should have had very great difficulty in communicating with you in the midst of the incessant calls upon my own time.

21. Commissary Marsden is most welcome here, his services being absolutely indispensable, especially in consequence of the sickness of the Fort Commandant.

22. A number of Cape Coast volunteers have just now arrived (1:30 P.M.) from many quarters, who are pillaging the loyal portion of the town, so I have directed all to be marched home, except a small portion of them who are more trustworthy.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel, R.M.A.,*  
*Commanding Troops.*

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief, Cape Coast Castle.

P. S.—The mail left before I had any chance of communicating with Lord Kimberley direct.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

*Proclamation.*

MARTIAL law having been proclaimed within and throughout the town of Elmina, and the surrounding districts where the Ashantees have entered,

Be it known to the inhabitants of the King's quarters of Elmina Town, that all arms and munitions of war are to be delivered up at the gate of Castle of St. George, between the hours of 7 and 9.

To notify the time to the people, two guns will be fired from the Castle of St. George, the first as a warning gun, the second two hours afterwards; after which time should the arms, &c., be not willingly delivered up as desired, forcible measures will be adopted to seize them.

All women, children, and unarmed men, will have every protection.

*Fort St. George, Elmina, June 13, 1873.*

(Signed)

E. R. FREMANTLE, *Captain, R.N., Senior Naval Officer.*  
F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Troops.*

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Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

*Proclamation.*

THE inhabitants of the King's quarter having failed to comply with the order published this morning relative to the delivery of arms and munitions of war,

We hereby give notice, that we will allow one hour from this time for the remaining unarmed inhabitants, women, and children and the sick, to be taken out of the town unmolested, after which time we shall, without further notice, commence to destroy the town.

Dated at Elmina, Fort St. George, 13th day of June, 1873, at 10:30 A.M.

(Signed)

F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Troops.*  
E. R. FREMANTLE, *Captain, R.N., Senior Naval Officer.*

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Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 16, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your report on the operations at Elmina, which I received last evening.

2. I have read with much satisfaction the just punishment which has been inflicted upon the disloyal and disaffected Elminas, by the destruction of the King's quarter, as also the result of your successful and spirited action, and in the afternoon when the Ashantees again came on and attacked in force.

3. I rejoice to think that the casualties of the united forces engaged should have been so small, while the enemy have suffered severely.

4. The active co-operation of Captain Fremantle, with the seamen and marines of Her Majesty's ships at Elmina was most valuable, and assisted very materially to the complete success which your plans, in concert with him, achieved.

5. You appear also to have given sufficient time for the people to deliver up their arms, but which, as they evidently had no intention of doing, further parley was useless. I therefore approve of the steps which you took in conjunction with Captain Fremantle for making known to the inhabitants the proclamation of martial law, as conveyed in the notices which you issued and published to the inhabitants of Elmina.

6. With reference to the complete destruction of the King's quarter of the town by blowing the houses down, I beg that you will not destroy any property which may remain standing of loyal people now reported to have been resident

there, but of whom I had no previous knowledge, accurate information on this point can perhaps be had from the Acting Civil Commandant.

7. I apprehend that the Colonial Hospital might be occupied with advantage by the women and children who have sought refuge in the forts, and thus give you the increased space you require for your own men, and that they should have a guard for their protection from the garden quarter, which I understand is held by Houssas. The Acting Civil Commandant would make any arrangements of this nature which you may desire.

8. I remark with pleasure the very valuable services rendered by Surgeon-Major Rowe, Colonial Surgeon, and Mr. Loggie, Acting Inspector-General of Police, in charge of the Houssas during the whole of the operations, and I regret to find that the latter officer is wounded. I am glad also to find that the Volunteers, under Major Lazenby, whom I dispatched to your assistance, will be serviceable; the arrival and services of Captain Despard and Commissary Marsden seem to have been opportune, and will be useful.

9. I regret to observe that some of the Cape Coast people have been pillaging the loyal portion of the town; it is of importance that you take immediate steps to put a stop to such proceedings.

In conclusion, I have to require that you and Captain Fremantle will accept the thanks of this Government for the very prompt and efficient service which you have so far rendered.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, R.M.A.,  
Commanding Troops, Elmina.

P.S. A copy of your Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State.

R. W. H.

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Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Sir,

*St. George d'Elmina, June 17, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to express my gratitude for the satisfaction you express therein.

2. With reference to paragraph 6 I beg to inform you that from inquiries which I have made relative to the various houses in the King's quarter of this town, with the view of ascertaining if there be any which belong to loyal people, it is my opinion that there is no sufficient reason why any distinction should be made between one householder and another.

3. I beg, therefore, to suggest to your Excellency that as it has already been fired, and that, almost without exception, the bare walls alone remain, it would be advisable to raze the whole of it at once to the ground.

4. The loyal quarter being left, this example would demonstrate to the disaffected people the determination of the British authorities to protect the loyal, but to chastise with sure hand the faithless and treacherous.

5. I would also remark that the houses of this quarter of the town are within pistol shot of the Castle walls, too near for its proper defence, and for its sanitary condition.

6. The site thus afforded would enable your Excellency greatly to improve the town of Elmina, which from its naturally powerful defensive position, its greater distance from the bush, and vastly superior landing place is a more advantageous port than that of Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*  
*Commanding the Forces on the West Coast of Africa.*

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief, Cape Coast Castle.

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## Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 19, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 17th instant and to inform you that I concur with you as to the expediency of levelling the bare walls which remain in the King's quarter of Elmina, after the recent destruction of the town.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, R.M.A.,  
Commanding Troops, Elmina.

## Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

*Head-Quarters, The Castle, St. George d'Elmina,*  
*June 19, 1873.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that about forty or fifty arms belonging to people in the disaffected quarter of the town of Elmina were brought to the Castle yesterday.

The second King with sixteen chiefs took the oath of allegiance (the documents of which I inclose) yesterday.

The remaining seven chiefs, three of whom are wounded, were absent.

I explained to them that I could hold out no hopes of their being allowed to occupy their houses as before, which most probably would be levelled to the ground.

I told them that I would report the circumstances to your Excellency, and that I had no doubt they would be permitted to have some suitable site to build upon elsewhere. I asked if they would be true to our flag even against the Ashantees. They first replied that they would, but they had never fought against them.

But, on my putting before them the supposition that should the Ashantees come into this town to attack us, and asking them, in this case, which side would they take, they said they would join us against the Ashantees.

I promised them nothing; and the general tone of their expressions, which they yesterday [*sic*] more than once, was that they would trust to us.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel, R.M.A.,*  
*Commanding the Troops on the West Coast of Africa,*

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief, Cape Coast Castle.

## Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

*Declaration.**Fort St. George, Elmina, June 18, 1873.*

I DO solemnly swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, her heirs and successors, according to the law.

So help me God.

(Signed)

QUACOE ATTAH, his X mark.  
QUOW DOOATSIE COFFEE, his X mark.  
COBBENA ANNAN, his X mark.  
QUACOE ANNAN, his X mark.  
QUAMINA AWOCHIE, his X mark.  
QUOW WERANCOE, his X mark.  
COBBENA TOOTOE, his X mark.  
QUASHIE ASHUN, his X mark.  
QUOW ABBACAN, his X mark.  
QUASHIE ADOE-AMMAH, his X mark.  
COBBENA ISNO, his X mark.  
QUACOE QUAY, his X mark.  
QUORO PAYEE, his X mark.  
COFFEE ANNOWEE, his X mark.  
QUAMINA ASHUN, his X mark.  
QUAMINA GAYSEE, his X mark.  
CUDJO ACKON, his X mark.

Absent:—

- QUASHIE ANDRIES (wounded).
- QUACOE BOCHIE.
- COFFEE PETTEH (wounded).
- CUDJO EHKAIN.
- QUACOE MENSAH (wounded).
- QUOW MENSAH.
- QUACOOMAH TOETOO.

Declared this 18th day of June, 1873.

Before us,  
 (Signed) H. T. O'REILLY, *Acting Civil Commandant.*  
 F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Troops.*

Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Sir, *The Castle, Cape Coast, June 19, 1873.*  
 I HAVE received with much satisfaction your report of the second King and sixteen of the Chiefs of Elmina having come in and taken the oath of allegiance.

I make no doubt the remainder will soon follow their example.

I think the course you adopted is the proper one in dealing with these Chiefs, in making no promises whatever; at the same time, I would recommend every disposition being shown to demonstrate the good will of the Government to those who have been loyal and deserving.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, R.M.A.,  
 Commanding the Forces, Elmina.

Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, the Castle of St. George d'Elmina,*  
*West Coast of Africa, June 18, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, on the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," with a force of 5 officers and 104 men of the Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry, under my command, it was urgently considered necessary, in the threatened state of affairs on the coast, that this force should be immediately landed. The disembarkation therefore took place on the morning of Monday, the 9th instant, with every success; although, from the violent state of the surf, the greatest caution had to be exercised.

2. Upon my arrival at Cape Coast Castle, being Senior Military Officer on the station, the command of the troops fell into my hands accordingly from the 9th instant.

3. From what I had learnt on the passage out, through the kindness of Lord Kimberley, concerning the state of affairs on this coast, and after communicating on the subject with his Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B., Administrator-in-chief, in concert with Captain Fremantle, the Senior Naval Officer, the conclusion arrived at was, that Elmina should be the base of operations, as it was, without doubt, assailed by the Ashantees.

4. Accordingly, on the 10th instant, we came to this place. I may here remark, that the disturbed state of affairs was so great, that it was then considered doubtful whether the road between Cape Coast Castle and Elmina was open.

5. On our arrival, from information received and which had been previously reported upon, we found that the inhabitants of the King's quarter of the town of Elmina (which is separated from the loyal portion by river) were disaffected, and had acted treacherously towards us, by affording support to the Ashantees during their invasion, by supplying them with stores of various kinds. After having gone some little distance into the country to reconnoitre, we returned to Cape Coast Castle, for the purpose of deliberating with the Administrator upon the advisability of disarming the inhabitants of the disloyal quarters of the town.

6. On the 12th instant his Excellency held a Legislative Council upon the subject, at which both Captain Fremantle and I were present. After due consultation, it was unanimously decided martial law should be proclaimed in the town of Elmina and surrounding districts entered by the Ashantees.

7. Upon this I left Cape Coast, accompanied by a small force, by road, at midnight, with the document for proclamation of martial law.

8. Captain Fremantle and I had arranged our plans, which were to surround the disaffected quarter at daylight, and after putting the place under martial law, summon the people to deliver up their arms at the north gate of the Castle.

9. I arrived in the Castle before daylight, having had much less difficulty in crossing the Sweet River, which cuts the road between Cape Coast and Elmina (a distance of about 8 miles), 2 miles from the latter place, than I had on my return journey from this place, when the depth of the water at the ford was so great that our party had to wade and swim.

10. At 5:30 on the morning of Friday, the 13th instant, the disaffected quarter was surrounded on the river side by boats from Her Majesty's ships, and on the land by a force of Houssas.

11. Martial law was proclaimed, and orders were issued to take all arms, but otherwise to molest no one, and to fire only on being attacked.

12. About 6 A.M. Captain Fremantle joined me in the Castle, and from that place we conducted the proceedings.

13. We issued proclamation to the people, and held two discussions at different times with the Chiefs and head people who came to meet us, and who evidently wished to do all in their power to persuade us to postpone our intentions by various modes of deception.

14. Before long we brought the matter to a crisis by giving the people one hour to attend to our commands or to have their town destroyed. This concession was attended by no more favourable result than before. Wishing to leave no stone unturned to invite them if possible to listen to reason, to become loyal and obedient people, we again deferred another half hour, at the end of which time (about noon), no arms from that quarter having arrived, we opened fire with artillery all round the disaffected quarter for the purpose of destroying the town. The town being in flames in several places, we discontinued our bombardment in about a quarter of an hour.

15. About this time movements of armed men were discovered at various parts of the surrounding hills, and a report came from Fort St. Jago (a fine elevated fortress commanding the approaches to the north of the town) that a large body of Ashantees were advancing to the support of their Elmina friends. Some skirmishing in the bush and plain at the back of the town was now going on, the enemy having been the first to fire. Ascertaining personally the truth of this report, I at once determined to take the field with all the available forces at hand, after providing for the safety of the Castle and other outposts.

16. From the moment we took the field, and any of his own men were landed, Captain Fremantle, R.N., with largeness of heart and mind most unreservedly placed them under my orders, at the same time coming himself and adding his valuable services. This step put matters on a good footing, and allowed of no divided directions.

17. We advanced along the beach to the back of the town, and when clear of a cactus grove and some rough hillocks of thick bush through which dense cover numbers of armed Elminas had eluded our line of sentries, which had been augmented with all the means in our power, to a spot which afforded space to deploy, we formed line in rear of the skirmishers and advanced in extended order to their support, continually advancing and firing till we drove the combined enemy into the utmost confusion, disorder, and riot, leaving some twenty dead behind them.

18. The enemy on this occasion at first kept up a well supported fire and held their ground, at one time even threatened our flank; but having observed this movement it was met by a corresponding change of front, and advance which concluded the effect already described. This took place near a village called Impinnie. A flag was captured by two men at the same moment. A marine artilleryman and a Houssa which, to appease them was divided equally, each man being satisfied with half.

19. The enemy having totally disappeared we collected the forces and returned to the Castle.



20. Soon after the men had been broken off to take a little rest after their many hours of constant employment, another report came from St. Jago Fort that the Ashantees were advancing from a northerly direction upon the loyal quarter of the town. Having personally satisfied myself of the truth of the report, and that the Ashantees were in great force close to the Garden outpost, the general assembly was sounded and the available forces marched up to the outpost, after providing for the defence of the bridge which is the regular approach to the Castle. From Java Hill everything could be kept in hand, and I was able to watch matters and collect forces under cover, while the enemy was unconsciously advancing close by.

21. Most of the boats of the squadron had returned to their ships, but those of the "Barracouta" remained. The men from these boats immediately landed under Lieutenant Wells, R.M., and were placed at my disposal. Mr. Loggie, Acting Inspector-General of Police, with the Houssas, a very dashing body of irregular infantry, armed with the Snider rifle, was there directed to advance, supported by Lieutenant Ho Quill, R.M., with a force of Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry and some of the 2nd West India Regiment. They engaged the enemy very determinedly, but their number was small as compared with the Ashantees, whose force was estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 men.

22. At this moment the Ashantees were holding their ground with their main body, which was assembling *en masse*; the two steel 7-pounder guns ordered for us, but which had not arrived from England, would have now done great service. They tried with great dash to turn our right flank, but at this opportune moment Lieutenant Wells, R.N., with his small-arm men, met them at the right spot, checked them, and thwarted their intentions. Those who had attempted this feat fell back in haste. Seeing that our flank was secure, and that the enemy had staggered from the rapid fire pouring in from the Snider on all sides, I directed the advance of the whole line, which drove the enemy back with great loss.

They continued their retreat in an orderlike manner, keeping up a hot fire, and showed a remarkably steady front from time to time, although their ranks were being continually thinned.

Our advance continued to the edge of a thick bush at a distance of about three miles from the town. Here the Ashantees made one more stand as a final attempt, but it was of no use, they were mown down. After a short time they gave up and rushed away in full retreat, confusion, and precipitation, leaving about 200 dead on the field, amongst whom were four out of their six chiefs, the nephew of the King of Ashantee (the General in command) being one.

23. As it was becoming dusk, and I wished to preserve intact, if possible, every individual of this little force I here sounded the "halt" and returned to the Castle.

24. This engagement took place near a village called Achimum.

25. I beg leave to express my best thanks to Captain Fremantle and his officers and men for the great assistance they have rendered in these engagements. May I venture to add my admiration of the personal gallantry displayed by him when cheering on his men within pistol-shot of the enemy.

26, 27. I have already reported the services of Surgeon-Major Rowe, and Mr. Loggie, of the Police, to his Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B. (being Colonial Officers), but I must report that, as a first-rate leader of that stern body of men, the Houssas, it would be impossible to excel Mr. Loggie in courage and dash.

28. Lieutenant Allen, R.M.A., had general charge of the Artillery of the Castle, and deserves much credit for the manner in which he prepared the batteries, with the very poor means at his disposal.

29. Lieutenant Quill, R.M.L.I., skirmished his men with great alacrity, and merits much praise.

30. Surgeon-Major Rowe, who acted in more capacities than those of his own profession, rendered valuable assistance on all occasions.

31. Surgeon McDermott, R.N., was most indefatigable in giving help to those in need.

32. Lieutenant Bourke, R.N., had command of the Naval Brigade at the first engagement, which rendered excellent service.

33. Lieutenant Wells, R.N., who was out on both occasions, particularly distinguished himself by the spirited manner in which he brought up his men to the support of our right flank in the second engagement.

34. The services of Captain Turton, 2nd West India Regiment, were unfortunately lost to us, he having been down with fever.

35. A flag, a Chief's stick, and many arms fell into our hands at the last engagement. The arms are old flint-lock muskets, and one of them which is in my room is marked "London," and has the Tower proof upon it. There is also a girdle, containing two knives from Sheffield.

36. An Ashantee deserter, a very intelligent young man, informs us that the men we attacked were considerably more than 3,000.

37. In conclusion, may I venture to hope that, as hitherto we have preserved the loyal portion of the town, destroyed the treacherous quarter, and given a lesson to the Ashantees which they cannot easily forget, that we have, so far, demonstrated the advantages there are in British protection, and the responsibility incurred by those who are faithless and inimical, in such a manner as to merit your valuable approbation, as well as that of his Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B., Administrator-in-chief of the Government on this coast, which we have already received, and from whom we have had every assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel, R.M.A.,  
Commanding the Troops, West Coast of Africa.*

To the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War,  
London.

### Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

#### List of Killed and Wounded.

##### FIRST ENGAGEMENT.

Private Charles Louie, 2nd W.I. Regiment—killed.  
Ordinary seaman J. D. Jennings—severely wounded.  
Private Henry Pethers, R.M.L.I. } slightly wounded.  
" David A. Eccleston, 2nd W.I. Regiment }

##### FORCES ENGAGED.

	Officers.	Men.
From garrison .. .. .	7	310
„ boats .. .. .	20	180
Total present .. .. .	27	490

	Men.
Total killed in this engagement .. .. .	1
„ wounded „ .. .. .	3
„ of the enemy killed (about) .. .. .	20

##### SECOND ENGAGEMENT.

Private W. Gouge, R.M.L.I.—killed.  
Acting Inspector-General of Police J. C. Loggie—severely and slightly wounded.  
Private Mouhan Budlie, Houssas—severely wounded.  
Colour-Sergeant Masters, R.M.L.I. } slightly wounded.  
Private Mahomet Kennrie, Houssas }

##### FORCES ENGAGED.

	Officers.	Men.
From garrison .. .. .	7	256
boats .. .. .	8	62
Total present .. .. .	15	318

	Men.
Total killed in the engagement .. .. .	1
„ wounded „ .. .. .	3
„ of the enemy killed (about) .. .. .	200

##### FORCES ENGAGED.

Royal Naval Brigade.  
Royal Marine Artillery.  
Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
2nd West India Regiment, Houssas.  
Volunteers (in second engagement only); King of Aguafoo and men (in first engagement only).

## Inclosure 12 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 12, 1873.*

THE necessity for a Proclamation of Martial Law at Elmina and the surrounding district having been this day decided on at a Council at which you were good enough to be present, it is the intention of Lieutenant-Colonel Festing to proceed to Elmina at an early hour to-morrow, for the purpose of disarming the people there. I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to afford him such co-operation and assistance as may be necessary and expedient by the landing of your seamen and marines from Her Majesty's ships which are in the roadstead.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Fremantle, R.N.,  
Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta."

## Inclosure 13 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 17, 1873.*

IN a despatch, addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, R.M.A., Commanding the Forces engaged in the recent operations at Elmina, acknowledging his report of the same, I did myself the honour to express my sense of your active and valuable co-operation with him, which so much contributed to the complete success which attended them. I desire also to avail myself of the occasion to convey to yourself the thanks of the Local Government for the important service which, with the seamen and marines, whom you kindly permitted to land from Her Majesty's ships, you have rendered to this Settlement.

I recognize with pleasure the prompt service of Lieutenant Wells, R.N., with the blue jackets, when the right flank of the forces was threatened by the Ashantees in the second engagement which took place on the afternoon of the 13th instant.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Fremantle, R.N.,  
Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta,"  
Elmina Roads.

## Inclosure 14 in No. 1.

Sir,

*"Barracouta," Elmina, June 19, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, conveying to me the thanks of the Local Government for the services rendered by the officers, seamen and marines under my command on the 13th June, and I beg to express my gratification at the operations having met with your approval.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

E. R. FREMANTLE,  
*Captain and Senior Officer.*

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

## No. 2.

*Colonel Harley to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 14.)*

My Lord,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 23, 1873.*

FROM information which Colonel Festing received at Elmina to the effect that Cape Coast would be attacked during the present week, he came over here yesterday to confer with me, and Captain Fremantle comes to day: this intelligence they received from an Elmina man who had been in the Ashantee Camp, and who

professed to have heard something of their intended movements. The spies who are employed by the Government bring in news two or three times daily, but it is difficult to make out from them anything of the definite plans or intentions of the enemy.

2. The Ashantees have, however, concentrated their forces at Effootoo which is about an equal distance from Elmina and Cape Coast, and so far as numbers go, it would appear that they are strong enough to divide their forces and attack both Elmina and Cape Coast at the same time, not that I think they will do so.

3. A prisoner who had escaped from the Ashantee Camp during the night of the 20th instant, reported that he heard the Captain, to whom he had been handed over as a slave, say, that the King was coming down to join his army and that he had already left Coomassie but had not yet crossed the Prah, and that the King has sent down 900 ounces of gold dust to be distributed amongst his Captains.

4. A report brought up by Her Majesty's ship "Seagull" from Axim, states that Atjiempon has been defeated in Appolonia by the King's troops and has retreated on the main body at Effootoo, but I have no report of this from the Civil Commandant at Axim, nor any confirmation of it whatever. I therefore submit it to your Lordship for what it is worth.

5. I am thankful to be able to report to your Lordship that, although the advance of the Ashantees into the Windward districts has naturally created much excitement, there has been no rising of the people against Her Majesty's rule except at Elmina and its villages, although the Ashantees have sent messengers into the Ashantee country and have endeavoured to induce the people to join them. The Secondees and Chamas are the most disaffected, but even they have made no movement against the Government.

6. The forts at Secondee and Dixcove which are occupied only by a detachment of armed police under the Civil Commandants, have been provisioned, and received a reserve supply of ammunition, and I have requested the Senior Naval Officer to keep a ship cruising on the Windward Coast to communicate frequently with the Civil Commandants and to afford protection and aid if necessary. I trust these arrangements will have your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c,

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,

Administrator-in-chief,

No. 3.

*Captain Fremantle to Commodore Commerell.*

Sir,

"*Barracouta*," off Fort St. George, Elmina, June 17, 1872.

I REGRET much that, owing to the master of the mail steamer "Calabar," having only waited at this port about half-an-hour when he had promised to remain several hours, it was impossible for me to forward the general letter of proceedings which I had ready by that opportunity.

During the half-hour the "Calabar" remained here, on the 13th instant, a smart action was going on with the Ashantees, she had not arrived when it commenced and she had sailed before we returned to the forts.

2. On the 10th instant I took Lieutenant-Colonel Festing in Her Majesty's gun-boat "Decoy" to this place.

3. The information, which we received here, pointed to a large body of Ashantees being in the bush close at hand, and it was reported to be even dangerous to move from one fort to another; and not only from native reports, but from the personal observation of the military commandant as well as of Commander Percy P. Luxmore, we ascertained that the inhabitants of the King's portion of Elmina, which abuts on this fort, and who have been always more or less unfriendly, were actively assisting the Ashantees with arms and provisions under our very eyes, and it was expected that these Elminas would join the Ashantees in any attack that might be made.

4. On our return we communicated with Colonel Harley, but, owing to the difficulty of landing and other delays, it was not till the 12th instant that it was decided at a Council, which we attended, presided over by Colonel Harley, to disarm the disaffected Elminas after proclaiming martial law.

5. Colonel Festing and myself decided to effect this by surrounding the

disaffected district and summoning the people to deliver up their arms, and this we resolved to do at daylight the following morning.

6. The scene of operations is a narrow peninsula with Fort Saint George at the eastern extremity, the small River Beyrah forming the north side, and the sea the south side.

I proposed to guard the river with a string of boats, as well as to prevent any escape by the sea, while Colonel Francis W. Festing, marched some marines from Cape Coast Castle to man the guns and reinforce the garrison at Elmina, and assist in guarding the exit to the west of the village.

7. The operation of effecting a successful entrance into the river is one not unattended with difficulty, but the tide was suitable, and the surf is not often dangerous.

8. The ships at my disposal were the "Barracouta," "Seagull," "Decoy," "Druid," "Argus;" the two latter being at Elmina. The requisite orders had been issued the previous day in readiness for this operation, and at a quarter to 5 o'clock on the 13th the boats of the whole of the ships were off Elmina, manned and armed (the boats of the "Barracouta" and "Seagull" having been towed in by the "Decoy"), and were pulling into the river under my personal superintendence in the following order:—

Gig of "Decoy," under Lieutenant-Commanding John Hext, whom I ordered to lead in consequence of his accurate local knowledge.

Boats of "Barracouta," in charge of Lieutenant Lewis F. Wells.

Boats of "Druid," in charge of Lieutenant Edmund G. Bourke.

Boats of "Seagull," in charge of Lieutenant W. Marrack.

Boats of "Argus," in charge of Lieutenant Gordon C. Young.

It was just day-light, a little before 5.30, when the first boat successfully shot the small bridge over the river, and in ten minutes' time the river was effectually blockaded, the larger boats being anchored by the stern in line, the gigs remaining under weigh.

At the same time the steam-pinnace of the "Barracouta," accompanied by the "Decoy's" cutter, under Navigating Lieutenant Albert R. Wonham, took up their stations on the sea-side to prevent any escape through the surf.

I then repaired to the fort to take the requisite steps with Colonel Festing for enforcing our demands, leaving Lieutenant Bourke, of Her Majesty's ship "Druid," in command of the boats.

9. A proclamation of martial law was immediately issued, followed by two others, the first of which required the delivery of arms in two hours, and the second, issued at 10.30, gave one hour for the removal of women, children, and unarmed men, after which, should the arms not be given up, the town would be bombarded. We could see many armed men in the town, and some of the chiefs came with excuses (it was evident that the intention was to gain time), but no arms at all were delivered up, and at a little past noon, having reinforced the Houssas with twenty marines from the boats, and some men of the 2nd West India Regiment, so as to guard more effectively the narrow neck of land to the west of the village, we ordered the bombardment to commence from Fort St. George and the boats. This continued for twenty minutes, till the rockets from the boats had set the town on fire in several places, with no answer except a few stray shots from small arms, and we then saw that a large number of armed men were escaping through the Houssas, as we heard afterwards, by making for the bush through the prickly pear or cactus scrub, where it was difficult to follow them. Orders were immediately sent to the Houssas and marines to follow them; the Elminas commenced firing, and a smart skirmish ensued, which we could plainly see from a commanding position in Fort St. Jago.

10. We then saw a large body of Ashantees, probably 2,000 strong, streaming along the side of the bush, and extending their right rapidly towards the sea, so as to lend assistance to their Elmina friends, and we immediately decided to take the field in support of our skirmishers.

11. Leaving only boat-keepers and enough men to fight two boats' guns in the boats, the naval forces were all landed at the bend of the river, and formed five companies, under Lieutenants Bourke, Moore, Wells, Young, and Marrack, and leaving Commander Luxmore in charge of the boats I placed myself with our Naval Brigade unreservedly at the disposal of Colonel Festing, who had marched from the fort with his whole available force.

12. A desultory action ensued, chiefly along the sea-shore, the Ashantees showing considerable fight, but they retreated rapidly before the advance of our skirmishers, aided by some rockets from the boats outside the serf, and at about 2 P.M., the heat being intense, the enemy being pushed beyond Impini, a village of very bad impute, some three miles from Elmina, where a Dutch flag was taken by a marine of Her Majesty's ship "Druid," and the Ashantees being in great force on our right, Colonel Festing ordered a halt to be sounded, and by 3 P.M. we had returned to the fort, having, as we supposed, taught the Ashantees a severe lesson.

The loss of the enemy in this engagement may be calculated as amounting to between twenty and thirty men.

13. The boats' crews then had their dinners, after which I ordered them on board their ships, and they had all left the river by 5 o'clock except those of the "Barracouta" and Lieutenant Bourke's gig, when a message arrived that the Ashantees were advancing in large numbers on the line of Effootoo, with the intention of attacking the eastern or loyal portion of Elmina.

14. All our available forces were immediately brought into the field, and directing Lieutenant Wells to land and advance on our right, I pushed on with Lieutenant Bourke and our two boats' crews with Colonel Festing.

15. The enemy came boldly along the plain, which we rather encouraged by not showing ourselves, and when we arrived at a small fort called Java Hill on the outskirts of the village at 5.45, we found ourselves hotly engaged with their skirmishers, with their main body massed at our feet. The Housas skirmished with their usual aptitude, but the enemy outflanked us considerably on our right and we could not advance.

16. At this time the "Barracouta's" men came up on our right, and Lieutenant Wells saw our opponents, who were too busily engaged with us to observe his approach. He extended his men in skirmishing order and quickly drove their skirmishers out of a large garden, where they were establishing themselves, and advanced to the shelter of a wall about four feet high from which he poured a heavy fire into their retreating skirmishers and their main body, which was then massed on the plain. The enemy was outflanked and staggered by this unexpected attack, when Colonel Festing ordered a general advance, and a running fight ensued across the salt plain (the enemy attempting to make a stand occasionally) past a village called Achimum till they were completely defeated and driven into the bush, leaving the plain strewn with their dead.

17. It was then getting dark, our men were dead tired, and we decided to return to the town, the seamen being re-embarked.

18. That this action has given the Ashantees a most severe lesson, I can have no doubt; their loss in killed only amounts, by their own account and our computation, to at least 200. They attacked boldly and skilfully, their forces numbering some 3,000 men, yet they lost four Chiefs out of six engaged, and were quite unable to inflict any corresponding loss on ourselves. On this occasion, too, we had no time to bring field guns or rockets to bear upon them, and all the destruction is due to the Snider,

19. They have not been seen since, and I do not believe they will dare to face Englishmen again, at least in the plain. We have taken two colours which the Ashantees prize highly, and they were intended, we are told, to replace the British flag on Fort St. George.

20. I have every reason to be pleased with the aptitude and gallantry displayed by the officers, seamen, and marines under my command, but I would wish specially to bring to their Lordships' notice the conduct of Lieutenant Edmund G. Bourke, Senior Lieutenant of Her Majesty's ship "Druid," who carried out my orders with a zeal, an alacrity, and a readiness of resource, which I cannot too highly praise, and I trust that such conduct, when combined with all the good qualities of a seaman and an officer, will not fail to meet with its due reward.

21. Lieutenant Lewis F. Wells' conduct in the action speaks for itself; I can only add that he showed great skill and decision, as well as gallantry. That the fire of his men was well directed is proved by the number of the enemy's dead in front of the garden; and this is the second time during the short period of the ship's commission that he has found opportunity of displaying his good qualities conspicuously.

22. I had appointed Dr. Francis H. Moore, Staff Surgeon second class of this ship, to be in medical charge of the expedition, and his suggestions to me proved

most valuable, whilst, although technically a non-combatant, he did not shrink from being well to the front and under fire, ready to attend those who were wounded.

23. I would also wish to mention Mr. Edmund Hickson, Assistant-Paymaster of this ship, who acted as my aide-de-camp, and who proved most useful in taking notes of the various occurrences.

24. I inclose a list of casualties in the fleet, which are small considering the loss inflicted on the enemy. The marine of the "Barracouta" was killed whilst getting over the garden-wall I have alluded to. Besides the casualties mentioned in the inclosed list, the force sustained a loss of one private, West India Regiment killed, one officer and two men of Houssas and two marines wounded, making a total in the combined forces of—

Killed—2 men.

Wounded—1 officer, 1 colour-sergeant, 2 houssas, 2 marines, and 1 blue-jacket.

25. Every precaution that could suggest itself to Dr. Moore or myself was taken to preserve the health of the men engaged. They had quinine served out going and returning; and the sick list of the squadron has not been increased in consequence of the expedition.

26. I am happy to be able to add, that I have found myself able to act with the most perfect cordiality with Lieutenant-Colonel Francis W. Festing, R.M.A., who unites with great care and precaution for his men a boldness and gallantry in action which has won my esteem and admiration.

27. This operation has received the support and approval of Colonel Harley, the Administrator-in-chief, who has conveyed his warm thanks to Colonel Festing and myself.

28. The marines of Her Majesty's ships "Druid" and "Argus" were landed on the 14th instant by Captain Blake to garrison Fort St. Jago, in consequence of a pressing request to that effect from Colonel Festing. The "Druid" has since gone to Cape Coast Castle, being relieved at Elmina by the "Barracouta," and our marines have accordingly taken the place of the "Druid's." Every care will be taken to keep them in health by giving them distilled water, issuing quinine, &c.

29. It is my intention to-day to land the field-pieces and rockets from this ship and the "Argus," leaving them parked in the fort ready for service.

30. In conclusion, I trust that their Lordships will view as satisfactory these operations. The result showed how accurate our information was as to good understanding stated to exist between the Elminas and Ashantees; and with the Elminas at our very gates the forts themselves were not free from danger.

31. The ships of the squadron are now employed transferring many of the stores and munitions of war from Cape Coast to Elmina, as they are urgently required here.

32. The latest information is to the effect that the Ashantees have not left this neighbourhood, but are forming a camp on Sweet River, at only a few miles from Elmina. The notorious Chief, Atchicinpon, is stated to be near Secondee with 3,000 men, and Her Majesty's ship "Seagull" has been dispatched with orders to render succour to that fort and Dixcove, which are urgently in want of provisions and munitions of war.

33. I now close this letter in order to send it to Cape Coast Castle, so as not to miss the mail.

34. Her Majesty's ship "Decoy" has a duplicate of this despatch to take to St. Helena, in accordance with your instructions, to lose no time in communicating with you by outward bound Cape mail, should any active operations take place. She will then proceed to her destination as Senior Officer on the South Coast, in compliance with your previous orders.

35. The disposition of Her Majesty's ships under my orders is as follows:— "Barracouta" and "Argus" at Elmina, "Druid" and "Merlin" at Cape Coast Castle, "Seagull" visiting the ports on the Windward Coast, "Bittern" and "Pioneer" at Fernando Po, "Decoy" on passage to St. Helena, "Coquette" on passage to the Cape.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. R. FREMANTLE.

## Inclosure in No. 3.

*List of Casualties occurring amongst the Seamen and Marines landed at Elmina,  
June 13, 1873.**Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta."*

Number of officers landed	..	..	..	..	..	10
" men "	..	..	..	..	..	78
Total .	..	..	..	..	..	88

*Casualties.*

John C. Masters, Serjeant Royal Marines, slight gunshot wound of outer angle of right eyebrow.

William Gouge, Private Royal Marines, gunshot wound of chest, penetrating lungs and breast; death instantaneous.

*Her Majesty's ship "Druid."*

Number of officers landed	..	..	..	..	..	6
" men "	..	..	..	..	..	62
Total	..	..	..	..	..	68

*Casualties.*

Charles H. Coke, Midshipman, wound of left thigh, caused by accidental discharge of a revolver by one of the boat's crew.

William Gordon, Carpenter's Mate, wound of shoulder and upper arm.

*Her Majesty's ship "Argus."*

Number of officers landed	..	..	..	..	..	8
" men "	..	..	..	..	..	80
Total	..	..	..	..	..	88

*Casualties.—Nil.**Her Majesty's ship "Seagull."*

Number of officers landed	..	..	..	..	..	4
" men "	..	..	..	..	..	34
Total	..	..	..	..	..	38

*Casualties.*

J. D. Jennings, Ordinary Seaman, wound of upper portion of right thigh; slugs extracted by counter opening this morning.

*Her Majesty's ship "Decoy."*

Number of officers landed	..	..	..	..	..	2
" men "	..	..	..	..	..	20
Total .	..	..	..	..	..	22

*Casualties.—Nil.*

Total number landed	..	..	..	..	..	304
" of casualties	..	..	..	..	..	5

(Signed)

HAMILTON MOORE, *Staff Surgeon, Second Class,*  
*in Medical Charge.*

E. R. FREMANTLE, *Captain and Senior Officer.*



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DESPATCHES on the subject of the Ashantee  
Invasion, and Attack on Elmina.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by  
Command of Her Majesty. July 1873.*

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LONDON :

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

# GOLD COAST.

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## DESPATCHES

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

# ASHANTEE INVASION

AND

# ATTACK ON ELMINA.

(In continuation of Papers presented July 15, 1873.)  
(C. 802).



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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,  
July 1873.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Serial No.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	From Colonel Harley ..	June 10, 1873	Defeat of Fantees in Denkera by Ashantees, and retreat to Cape Coast. Arrival of "Barracouta," commanded by Captain Fremantle, with reinforcements under command of Colonel Festing. Correspondence with Commandant of Elmina ..	1
2	" "	June 12, 1873	Proclamation of martial law at Elmina and over surrounding district. Minutes of Council, &c...	15

## APPENDIX.

	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
Circular from Secretary of State.	January 26, 1867	Regulations for guidance of officers after proclamation of martial law .. .. .	21

## Despatches on the subject of the Ashantee Invasion and Attack on Elmina.

No. 1.

*Colonel Harley to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 16.)*

My Lord,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 10, 1873.*

I VERY greatly regret having to report, for your Lordship's information, and in continuance of my despatches of the 29th May, 1st and 4th June respectively, that the hopes I entertained of the Fantee Forces and their allies making a successful stand at Jouquah, the capital of Denkera, against the intended attack by the Ashantees—for which every effort had been made—have been dissipated by the total defeat and rout of the Fantees on the 5th instant, and their retreat on Cape Coast, where it is supposed from 15,000 to 20,000 people have come for protection.

2. The reports which have come in are of the usual conflicting character; but, Dr. Rowe, who left Jouquah on the 2nd, and travelled through the country to Elmina in order to afford me information upon the roads leading in that direction, stated that the Fantees were in considerable force, and preparing to meet the Ashantees. It appears there was some desultory fighting on the 3rd and 4th; and I received letters from the camp, from Kings, who had just arrived, asking for ammunition, which at once was sent to them; but, on the 5th, the Ashantees made an attack in force, and completely routed the Fantees and their Allies. One of the first to quit the scene was the King of Denkerah himself, and when the tribes who had come to his aid and had made some stand against the enemy inquired for him, he was not to be found; in fact, he had hastily left Jouquah for one of his villages on the road to Cape Coast, where he arrived in the afternoon.

3. I am sorry to say that I have reason to believe that there was but a very slender resistance made to the attack of the Ashantees on the 5th, and that the Fantees gave way almost immediately and fled to Cape Coast, where, for many hours of the afternoon, the roads and thoroughfares were crowded by the masses of people—men, women, and children—all flying terror-stricken to the town.

4. I can but faintly convey to your Lordship the alarm and panic at Cape Coast on the arrival of the Fantees with their kings, all through the evening and night of the 5th these people continued coming in, as also numbers of the Coast people who were proceeding to Jouquah, returned through Cape Coast on their way homewards.

5. On the arrival of the Kings being reported to me I instantly sent my interpreter with messages (although it was then 6 o'clock P.M.) to summon them to a palaver. I also sent them some refreshment, for which they thanked me and said they were then very tired but would come to see me the next morning. However, about dawn, next day, the fears of the still flying people and a report that the Ashantees were advancing and were at the Sweet River, five miles the Cape Coast, called the people to arms, and considerable numbers left the town with their Kings and Chiefs, which prevented the palaver being attended by so many as would otherwise have come. There were only eight Kings assembled with their chiefs. I also requested Captain Blake, R.N., the then Senior Naval Officer, and the officer commanding the troops to be present, besides the other officials. I at once drew attention to the very critical state of affairs at which we had arrived, and invited their opinion as to what they intended doing; they declined, however, to say until the others were with them, so, in compliance with their wishes, I adjourned the palaver until next day, when they promised that all should attend.

6. On Saturday, the 7th, there was a large muster of Kings and Chiefs, in all

seventeen.\* They seemed very depressed. The Kings of Commendah and Wassaw exhibited much distress at their women and children being left unprotected, as they had come to help the Fantees, and not thought of such a reverse as had come upon them so suddenly; the roads were now stopped and they feared that marauding Ashantees would make their way to their towns and destroy them, taking their women and children to make slaves of them. I confess to your Lordship that it was a sad spectacle. On the previous day, however, they had already told me of their fears and I had sent an express through Elmina to the Civil Commandant at Secondee, to bring the people from Commendah and Amantin, the capital of Eastern Wassaw to Chama on the coast, or Secondee, and to afford them all the protection he could. I had also made a requisition on the Senior Naval Officer to send a gun-boat along the Windward Coast calling at Commendah and Secondee to afford all the protection possible. I was therefore able to tell them what had been done and your Lordship will see by the inclosed report from Lieutenant Commander Day that Her Majesty's gun-boat "Decoy" arrived at Commendah in time probably to save most of these people from probable slaughter or slavery. I inclose a copy of the report for your Lordship's information, as also of a further requisition made upon Captain Fremantle, of the "Barracouta" who is now the Senior Naval Officer, to dispatch another vessel so as to bring the remainder of the people away from there and Chama or Secondee.

To the Kings I expressed the regret I feel for their troubles and reverses, and endeavoured to encourage them by pointing out the absolute necessity for further and continued effort on their part to defend their country; that the Government was still ready and willing to help them, and if they would decide upon forming another camp I thought it could soon be done, although they must resolve to fight, or, of course, it would be of little use doing so.

They asked permission to retire for the purpose of consulting together, which is their custom; and, on their return, through a chief who was selected to speak, they said, they thanked Her Majesty's Government for all that had been done for them, and they were sorry they ran away, but that if they said they could defend themselves it was untrue, as they wanted a head chief or general whom they would all obey, and then they would do better, and wished me to appoint one from amongst them, or whom I chose. I felt the difficulty of nominating one from amongst their number, as I know what an active jealousy exists, and I said I would prefer their making their own election; but they said, No; that they would much prefer my appointing a king or chief, and they would swear an oath to obey him. Eventually I promised to consider it; I impressed upon the Kings that I was not in a position to assist them with money, as I had not got it to give them, and upon this point I laid stress, as I am aware that there are people here (correspondents of the African "Times"), who are and were connected with the so-called Fantee Confederation, who lose no opportunity of urging upon the people the grossest misrepresentations with regard to the motives and actions of the Government, and endeavour, by so doing, to promote their own ends by producing dissatisfaction and disaffection. I do not think they have succeeded to any extent, but it is a time when it must be made clear to the people by decided action that the Government is earnest in its efforts to protect and assist them, and that what it promises it will fulfil, as it is peculiar to the native that, while he expects and respects truth and honest dealing in others, especially those in authority, he cares very little about practising such virtues himself.

The palaver lasted four hours, and before breaking up I requested some of the more powerful Kings, whom I wished to see again, not to leave Cape Coast, as I knew if they did their people would go with them, to which they consented.

I held a council in the afternoon at which Captain Blake, R.N., and the officer commanding the troops were present. I laid before the council the state of affairs, owing to the defeat and total rout of the Fantee forces at Jouquah on the previous day, and laid before them the measures which had been adopted, and which would be acted upon for the defence of Cape Coast in case of attack, as well as Elmina, when they concurred in thinking that everything had been done which could be effected by the Government with the means and force at its disposal.

On the previous night, at 10 o'clock, I had received a report from the Senior Naval Officer, which had been sent to him by the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Argus," at Elmina, a copy of which I forward to your Lordship, informing me that the King's party at Elmina had turned traitors, and that the Military

\* Nine Kings and eight principal Chiefs.

Commandant wanted assistance. I at once took the necessary steps to afford it by sending him a reinforcement of Houssas withdrawn from Anamabol—where they are not immediately wanted—in Her Majesty's ship "Merlin," which Captain Blake promptly detached for that and other service on the Windward Coast. Copy of the requisition I also submit to your Lordship. The same afternoon the inland postmen to Elmina, and the windward district, returned to Cape Coast, reporting the road was stopped by the Ashantees, and that they could not proceed. This was, however, opened next day by a detachment of 50 Houssas that I marched to Elmina.

There was even an alarm in Cape Coast on Saturday morning that the Ashantees were coming, producing for the moment a panic of terror, but there was no foundation for it except in the fears of those who caused it, and who from their position should, if they actually did not, know better. The report of a patrol which I instantly sent out, reassured them however of their present safety, and I received an apology for having raised a false alarm. The real cause being a few women drawing water from the wells outside the town, saw some men coming in from the bush with provisions on their heads, ran into Cape Coast crying "Ashantee! Ashantee!"

Such, my Lord, was the condition of affairs here on the evening of Saturday, the 7th instant, when Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," Captain Fremantle, steamed into the Roads with the troops, consisting of Marine Artillery and Royal Marines, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, R.M., as per Return inclosed.

I may assure your Lordship that their arrival has been hailed with the greatest satisfaction by the masses of the natives now in Cape Coast, and if this community can feel grateful for such watchful consideration on the part of your Lordship, they should warmly do so for this renewed instance of it. I desire, however, to express to your Lordship, on behalf of the Government, the earnest thanks I feel for sending to our aid so valuable a reinforcement, and that its arrival should have been so opportune.

Captain Fremantle and Lieutenant-Colonel Festing placed themselves in communication with me next day, when I at once made arrangements for the troops being landed at daylight next morning, which was done with all their stores, notwithstanding there was a heavy surf on; and they are quartered in the Castle, where they are now as comfortably lodged as circumstances well admit. As, however, the whole of the officers cannot be accommodated in the Castle, I am endeavouring to hire a suitable house for them in the town at a short distance off.

Yesterday was occupied with the disembarkation; to-day Captain Fremantle and Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, with Dr. Rowe, have gone to Elmina, and to-morrow we shall together discuss the position, and such measures as it may be expedient to adopt under the critical circumstances which have now arisen.

I beg to submit, for your Lordship's information, copies of the Reports received from Elmina.

In conclusion, I am happily able to report to your Lordship that 1,030 people, women and children, have been brought from Commendah in two American ships, which were taken up for the purpose, and that Captain Fremantle has been good enough to send Her Majesty's ship "Druid" to bring away the remainder if necessary.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
Administrator-in-chief.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 5, 1873, 9 P.M.*

THE news of the defeat and total rout of the Fantee forces and their allies this day at Jonquah, notwithstanding the efforts which had been made to prevent the advance of the Ashantees and to save the capital of Denkera, which reached me this evening shortly before 6 o'clock, and which was almost instantly corroborated by the numbers of people with their guns retreating on Cape Coast for protection, and was an evidence painfully striking of their complete defeat.

2. The arrival of the Kings and Chiefs a little later on, convinces me that the native forces are again scattered and disunited, while it therefore behoves me not to lose a moment in endeavouring to bring them together again in some cohesive form for the defence of the country. It becomes my duty to inform you,

without delay, that I think the time has come, now that the Ashantees are at Effotoo, a village only 12 miles distant from Cape Coast, and 15 from Elmina, with no opposing force to withstand their immediate advance, either on the one or the other, that you should take such immediate steps as you may deem expedient to check any further advance of the enemy as well as to defend the forts and the towns which they cover.

3. There is a force of 210 Houssas, armed police, armed with the Snider breech-loading rifles, which will co-operate with the military at present distributed between Anamaboe and Cape Coast. A Volunteer corps of 200 men, armed with the Enfield rifles, which may be depended upon for the defence of the town, as well as the Fantee police, which are armed with Sniders.

4. I beg to forward memoranda drawn up by myself and the late Inspector-General of Police, which will assist you in considering the measures which I think necessary to follow for the protection of the town.

5. In conveying to you the actual position at the present moment, I am not disposed to call upon you to deviate from the instructions laid down for your guidance and mine by the despatch of the Secretary of State, dated the 23rd June, 1864; but, at the same time, should you think it necessary to employ the troops outside the Castle and forts, I shall not withhold my concurrence and sanction, and will call upon the Senior Naval Officer to land seamen and marines from Her Majesty's ships to garrison the Castle and forts at Cape Coast and Elmina.

6. I propose holding a palaver with the Kings and Chiefs who have come in, at Government House, at 10 A.M., to-morrow; also a Council in the Palaver Hall, at 3 o'clock, P.M.; at both of which I request the favour of your attendance.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
Administrator-in-chief.

Captain Haynes,  
2nd West India Regiment,  
Commanding Troops.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 6, 1873, 6:30 A.M.*

I REGRET to have to inform you of the complete defeat and rout of the Fantee forces yesterday at Jouquah, the capital of Denkera, by the Ashantees, notwithstanding the efforts which I had made to save it by a concentration of the Fantee forces there and at the adjacent villages.

The success of the Ashantees, leaves the roads open to Elmina and Cape Coast, and the enemy has already advanced to Effotoo, a village distant from the former about 15 miles, and from the latter about 12, with no opposing force to stop them.

I propose holding a palaver with the Kings and Chiefs who have sought protection here at 10 o'clock, A.M., this day, which I would be glad if you will attend.

This news, as you are aware from having been with me, only reached me a little before 6 o'clock last evening, and was immediately followed by the thousands of retreating Fantees who have come to Cape Coast for protection.

I propose, also, holding a Council at 3 o'clock this afternoon, at which I request you will do me the favour to attend.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
Administrator-in-chief.

Captain Blake, R.N.,  
Senior Naval Officer,  
Cape Coast Roads.

---

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 7, 1873, 8 A.M.*

INFORMATION has reached me that the people of Chamah, assisted by Elminas, are to march this morning for the destruction of Commendah, I therefore beg of you to allow Her Majesty's gun-boat "Merlin" to proceed on there and afford protection to the place.

The King and his men are at Cape Coast, having retreated with rest of Fantee forces from Jouquah, so that the town only contains the women and children, who are wholly unprotected; I therefore think it becomes our duty to save all the life we can, in which I am sure you will concur with me.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Flake, R.N.,  
Senior Naval Officer,  
Cape Coast Roads.

P.S.—I think it is of the very utmost importance that the gun-boat should remain cruising upon the windward coasts as far as Axim for the next ten days, and communicating with the Civil Commandants at Secondee and Dixcove, and rendering assistance if necessary.

R. W. H.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Sir,

*"Druid," Cape Coast, June 7, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning, and to acquaint you that in accordance with the information contained therein, I have directed the Commander of the gun-boat "Merlin" to proceed from Elmina to Commendah, and afford such protection as he may be able; and, as you deem it of the utmost importance, he has also instructions to visit the windward ports as far as Axim, communicating with the Civil Commandants at Secondee and Dixcove. At the same time I would inform you that I do not consider it advisable for her to be absent longer than a week, as I am only waiting for the arrival of the next outward bound mail to detach the gun-boat "Decoy" to the south coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. BLAKE, *Captain and Senior Officer.*

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief, Cape Coast Castle.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

*Letter of Proceedings.*

Sir,

*H. M. S. "Merlin," off Commenda, June 8, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, having discharged the stores, troops, &c., at Elmina, I came on here, anchoring about 9 A.M. this morning. On arriving, I observed the whole population of the town assembled on the beach; a canoe came off, begging me to take them on board, as they expected the Ashantees to attack them at any moment; it was quite impossible for me to take all, there being certainly over 1,000 men, women, and children, and, taking away part and leaving the remainder without any protection, would not do, as they fully expected to be attacked by the Ashantees as soon as I left. Under these circumstances I requested the captain of the English barque "Albertina" to take on board as many as he could, and convey them to Cape Coast Castle. With his two surf-boats manned by his canoe men and the kroomen of this ship, about 350 were got on board, mostly women and children. The "Albertina" sails immediately for Cape Coast Castle, and I send this letter in charge of the captain. I shall remain here until I receive further orders from you, and afford what protection I can to the people in case they are attacked.

There is no means of getting these people off to the ship, as there are no surf-boats; the canoes are wretched affairs, which carry two or three, and very often capsize. Seven people were drowned this morning, and of course it is quite out of the question to attempt it in our ship's boats; indeed the people, either through fear or laziness, don't seem inclined to help themselves.

I have communicated by canoe to the Civil Commandant of Secondee, and requested him to report to me anything of importance, and also in case he was in need of assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

E. M. DAY, *Lieutenant Commanding.*

The Senior Officer,  
Cape Coast Castle.



## Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 10, 1873.*

I FEEL it my duty to request that you will be so good as to dispatch with the least possible delay another vessel to the relief of the suffering people at Commenda and Secondee, and that, under the circumstances detailed in the Report of Lieutenant Commander Day that you will allow Her Majesty's ship to bring them to Cape Coast.

I will at once provide two surf-boats from here and two more can be taken from Elmina.

I take this opportunity also of requesting that you will detach a larger vessel to cruise along the windward coast as far as Axim and Appolonia, to give protection, as I have received information that the notorious and cruel Ashantee Chief named Atjiempon, has gone in that direction with a force of 3,000 men.

I have to request also that the Civil Commandants at both these places, as well as Dixcove and Secondee may be communicated with, and there are people also to be protected and brought away from Chamah.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administratrator-in-chief.*

Captain Fremantle, R.N.,

Senior Naval Officer,

Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta,"

Cape Coast Roads.

## Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

Dear Colonel Harley,

*"Druid," June 6, 1873, 8.40 P.M.*

I HAVE just received a letter from Commander Luxmore, of the "Argus," in which he says:—

"Will you please send in shore to Governor, requesting him to dispatch to Elmina 100 Houssas at the request of Captain Turton. Inform Governor also that the King's party have turned traitors and gone over to Ashantees. Atjiempon, head Chief of Ashantees, said to be twenty minutes from Elmina, been seen by two credible witnesses. Elmina in great panic—men, women, and children getting into Castle as quickly as possible. I understand, but cannot vouch for truth of report, that there has been more fighting near here and several killed."

This letter is dated sunset.

He was endeavouring to signal to me then but we could not make it out.

Commander of "Argus" has the same instruction in regard to landing, and is all ready when required.

Yours in haste,

(Signed)

W. H. BLAKE.

Colonel Harley, C.B.,

Administrator-in-chief,

Cape Coast Castle.

P.S.—Gun-boat will be ready by 8 A.M. to morrow, or sooner if necessary.

P.S.—Messenger will wait for an answer if necessary.

W. H. B.

## Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 6, 1873, 10 P.M.*

I HAVE the honour to request that you will be so good as to at once dispatch one of Her Majesty's gun-boats, under your command, to Ananaboe, for the purpose of bringing away the detachment of armed Houssas, at present stationed there under Mr. Loggie, required for immediate service at Elmina. If you will kindly instruct the Commander to call here on her return, a further detachment of men will be embarked, as also some ammunition and provisions. The occasion for this service has become urgent owing to the information which you have kindly forwarded to me from Captain Luxmore of Her Majesty's ship "Argus" at Elmina.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Blake, R.N.,

Her Majesty's ship "Druid,"

Cape Coast Roads.

## Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Sir

*H.M.S. "Barracouta," Cape Coast Castle, June 8, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived here last evening with a detachment of Marines from England, and that, as Senior Naval Officer on this part of the Station, I have taken upon myself the command of Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the West Coast of Africa.

2. The detachment of Marines consists of 101 officers and men in equal numbers of Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Festing; they are well provided with warlike stores and medical comforts, and are in excellent health and spirits.

3. The instructions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are that the Marines are to be landed to occupy the forts, should you so desire it, and I propose to make arrangements for their disembarkation in concert with yourself, at the earliest possible moment.

4. The Marines left England in Her Majesty's ship "Valorous," on the 13th May, and were transferred to this ship, at Lisbon, on the 17th. At Sierra Leone, we picked up the mail of the 18th, from England, and as she has not yet arrived, I have the honour to inform you that this force has been sent out by the Admiralty, in consequence of a pressing demand from the Colonial Office for re-inforcements to be sent to the Gold Coast. Her Majesty's ship "Himalaya" has also been dispatched from Queenstown to Barbados for a re-inforcement of West India troops, but she is not likely to arrive here for some weeks.

5. I propose to land at about 1 P.M., with Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, should the state of the surf permit, in accordance with my instructions, to place myself and Colonel Festing in personal communication with your Excellency "as to the steps which may be necessary for carrying out any active operations."

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

E. R. FREMANTLE, *Captain.*

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator of the Government, Gold Coast.

## Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

DISEMBARKATION Return of the Royal Marine Artillery and Light Infantry, at Cape Coast Castle, this 9th day of June, 1873.

Ships' Name and Description (whether Ships of War, Transports, Freight Ships, Coasting Steamers, &c., to be stated.)	Companies.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.		General Total on Board Ship.	
									Corporals.	Privates.		
Her Majesty's Ship "Barracouta"												
Artillery .. ..	..	1	..	2	..	..	2	1	2	47	55	
Marine L. Infantry ..	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	1	2	47	55	
Total .. ..	..	1	1	4	..	..	4	2	4	94	110	

The detachments embarked at Portsmouth on the 13th day of May, 1873, and sailed on the 13th day of May, 1873.

Signature of the officer commanding the regiment :

(Signed)

F. W. FESTING, *Br. Lt.-Col., R.M.A.*

Signature of the officer superintending the disembarkation :

(Signed)

E. R. FREMANTLE, *Captain, R.N.*

## LIST of the Officers who have Disembarked.

## RANK AND NAMES.

Lieutenant-Colonel Festing.  
 Captain Despard.  
 Lieutenant Price.  
 „ Allen.  
 „ Quill.  
 „ Cheetham.

## Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 8, 1873.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of this date, reporting the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," and your assuming command of Her Majesty's ships on the West Coast of Africa.

2. The arrival of the detachment of marines, consisting of 110 officers and men under Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, which you report having brought with you, well provided with warlike stores and medical comforts, is most opportune. As their services are now urgently needed, owing to the defeat and total rout of the Fantee forces at Jouqua, the capital of Denkera, which the Ashantees have now occupied, and which leaves both Elmina and Cape Coast open to attack without any opposing force between them and the invading army. I therefore think it advisable that they should be disembarked here as early as possible, and beg that you will be so good as to allow them to be landed at 6 A.M. to-morrow.

3. I have requested the officer commanding the troops to make the necessary arrangements for the reception and lodgment of this reinforcement in the Castle.

4. I hope the detachment has its own medical officers, whom it will be necessary to land with them, in consequence of the small medical staff available here.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Fremantle,

Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta,"  
 Cape Coast Roads.

## Inclosure 12 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 8, 1873.*

I have the honour to acknowledge your communication of yesterday, and to acquaint you that Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," Captain Fremantle, having arrived from England with 110 officers and men in equal number of Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, well provided with warlike stores and medical comforts, to occupy the Forts—I propose their being landed and lodged in the Castle so soon as you can make the necessary arrangements for their reception. The number is only forty men in excess of that proposed by you yesterday, of seamen to be landed from Her Majesty's ships "Druid" and "Seagull;" I would therefore suggest that an increase of the detachment to Connor's Hill to give the additional room wanted, and the propriety of your sending here to Sierra Leone the married women and children belonging to your regiment by the homeward steamer now due, in order to afford the accommodation in the Castle now required for the European troops.

As to the water supply for the troops to be landed, should the tanks at the Castle run short, the Government tank will be available.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Haynes,

2nd West India Regiment,  
 Commanding Troops.

## Inclosure 13 in No. 1.

Sir

*The Castle, Cape Coast, May 30, 1873.*

WITH reference to your note of yesterday forwarding a letter received from two of the Chiefs of Elmina, I think it is a matter in which I can rely on your discretion in not causing unnecessary alarm at the present time, but I think it is absolutely necessary that there should be no mistake as to who are with us or against us, therefore it may be desirable that you should summon the Captains and deliver to them the Oath of Allegiance, detaining those who refuse to take it, but considering the source from which the information comes you must be very careful.

I approve of the stipends being issued and the Civil Commandant will be instructed to pay them.

I do not quite understand the remarks with reference to the redoubts—is it that they are not manned, or that there are no guns in them?

You reported some time since that the Dutch pensioners would man them; if the same spirit still animate them, I think it had better be done at once. Please report as early as possible. If you want men I will send you fifty Houssas.

I return the letter addressed to you by the Chiefs.

Some prisoners recently taken had stated, that the stool of Acampon had been brought into the camp by some Elmina people. I wish you to make inquiry about this, and report to me.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Turton,  
2nd West India Regiment,  
Military Commandant, Elmina.

## Inclosure 14 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Elmina, June 5, 1873.*

I DO now acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of 30th May, 1873, and beg to notify what has been done in order to carry out your instructions.

2. I have summoned each and every one of the captains of the eight companies to assemble and meet me in the Palaver Hall of this Castle, and they have positively refused to do so; they have kept their word, for not one of them have come to me.

3. I have been informed by the Acting Civil Commandant that, the individuals who received from the Dutch Government an annual stipend, refuse now to accept any stipend from the British authorities.

4. The redoubts referred to by the two Chiefs in their letter of May 28 are not at present manned, but can be occupied at a moment's notice.

In each redoubt there are guns in good and serviceable order, but no shelter to protect the men from sun or rain, or I would station a corporal's guard in each of them.

5. The Dutch pensioners have expressed a desire to man the redoubts, and ready to do so, they say, when they find that the Ashantees have actually invaded the town; in the meantime, they must continue to cultivate their farms so as to obtain food, which is now getting very scarce.

6. I thank your Excellency for the offer of the services of fifty Houssas, whom I will send for if the exigencies of the service require it.

7. I have received the letter addressed to me by the Chiefs Esseffee and Audor, which was on the 29th ultimo transmitted to your Excellency for perusal.

8. I have done all in my power to ascertain if there is any truth in the report recently made to your Excellency by Ashantee prisoners captured by Fantees and sent to Cape Coast, "that the stool of Atjiempon has been brought into the camp by some Elmina people."

I have questioned very many of the Elminas on the subject and they deny the truth of the report, and give as a reason that, so long as Atjiempon's two sons

remain in Elmina, the stool will also be kept here. If at any time I can learn where the stool is lodged, I most certainly will endeavour to get possession of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

Inclosure 15 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Elmina, June 6, 1873.*

I ADDRESSED a letter to your Excellency yesterday, in reply to your despatch of 30th ultimo, in which I informed you that the Captains of the Companies of this town had positively refused to assemble and meet me in the Palaver Hall. It affords me very great pleasure to be able now to report that, at a late hour yesterday, the captains of four of the Companies, 1, 2, 4, 5, reconsidered their decision and, in the presence of the Acting Civil Commandant and myself, took the oath of allegiance. I have also reason to believe that the Commanders of the remaining four Companies will sometime during this day follow the good example set them by their brethren.

As regards the payment of the stipends, I think myself that the Fetish priests are the bad advisers of the Chiefs; but now that the Captains have subscribed to the oath it is very probable that the parties interested will accept their stipends so soon as it is possible to assemble them in the hall of the Castle.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment, Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

Inclosure 16 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Elmina, June 7, 1873.*

IN my despatch of 6th instant I made known to your Excellency that I had summoned the Chiefs, and I may say, all the people of this town, to assemble in the Palaver Hall of the Castle of St. George, at 12 noon on the 6th instant, when I would make known to them not only yours but also my views regarding the state of affairs of the Settlement, and the steps I considered absolutely necessary to adopt at once, so as to prevent the destruction of the houses in Elmina by the Ashantees. The people were duly warned by sound of bugle, and the Government interpreter made publicly known to all concerned that it was my wish to meet and converse principally with the Chiefs, Captains of Companies, and all of the persons of influence.

Finding that at the hour named not one of the counsellors of the late King had come to the Castle, I directed the Interpreter to go to them and just mention that I would wait patiently until 1 o'clock to see if they would show their loyalty to the flag by obeying my summons. I regret to have to inform your Excellency that not only were the Counsellors absent from the meeting, but also the Captains of Companies No. 3, 6, 7, 8.

At 1:45 I entered the Palaver Hall, and began to explain to the persons present what I expected they would do so as to insure a victory on the part of the Elminas should they really be attacked by the Ashantees.

Before I had time to conclude what was to be said, several persons rushed into the Hall and reported that a large number of Ashantees were to be seen just outside of the town. The result was that not only the persons in the Castle rushed out, but very many from the town were seen rushing in the direction of it with all they could carry on their heads.

I had to admit all of the women and young people as it was possible to stow away, as their cries for protection were heart-rending.

The men on the garden side, considered to be loyal subjects, were willing but could not render me any assistance whatever, for, as they stated, were they to leave their houses unprotected, the adherents of the late King would not only

plunder but set fire to them. The information furnished to me by disinterested persons was to the same effect.

Finding that the King's party had turned traitors, and left the town and joined the Ashantees, also that the people were panic-stricken and quite uncontrollable, I took advantage of the opportunity, and requested Captain Luxmore, of Her Majesty's ship "Argus" (who had just come on shore), to telegraph to Cape Coast at once and make known my want of assistance. At 8 P.M. he returned and told me he had done so. I could not adopt any other course to make known my critical position to your Excellency, for the natives positively refused to go either by land or sea to Cape Coast.

Between 12 and 5 o'clock this morning I fell in a party of fifty men of my regiment and went on patrol duty, taking with us a supply of Snider ball and Hale's rockets. We scoured the bush on the outskirts of the town; captured at about 3 A.M. one Ashantee man, who told me he was one of a member of the same race that had been sent to see what was going on, and to try and learn the feeling of the people of Elmina toward the Ashantees; also to see Boakie, the younger son of Atjiempon, and from him obtain rum, cloth, tobacco, &c., for his comrades. I made a prisoner of the man, and under escort was he sent to the Castle and confined.

His statement, interpreted to me by the Rev. Mr. Laing, I herewith forward for the information of your Excellency.

I can and do vouch for the accuracy of the report that the Ashantees are now secreted in the bush just immediately outside of this town, for not only did Mr. Hamell, the Dutch Vice-Consul, but several other persons, report at a late hour last evening to me that, at about 5 P.M., they went on to the top of one of the hills just about one mile from the town and did see a number of Ashantees, also women from Elmina, taking to them food and drink.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*

*2nd West India Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

### Inclosure 17 in No. 1.

#### *Statement.*

*Elmina, June 7, 1873.*

MY name is Osai, a grandson of the King of Ashantee.

When I was sent away along with Atjiempon to the Prah, the Assins and Fantees would not allow Atjiempon to take with him his stool. Atjiempon did arrive at Coomassie and told the King what the Assins and Fantees had done to him, and begged the King to give him a few men to accompany him back to Elmina, where he would get his stool. The King granted the request, and let Atjiempon have a few men to come back to Elmina for his stool. When Atjiempon arrived in the Assin country all of the Assins and Fantees mustered and intercepted him coming to Elmina. A fight took place in consequence. Atjiempon sent word to the King of what had happened, and requested a reinforcement. The King did send a reinforcement, and also sent word to Atjiempon that he was not to interfere with the Fantees, but to go to Elmina by way of Denkera; and that, if they were in want of ammunition, they were to send to the Elminas for what they wanted; so when they ran short of ammunition they tried to find their way to Elmina, where they arrived yesterday. On our way to Elmina we passed only one croom, which we would have destroyed, only that the people said it belonged to the Elminas. To ascertain the truth of the statement made by the villagers, they sent messengers into the town of Elmina, and the Elminas received the messengers kindly and sent word by the return of the Ashantees that the next morning they, the Ashantees, were to send back the messengers. During the day several women of, and from Elmina brought rum, water, and tobacco to the Ashantees who were in the bush, congratulated and welcomed them into the town.

When I was taken by the soldiers this morning, I was on my way to Elmina in search of Boakie, the youngest son of Atjiempon, from whom I expected to get new cloth, rum, tobacco, &c. I was told to ask a man called Buatuo, and Ahiukwa to

show me where Boukie lived. That Atjiempon, with Addoo Borfu have gone in the direction of Appolonia.

After I had received the supplies from Atjiempon's son I was to return at once and join my party in the bush. I left my gun and ammunition with my comrade.

The name of the Chief in charge of the Ashantees that came yesterday to Elmina is Yakirie. The Ashantees and Elminas are great friends.

I certify to the correctness of the statement.

(Signed) TIMOTHY LAING.

Inclosure 18 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Elmina, June 6, 1873.*

MESSENGERS arrived in this town between 8 and 9 P.M. yesterday, and reported that the Fantees had suffered severely in the last engagement they had with the Ashantees; the result of such a statement was that a deputation waited on me in the Castle, and, at the special request of Mr. Boham, Chiefs Audor and Crecco, also Messrs. William and Charles Smith, I took out an armed party, consisting of serjeant and 30 rank and file, to patrol, and who did patrol the outskirts of the town from 12 midnight to 5 A.M. to-day. The Ashantees are reported to me not far from Elmina, and between Afootoo and Elmina; the people are vacating their crooms, coming in large numbers into this town, and with them bringing all they possess. As such is the truth, I beg that your Excellency will be pleased to order that rockets and a couple of troughs, also about twenty barrels of the new powder, together with 4 lb. and 8 lb. flannel bursters be sent to me to be at hand, and to be used should the Ashantees really come within gunshot range of the forts. The natives on the garden side, who appear to be in great dread of the Ashantees, did the patrol duty from 10 to 1 o'clock.

I have just sent a bugler into the town, also the Government Interpreter, to summon the whole of the natives to assemble in the Palaver Hall of the Castle. Of course, I shall meet and explain to them that it is now absolutely necessary for the captains to assemble the men of their respective companies, and place themselves under my orders for patrol or any other duty I may wish them to perform; that your Excellency expects that the Elminas will show their loyalty to the flag by being obedient; that I shall expect them to keep me well informed of all reports concerning the movement of the Ashantees that they may hear from any stranger who may come into the town. That, with the regulars, assisted by the men of the several companies, the women and children, also old and infirm people, will be protected, the invaders driven out of the district, and the town saved from destruction.

Your Excellency shall, at a later period of the day, receive from me a report of the result of the meeting to be held at noon.

I do not dread an immediate attack on the town by the Ashantees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India-Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

Inclosure 19 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 7, 1873.*

INFORMATION reached me at 10 o'clock last night, through Captain Blake, of Her Majesty's ship "Druid," from Captain Luxmore, Her Majesty's ship "Argus," at Elmina, that the King's party have turned traitors, and gone over to Ashantees, and that the notorious Atjiempon was said to be close to Elmina, and had been seen by two credible witnesses, and requesting, by your desire, that a reinforcement of Houssas might be sent to you. Although I have not received any report or requisition from you to this effect, I consider your position sufficiently critical to at once send you a detachment of sixty men, under Mr. Loggie, whose services will be valuable to you as a practical gunner.

You will also receive the rockets and trough you asked for, as also 20 barrels of new powder, and a supply of 4-lb. and 8-lb. bursters. I have to direct you not to delay in calling upon Captain Luxmore of Her Majesty's ship "Argus,"

which is stationed at Elmina, to co-operate with you, and who has been instructed to land 100 seamen and marines to assist you, should you be of opinion that their services are required for the protection of life and property, and the defence of the castles and forts.

I am looking anxiously for a report from you every moment of the state of affairs at Elmina, and whether it be fact that the Ashantees have made any advance from Effootoo.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Captain Turton, J.P.,  
2nd West India Regiment,  
Military Commandant, Elmina.

Inclosure 20 in No. 1.

Sir, *Elmina, June 8, 1873.*

AT about 9 P.M. yesterday your letter of 7th June was received by me. In reply I have the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that the course adopted so as to make known my position, and request that a portion of the Houssas be sent to Elmina for duty, was the only one available so as at once to put your Excellency in possession of the information, for the natives refused to go either by boat or land to Cape Coast.

I have now to report that I have received 1 trough and 96 of Hales' 9-pounder rockets, also 20 barrels or 2,000 lbs. of large grain powder; but the military authorities have failed to send to me the 4 lbs. and 8 lbs. flannel bursters, asked for in my letter of yesterday's date and notified in your despatch as having been sent.

I shall not fail to keep your Excellency thoroughly posted up with the movement of the invaders, also of the conduct of the Elminas.

The main road leading from Elmina to Cape Coast is impassable, being in possession of the Ashantees. If it be the desire of your Excellency I will march my men out to where they are said to be in force and try and dislodge them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

Inclosure 21 in No. 1.

Sir, *Elmina, June 8, 1873.*

AT about 9 P.M. yesterday, Mr. Loggie, with a force of Houssas under his command, disembarked, and marched to, and took possession of, the residence in the Government Garden.

At my request a chain of sentries was placed so as to encircle the town, including the two hills, Java and Scaurnaris. The sentries were visited by Mr. Loggie and myself between 11 and 12 midnight; and by the Sergeant-Major at 2 and 4 A.M., found all correct; two women and one man were arrested on suspicion—they satisfied me this morning that they were not Ashantees but Elminas in pursuit of legitimate employment, and when captured they were on their way to the Saltpond, where they would procure salt, and with it return at daylight to the town.

They have been released and cautioned not to be prowling about after 9 P.M., until such time as I satisfied myself that the Ashantees had gone from the district. Notice to that effect would be made known by me.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment, Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.





## Inclosure 22 in No. 1.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 8, 1873.*

AS I have not heard from you since the 6th instant, and as the postmen returned yesterday, reporting that they were stopped on the Elmina Road, I conclude your reports have been intercepted without your being aware of it. I am therefore sending a detachment of fifty Houssas to open the road, and to remain at Elmina under your orders.

The most grave complaints have been made against the Elmina people in palaver yesterday by the Kings for attacking the Fantees, and robbing them; and the King of Commendah states that canoes conveying some of his people to Cape Coast have been stopped and plundered. I am only awaiting your report as to the state of things at Elmina, and the conduct of the people, to decide upon the expediency of inflicting a fine upon the town to make good these losses. You will forward me a report without delay by boat.

A detachment of Royal Marines and Marine Artillery have arrived in Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta" for service here. I am thinking of sending you forty men with officers, so that you will have a strong garrison to operate with.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*The Military Commandant,  
Elmina.

## Inclosure 23 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Elmina, June 8, 1873.*

SINCE the arrival of the Houssas I have adopted such measures for preventing the destruction of the town by the Ashantees that there is at present no necessity for any more Regulars nor Houssas (beyond nine of the latter) to be sent to this station in order to augment my strength.

Should I consider it absolutely necessary for the protection of life and property, it is my intention to request Captain Luxmore of Her Majesty's ship "Argus," to disembark marines and sailors sufficient to garrison the Castle and Forts. By so doing I will then be in a position to take to the Bush all of my men, accompanied by Mr. Loggie and the Houssa force.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

## Inclosure 24 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Elmina, June 6, 1873.*

WITHIN three hours of each other I last evening received two cane bearers sent to me by the King of Agnafoo with messages to the effect that the Fantees had attacked the Ashantees on the 3rd and 4th, and even this day were they fighting; that the Ashantees who had lately left the town of Elmina were hard at work cutting a road between Commendah and Jouqua; and that he was of opinion that some of the Elminas were sending messengers and messages to the enemy.

I can vouch for the correctness of the first statement, because clearly and distinctly have we heard the reports of the rifles.

As regards the second statement, on inquiry I am told by many of the people that a man from the bush saw the Ashantees actually at work cutting the bush and making a narrow path road.

Not the slightest information considered reliable by me can I gather from the Elminas to justify any comment being made regarding third statement, those from whom I sought information all say that nothing could be more easily done, and if done the Counsellors of the King lately removed are the guilty parties.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment, Military Commandant of Elmina.*His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator-in-chief.

## Inclosure 25 in No. 1.

Sir, *Elmina, June 7, 1873.*  
 CONFIRMING reports made to me regarding the presence of the notorious Ashantee Chief Atjiempon within the Elmina districts, I have the honour to transmit a statement made by a man named Ikura.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
 Administrator-in-chief.

## Inclosure 26 in No. 1.

*Statement.*

*Elmina, June 7, 1873.*

I, IKURA, states—

I accompanied a party of Elminas from the King's quarters of this town on Friday afternoon the 6th instant to the bush outside of the town of Elmina for the purpose of visiting the Ashantees who had only come into the district that day. I met a number of them close to the salt pond; shook the hand of Atjiempon's youngest son, who took my pipe from out of my mouth and smoked out the tobacco that was in it. I saw Atjiempon along with the Ashantees. I know him very well, for when he was in Elmina last year I used to see him almost every day as I lived close to him.

I certify to the correctness of the statement.

(Signed) TIMOTHY LAING.

## Inclosure 27 in No. 1.

Sir, *Elmina, June 8, 1873.*  
 FOR the information of your Excellency I have the honour to report that I have in the interest of the public service, decided to make prisoners of the two sons of Atjiempon, also Coffee Pettie, Botchee, Buatuo, Attah, Andries, and Ahiukwa, provided they are in the town and can with safety be captured.

I know for a fact that the day before yesterday such of the Ashantee messengers that managed to find their way in were entertained by and at the expense of Coffee Pettie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBT. S. TURTON, *Captain,*  
*2nd West India Regiment and Military Commandant of Elmina.*

His Excellency Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
 Administrator-in-chief.

## No. 2.

*Colonel Harley to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received July 16.)*

My Lord,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 12, 1873.*

THE Reports of the state of Elmina have become so serious that the public safety is endangered by the traitorous conduct of the King's party, and the disaffection and disloyalty of a portion of the inhabitants, that I have this day with the advice of the Legislative Council proclaimed Martial Law at Elmina, and over the surrounding district.

2. I beg to submit for your Lordship's information a copy of the Proclamation as well as the Minutes of Council, by which your Lordship will perceive how very decided the opinions of Captain Fremantle and Lieutenant-Colonel Festing were upon the expediency of adopting this course, and that the Council at once concurred with them.

3. I have been able to furnish these officers with a copy of the Rules laid down by the Colonial Office, in a Circular, dated Downing Street, 26th January, 1867, when Lord Carnarvon was Secretary of State, for the information and guidance of

those who have to conduct military and naval operations under martial law, which I fortunately had amongst my private papers, and have requested their adherence to the same.

4. I have now to report to your Lordship that, after consultation with Captain Fremantle and Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, it has been decided to send a force of seamen and troops to-morrow to Elmina for the purpose of disarming the people, and it has been so well arranged that it is expected the surprise will be complete, and I am in hopes of receiving a report of the operation in time to transmit to your Lordship with this despatch.

I beg to submit the detail of the force employed for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

P.S.—No reports from Elmina, and the steamer will not wait. I have, therefore requested the master to call there and receive a report from Colonel Festing for your Lordship.

R. W. H.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

BY THE QUEEN.

*A Proclamation.*

Settlement of the Gold Coast, to wit.

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel, *Administrator-in-chief.*

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of all the Colonies and Territories thereof, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

To the officers commanding our land and naval forces in this Settlement and its waters, and all other our officers and all else whom it may concern.

Whereas it has become known that a hostile force of Ashantees has encamped in the vicinity of Elmina, and that disaffected and evil disposed persons are traitorously procuring and supplying to our enemies warlike munitions and intelligence whereby they may be the better enabled to accomplish their hostile purposes; and whereas, for the effectual and speedy punishment of the malefactors and the repression of their machinations and the protection of peaceable and well disposed persons, the ordinary course of law and justice does not sufficiently provide;

Now know ye that we do hereby proclaim and declare that from and after the day of the date hereof, until our pleasure herein shall be further known, martial law is and shall be in force within and throughout the town of Elmina and the surrounding districts where the Ashantees have entered.

Witness his Excellency Colonel Robert William Harley, C.B., Administrator in-chief in and over the West Africa Settlements at Cape Coast Castle, this 12th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1873.

God save the Queen!

By his Excellency's command,  
(Signed) FOSTER FOSTER, *Acting Colonial Secretary.*

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## Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

*Legislative Council, June 12, 1873.*

## Present :

His Excellency Colonel Harley, C.B., Administrator-in-chief.  
 His Honour D. P. Chalmers, Chief Magistrate.  
 The Honourable Colonel Foster, Acting Collector of Customs.

## Also,

Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Festing, R.M., Commanding Troops.  
 Captain E. R. Fremantle, R.N., Senior Naval Officer.

THE Governor said that the immediate object of summoning the Council to day arose from reports received from the Military Commandant at Elmina, and his Excellency invited the opinion of the Council as to what steps should be taken upon them. His Excellency had invited Captain Fremantle, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," Commanding Her Majesty's Squadron on the West Coast of Africa, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Festing, R.M., commanding the troops, and hoped they also would give their opinion as to the steps which they thought necessary to be taken in the present crisis. His Excellency then laid on the table the letters received from Captain Turton, and observed that the two letters deserving the especial notice of the Council were those dated the 7th and 8th June, 1873, respectively. His Excellency read the letter dated the 7th June, from Captain Turton, inclosing a statement respecting the presence of the Ashantee Chief, Atjiempon, near Elmina; and also another dated 8th June, as to the palaver that took place in the Castle with the native Chiefs, and reporting that the King's party had turned traitors, and left Elmina. His Excellency thought that the public safety was in danger owing to the state of things there.

Lieutenant-Colonel Festing said that Captain Fremantle, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," and himself, visited Elmina, and they would inform the Council as to what their opinions were.

Colonel Festing also said that immediately on arrival he communicated with Captain Turton, who expressed his opinion that the King's party at Elmina were altogether in favour of the Ashantees, and thought that the people should be disarmed.

Colonel Festing further said, he asked him whether any steps had been taken to do so; in reply to which, Captain Turton said that he had reported the state of affairs to the Governor which he (Colonel Festing) pointed out as having just been read, and that he was of opinion that the King's party were hand in hand with the Ashantees.

Captain Fremantle, R.N., said that he entirely agreed with Colonel Festing in all what he had said, and that, in conversation with Captain Turton, that gentleman had said he could not undertake to disarm the people unless he had assistance from the fleet to help him. Captain Fremantle went on to say that he was one of those who was opposed to see the Elminas take provision and water to the Ashantees near Elmina, and that he was prepared to assist in every possible way to put a stop to such a thing, which should be put down.

His Honour the Chief Magistrate remarked that it entirely consisted with Colonel Festing's and Captain Fremantle's statements, the opinion given by the Commandant of Elmina some months ago, in which he stated that the Elminas were wavering, but would, he believed, join the Ashantees in case they gained success over the Fantees.

Colonel Foster said that, if the Ashantees could make their way down to Elmina they would get all they wanted, and proposed the proclamation of martial law.

Governor said, that after receiving a report of the defeat of the Fantees at Jonquah, he addressed a letter to the officer commanding the troops, informing him of the critical position of affairs, and stating that, although he was not disposed to deviate from the instructions laid down for their guidance, that if he thought necessary to employ the troops outside the Castle and forts, his Excellency was willing to co-operate, and would not withhold his concurrence and sanction, as he would then invite the Senior Naval Officer to land seamen and marines to man the forts.

His Excellency need say nothing more, as the Settlement had been fortunate enough to get so valuable a reinforcement by the opportune arrival of the troops

His Excellency thought that the question was one for the opinion of the Council to decide, but suggested whether a proclamation giving power to the Commandant to call upon the people to deliver up their arms, and, if not, to issue search warrants and forcibly seize them, would not answer the purpose.

The Acting Collector said that he considered martial law under the present circumstances admissible, as it does away with that routine of the civil law by which the hands of the officer commanding the troops would be tied, and that he thought it necessary to give the officer commanding, the full power which martial law can only do under the existing state of things at Elmina.

The Senior Naval Officer, Captain Fremantle, R.N., concurred with Colonel Foster, and remarked that he would be put in a fix if the Marines were to be landed to enforce the issue of search warrants only.

His Excellency observed that should the Council concur in thinking that it was necessary to proclaim martial law, he would furnish the Officer Commanding the troops and Senior Naval Officer with copy of the instructions from Downing Street respecting martial law, which he fortunately happened to have.

His Honour the Chief Magistrate thought the opinions of the Senior Naval Officer and the Commanding Officer must be supreme in the present case, aided by the experience of his Excellency.

His Excellency concurred with the Council in the immediate necessity for taking prompt measures and proclaiming martial law under the circumstances.

Colonel Festing asked whether notice should not be given before martial law is proclaimed.

Chief Magistrate. No; not necessarily.

Colonel Festing thought that at 5 A.M. to-morrow the town of Elmina should be garrisoned and martial law proclaimed, and 2 hours given for delivery of arms, &c., by the people; and if disobeyed, coercive measures be taken for their immediate delivery.

Governor said, certainly, that is what was meant.

The Council, in conclusion, were unanimously of opinion that martial law should be proclaimed and put in force without delay.

Council adjourned *sine die*.

Passed in the Legislative Council, this 12th day of June, 1873.

(Signed)

JACOB WILLIAM LEWIS,  
*Acting Clerk of Council.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Sir,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, June 12, 1873.*

HAVING this day, as you are already aware, with the advice of the Legislative Council of this settlement, proclaimed martial law at Elmina and the surrounding district, in consequence of the public safety being endangered by the disaffection and disloyalty of a portion of the inhabitants there, I forward you a copy of the same.

I have the honour also to transmit, for your information and guidance, a copy of the rules laid down on the subject in a Circular dated Downing Street, 26th January, 1867, by Lord Carnarvon when Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to request your observance of the same, which I need scarcely add I rely with confidence on your doing.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, Colonel,  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Festing, R.M.,

Commanding Troops; and,

Captain Fremantle,

Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta."

## Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

TOTAL force, 23 boats and about 250 men. Boats as follows:—

- 14 large boats, pinnaces, paddle-box boats and cutters to form line in the river at anchor.
- 7 gigs to form an outer cordon and prevent escape.
- 1 steam pinnace and 1 cutter to remain outside surf to prevent escape in that direction.

## Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

*Memorandum.*

THE following troops will parade at 12.30 A.M. to-morrow for Elmina:—

	Subalterns.	Sergeants	Rank and File.
Royal Marine Artillery .. .. .	1	1	25
Royal Marine Light Infantry .. .. .	1	1	25
Houssas .. .. .	..	1	20
The houssa guard which came from Elmina yesterday .. .. .	..	1	30
The force at present at Elmina consists of—			
2nd West .. .. .	1	3	84
Houssas .. .. .	..	6	68
Total military force .. .. .	3	13	252

(Signed) F. W. FESTING, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*  
*Commanding Troops.*

June 12, 1873.

## Appendix.

Sir,

*Downing Street, January 26, 1867.*

THE unfortunate events which have recently occurred in Jamaica have rendered it necessary for Her Majesty's Government to inquire whether any general regulations can be laid down for the guidance of officers who in times of Civil disturbance are called upon to exercise extraordinary powers after the proclamation of martial law.

Sir Henry Storks, in a despatch of the 16th of March, 1866, suggested that some rules of this kind should be established, and particularly that the relative position of the Governor and of the officer commanding the troops should be defined, and the responsibilities attaching to the troops and the military tribunals be settled by competent authority. In the same sense the Royal Commissioners, in their Report to the Queen, express their belief that "much which is now lamented might have been avoided, if clear and precise instructions had been given for the regulation of the conduct of those engaged in the suppression of the disturbances." In these opinions Her Majesty's Government concur. Serious doubts indeed may be entertained respecting the legal consequences of a proclamation of martial law, and grave responsibilities are unquestionably incurred by the issue of it. It is a measure which can only be justified by overruling considerations of public safety, and must be accepted as a lamentable alternative to the anarchy and social confusion which would otherwise ensue. But it is certain that on four signal occasions within the last thirty years martial law has been proclaimed in one or other of the dependencies of the Crown. It cannot therefore be considered impossible that it may be proclaimed again; and, if so, it is the plain duty of the Government to secure that the officers who are commanded to enforce it, shall be alike supported and controlled, and the people who are subject to its operation shall be protected, by such cautionary instructions as the nature of the case renders practicable.

This duty will to a certain extent fall on the Governor of the Colony, who should issue written directions to the officer in command of the troops, explaining as far as possible the course and the object of the action expected of him, and comprising any further cautions or suggestions which may, under particular circumstances, seem expedient.

But if there be any principles so simple and so comprehensive that they can be embodied in standing instructions of general application, I think that a Governor should not be required to seek them out for himself in the midst of the excitement and distractions of an outbreak against the law.

With the experience they have now acquired, Her Majesty's Government have no right to evade the duty of framing such standing orders, and of giving them a place among the general regulations of the Colonial Service, where the officers concerned can at once have recourse to them in time of need.

Under these circumstances I have sought the advice of military and civil officers, whose rank and experience qualified them to suggest such regulations as would be at once practicable and useful. I append to this despatch the regulations which they have unanimously recommended, and which, after full consideration, and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, and the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, I have adopted, subject to such improvements as a further consideration may suggest. They will be hereafter embodied in the Colonial Regulations; but in order that you may be at once apprized of the general principles by which Her Majesty's Government desire you to be guided in the emergency to which these present rules relate, I transmit them to you without delay, in the shape in which I have received them from the gentlemen by whom they were drawn up.

I have only further to observe on this point, that as these regulations have in no respect the force of law, so it is not intended that officers should be under a rigorous obligation to observe them in all cases, and under all circumstances. The intention is that officers may derive from them some guidance more or less determinate, though not absolute; and that they may operate, on the one hand, as some relief from responsibility to those by whom they may be observed, and, on the other hand, as some *prima facie* increase of responsibility to those by whom they may be dispensed with.

The first seven regulations relate to the powers and duties of the Governor; the remaining eleven, to the powers and duties of military officers and tribunals.

To the Governor alone belongs the responsibility, both of proclaiming and of revoking at any moment martial law. During its continuance, therefore, constant reports are to be made to him of the progress of the defensive and repressive measures adopted. It is competent for him, in other than mere military operations, to give instructions to the officer in command, if he thinks fit, as regards the punishment of offenders, proclamation of pardon, the use or superseding of the ordinary magistrates and tribunals, with many other questions which intimately affect the treatment of the civil population. This great authority will, even under the large powers exercised by the officer commanding the troops, still belong to the civil power. In the military portions of the rules, provision is made against any needless injury to persons or property, and a few plain directions are given in order to insure regularity in the proceedings of the military tribunals; to limit the amount of punishment to be inflicted; and to afford protection to accused persons.

You will see that under Regulation 3, it is provided that Courts-martial shall consist, at least, of three members. I think it right to observe, on this particular rule, that whenever capital punishment is awarded,

so small a number as three officers is most undesirable. Circumstances may, no doubt, be imagined, especially when the military force is inadequate to the duties forced upon it, in which a larger tribunal could not possibly be obtained. I feel, however, bound to express my decided opinion that nothing short of an unavoidable necessity would justify the infliction of capital punishment on the authority of only three officers.

You will find it intimated in the rules, that the officer convening a Court-martial may, at his discretion, reserve any offender to be tried by the civil tribunals. It is also laid down that Courts-martial should not take cognizance of offences committed before the breaking out of insurrection. These regulations appear to me very salutary. It should be distinctly understood that the primary object of employing troops under martial law is not the punishment of offences, but the suppression of revolt. Of course, when the military is the only power capable of commanding obedience, it must repress by punishment those offences of violence and plunder to which the general population would otherwise be exposed. This is manifestly necessary. But there is no reason why that exceptional procedure should be carried beyond the limits of lawful authority, and the protection of the community against crime and disorder.

The question of the uses, if any, within the proclaimed district, of the ordinary magistrates and tribunals must be left, in a great measure, to the discretion of the Governor. It may be that the magistrates in the disturbed parts of the country will have been killed or compelled to fly. In some colonies it may happen that, from sympathy with the insurgents, and in others from irritation against them, the local magistrates will not be the fittest agency to employ during rebellion. Again, on the other hand, it is probable that when the actual disturbances, even in the proclaimed districts, are partial or transitory, or where the reduction of the country to order is gradual, the services of the ordinary magistrates and tribunals in the exercise of their proper functions might be alike salutary and useful.

That this is not impossible is proved by the example of Canada, where the great district of Montreal was, in 1838, with apparently general assent, kept under martial law for some months as a precautionary measure, though for a prolonged period the contemporaneous action of the regular tribunals was maintained.

It is, perhaps, right to observe, that martial law ought, on no account, to be enforced beyond the strict limits of the district in which it has been proclaimed. The transference of accused persons for the purpose of trial from an unproclaimed to a proclaimed part of the country is a proceeding obviously open to abuse, and unwarranted by that immediate necessity which alone justifies the suspension of the ordinary course of law.

In conclusion, I cannot too earnestly express my hope that, should the unfortunate necessity of proclaiming martial law arise, all those employed in enforcing it, and especially such as are in the more subordinate situations of trust and authority, may be enabled by you or your successors clearly to understand the duty of exercising the extraordinary powers confided to them with humanity and in a spirit of justice.

It is, probably, impossible to give more precise instructions for the guidance of those who are engaged in the suppression of serious disturbances.

Minute rules might be even dangerous, both as interfering with what are properly military operations, and as appearing to supersede the exercise, by the officers employed, of that discretion, humanity, and moral feeling on which after all the Government must mainly rely. These officers must, under all circumstances, understand that, whilst full allowance will be made for those who act under the orders of their superiors, and in the *bona fide* suppression of an armed and dangerous insurrection, they will, on the other hand, be held strictly accountable for acts which indicate, not merely a mistaken judgment, but a recklessness of human life and suffering.

I have, &c.

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Inclosure.

*Proposed Rules to be introduced, on the subject of Martial Law, into the Volume of Colonial Regulations.*

THE proclamation of martial law is an exceptional measure, which in some Colonies by special statute, and in others on the ground of over-ruling necessity, is occasionally resorted to for the public safety. The object of the following Rules is to afford some guidance to those who find themselves called upon to act in such an emergency:—

1. The responsibility for proclaiming martial law, and the power of at any moment declaring it at an end, must rest (subject to any special statutory provision as above-mentioned) with the Governor, as the highest authority in the community.

2. The Governor should not proclaim martial law unless he is satisfied of the existence of the following grounds:—

That there are men in armed resistance to the authority of the Crown;

That such armed resistance cannot be dealt with by the military acting merely in aid of the civil power in the ordinary manner;

That such armed resistance cannot be promptly and effectually suppressed otherwise than by subjecting the inhabitants of the disturbed district to direct military control, and by inflicting summary punishment upon offenders against the peace.

3. Martial law should not be proclaimed over a wider district than the necessities of the public safety require; and should be withdrawn from the whole or part of such district at the earliest moment when the public safety permits.



4. The proclamation of martial law should be published, as soon as possible and by all convenient means, in the proclaimed district and in other parts of the Colony.

5. Upon the proclamation of martial law the Governor of the Colony should, in conjunction with the officer commanding the troops in the Colony, arrange for the military occupation of the proclaimed district, and should give such officer general instructions in writing as to the nature and objects of the measures to be performed.

6. Great abuses have arisen from civil magistrates imagining, with no foundation, that they are clothed with extraordinary powers by the proclamation of martial law. The Governor would do well to warn them against falling into this error, in the manner best suited to the circumstances of the particular Colony.

7. During the continuance of martial law the Governor may give from time to time authoritative instructions, if he so thinks fit, to the officer commanding the troops upon such matters as the punishment of offenders belonging to the civil population, proclamations of pardon and amnesty, levies upon the inhabitants, arming magistrates with special powers, the continuance, resumption, or suspension of the ordinary tribunals.

8. The commander of the forces in the Colony, or other officer taking command of the troops in the proclaimed district, shall assume entirely military authority within the district, and shall also publish to the inhabitants any orders to which they are required to conform.

9. If the officer commanding the troops in the Colony takes command of the troops in the proclaimed district, he shall report as often as practicable to the Governor.

Any other officer in command of the troops in such district shall report as often as practicable to the officer commanding the troops in the Colony; and in case the latter and the Governor are in different places, shall forward duplicates of such reports direct to the Governor. The Governor should, in that case, with the concurrence of the officer commanding the troops in the Colony, communicate directly with the officer commanding the troops in the proclaimed district.

10. Every officer in command of a detachment in the proclaimed district shall, if practicable, be furnished with written orders from his superior officer, and shall keep a journal of his proceedings, and shall report from time to time in writing to his superior officer.

11. Unless in case of urgent necessity, troops should not be detached except in command of a commissioned officer.

12. In subduing the rebels by force of arms, care should be taken as far as possible to avoid injuring non-combatants, women, or children. Men not armed with fire-arms, or offensive weapons, are not to be fired upon, unless actively hostile, without first summoning them to surrender.

Dwelling-houses, stores, crops, and other property should not be destroyed or injured, except under military necessity.

13. The officer commanding the troops in the proclaimed district may appoint a military officer to act as Provost Marshal, and shall in such case give written orders to the Provost Marshal limiting him to the punishment of such offenders only, whether military or civil persons, as he or any of his assistants may actually see committing any crime; and limiting the punishments which he may inflict. The Provost Marshal shall from day to day, or as often as need be, report to the officer commanding the troops in the proclaimed district, the names of all offenders punished by him, and the crime and punishment of each such offender.

14. Unless military reasons do not admit of a trial, prisoners and offenders should not be punished by any military officer (the Provost Marshal excepted) unless after trial by a Court-martial, to be convened by the officer commanding the troops in the proclaimed district, or by some officer deputed in writing by him, and to consist of at least three officers.

15. Care should be taken to afford the prisoners every reasonable facility for making their defence. The witnesses should be sworn, and hearsay evidence should not be admitted.

The officer acting as president at any such trial should make at the time a written record of the proceedings, stating the following matters:—

- The date and place of the trial;
- The officers composing the Court;
- The name, age, sex, and occupation of the prisoner;
- The charge or charges;
- The names of the witnesses, and the substance of the evidence;
- The substance of the prisoner's defence;
- The finding and sentence of the Court;

And should send such proceedings, signed by him, to the officer convening the Court; whose duty it will be to confirm the proceedings or not, as he shall think fit: and to carry into effect the whole or any part of the sentence (if any) awarded by the Court. The proceedings should afterwards be forwarded to the officer commanding the troops in the Colony, and by him be transmitted to the office of the Judge Advocate-General in London.

17. The convening officer may at his discretion reserve any offender who has not actually received punishment for the offence to be tried by the ordinary civil tribunal.

18. Courts-martial should not take cognisance of offences committed before the breaking out of insurrection.

19. No sentence of death should pass except by the judgment of two-thirds of the Court;

As sentences of Courts-martial may not avail beyond the term of martial law, no sentence of imprisonment beyond that term should be awarded, nor any sentence of penal servitude;

Corporal punishment should not exceed fifty lashes;

In awarding sentence the Court should be guided by all the circumstances of the case, and avoid unnecessary severity.

DESPATCHES on the subject of the Ashantee  
Invasion, and Attack on Elmina.

(In continuation of Papers presented July 15, 1873.)  
(C. 802).

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by  
Command of Her Majesty. July 1873.*

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# GOLD COAST.

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## FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

# ASHANTEE INVASION.

(In continuation of Papers presented July 18, 1873.)

(C. 804).



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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,  
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LIST OF PAPERS.

Serial No.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	From Colonel Harley ..	Apr. 14, 1873	Incloses correspondence with King and Special Messenger as to causes of invasion of Protectorate .. .. .	1 ✓
2	To Colonel Harley ..	May 12, 1873	In reply .. .. .	10

## Further Correspondence respecting the Ashantee Invasion.

No. 1.

*Colonel Harley to the Earl of Kimberley.—(Received May 9.)*

My Lord,

*The Castle, Cape Coast, April 14, 1873.*

I HAD, on the morning of the 12th instant, the satisfaction of receiving from the King of Ashantee a letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, with others, from Mr. Dawson, my special messenger to the King. I venture to use this expression my Lord, as I think it will be satisfactory for your Lordship to learn from the King himself, the cause which has led him to the invasion of the Protectorate, and to me, that I trust it at once and for all scatters to the winds the rumours, statements, and conclusions at which Mr. Hennessy had so confidently arrived, and which, in a large measure, he persistently attributed to what he was pleased to term my "injudicious conduct."

2. Your Lordship will perceive that the cause stated by the King, is the transfer of Elmina, and I think not a little to the singular selection made by Mr. Hennessy of Mr. Plange (an Elmina man and a Dutch agent) as the first English Commissioner to Coomassie after the transfer, whom he dispatched to the King with many valuable presents, amounting to some 600*l.* or 700*l.*, and amongst them a monster mirror. Well, my Lord, there were people here who could have told Mr. Hennessy, had it suited him to learn it, that Mr. Plange's loyalty to the flag was more than suspected, and that he had been known to say "Elmina is transferred, but not in heart." He had been, I am told, in some way previously connected with the King, and we now, fortunately, know something of his mind and feeling towards British rule; but it seems to me, from the King of Ashantee's statement, that whatever Mr. Plange did say, produced great irritation, and led to his sending his army across the Prah against the tribes of the Protectorate.

3. The news of the safety of the European missionaries who have all signed this letter will, I am sure, be a source of much gratification to your Lordship, and their signatures are already sufficiently known to me to leave no doubt of their being reliable.

4. Your Lordship will observe in the 2nd paragraph that the King of Ashantee distinctly claims the Fort of Elmina as his by descent. I am well aware how absurd this plea is, but, nevertheless, it is a plea sufficient for the savage Monarch to act upon, and the threat which he states was made to him by the messenger sent by Mr. Hennessy—"the King says he could not understand the Administrator-in-chief's sending Attah, *alias* Mr. H. Plange, to tell him of his having taken possession, and notifying him also that in four months he, the Administrator, would come to Ashantee to take away power from him." How can we now tell, but that this man, to favour the policy of the King of Elmina, may not have made some such statement as alleged, to enrage the King of Ashantee, and to induce him to move to the assistance of Elmina by invading the Protectorate. And here I would mention to your Lordship the evidence given by Coffee A. Kell, the cane bearer, sent with my messenger, Mr. Dawson, to the King of Ashantee in December last, when negotiations were pending for the release of the European Missionaries:—"Mr. Plange, Commissioner and an Elmina, told the King that the British Government intended giving Quake Fram, King of Denkera, power in four months' time, and the King said in reply, if any blood shed Plange would be responsible for it, as he had brought him that message. The King says he has a palaver with the Assins, the Denkeras, and the Akins, but not with white people, but Mr. Dawson thinks it is all false, as the King means war against the British

authority. Mr. Dawson tells the Governor, as soon as he gets this message, to make prisoners of the King of Elmina and King Amakie, of Appolonia, as they are the cause of this war." In his diary, he adds, the King explained how the Elminas had sent to ask his succour on a previous occasion which led to his sending Atjiempon with money, &c. Mr. Dawson left Cape Coast on the 28th November (and here, my Lord, the dates are important), he states, "three days after leaving the Prah, they met the invading army, which had left Coomassie on the 9th December; it was the whole Ashantee force now at Yancoomassie." This [at once discloses the treachery of the King of Ashantee, who was at the time professing friendship towards the Government through his Envoys at Cape Coast. He also states "that the King of Elmina sent his brother Intehkohte, asking the King of Ashantee to send an army to him, and when the Fantees were busy away from Cape Coast they would come and overrun and plunder it. Amakie, King of Appollonia, sent also to Ashantee asking the King to send down and help him, and the notorious Atjiempon, who was sent back to Coomassie at such trouble and expense in December, is now on his way there with 3,000 men. Moreover, amongst the traders at Coomassie, British Elminas were put in log, but the Dutch Elminas went away with Atjiempon," and that he "has gone to Kinjarbo, the trading town on the Asinee River." Thomas Cochrane, the Fantee policeman, sent with my letter and proclamation to the King on my assumption of the Government, has been sent back, also with two other Fantees and two boys of Mr. Dawson's, in all, six persons, and the King told the cane-bearer to say "that he has plenty of Fantee prisoners, but he has not kill any, he only kills the Assins, the Denkeras, and the Akims."

5. These two and another Fantee whom I examined confirm Mr. Dawson's reports, and they state further that they saw with their own eyes the brother of the King of Elmina at Coomassie, and the messengers of Amakie, King of Appolonia. It will thus be evident to your Lordship that this scheme of invasion had been for some time intended by the Ashantees, and that Elmina and Appolonia were to rise to support it. All this only confirms the information I had the honour to convey to your Lordship in my despatch No. 39 of the 2nd instant, at paragraph 4, in which I drew attention to the King of Elmina having issued an order for the Ashantees to arm, and I then ventured to express my own opinion "that the invasion was a pre-concerted scheme between Ashantee and Elmina, and that when the invading army had advanced to a given distance of the coast, the whole of the Dutch natives of the Windward Settlements would rise *en masse* against the British rule."

6. The diary of Mr. Dawson will give your Lordship more detailed information, and especially with regard to the part Mr. Plange seems to have taken, so that he has lost the confidence of the King, and has even been ill-treated, which is a most exceptional thing in the case of special messengers or Envoys sent to Coomassie. I shall recall him provided the King will allow him to return, leaving Mr. Dawson, with the missionaries, to carry out any negotiations which may be necessary with the King.

7. The letter of Mr. Dawson to Prince Ansah, of which I submit a copy,\* conveys the impression that Governor Ferguson's letter to the King, announcing the intended transfer, was not opened until after the receipt of Mr. Hennessy's Proclamation, and that this has led to a misapprehension, but whether this be so or not, I am satisfied the King intended war, and his whole effort was directed to deceive the Government here, and to conceal his movements until he was ready, and they could no longer remain unknown.

8. Your Lordship will now see how fortunate the timely arrest of the King of Elmina has been, and I propose sending instructions to the Civil Commandant at Axim to take exactly the same course towards Amakie, King of Appolonia, as adopted with him; *i.e.*, to summon him and administer the Oath of Allegiance, and, should he refuse, to arrest him and send him to Cape Coast. For this service I shall request the Senior Naval Officer to send down a gun-boat, with a small reinforcement of the detachment of troops withdrawn from Secondee, which I intend replacing with policemen; as they will be better adapted I think, my Lord, in the proposed changes there, which I have submitted for your Lordship's consideration. I have, however, requested the officer commanding the troops on the Gold Coast to allow Dr. Horton to remain at Secondee for the present, and until your Lordship's decision with regard to the new arrangements is received, as his services would be required to assist in carrying them out.

\* Not inclosed.

9. It will be seen from the date of the King's letter (20th March), that it was written after receiving the news of the success of his army at Yancoomassie on the 10th, and accounts, no doubt, in a great measure for the exaggerated demands which he makes. I shall consult the Council as to the reply to be sent to that letter, and your Lordship may rely upon its being most carefully considered.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator-in-chief.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Coomassie, March 20, 1873.*

HIS Majesty, Kalkaree, sends his best respects to your Honour, also to Messrs. Ossoo Anseh and G. Blankson.

2. His Majesty states that, he being the grandson of Ossai Tutu, he owns the Elminas to be his relatives, and consequently the fort at Elmina and its dependencies being his, he could not understand the Administrator-in-chief's sending Attah, *alias* Mr. H. Plange, to tell him of his having taken possession of them for Quake Fram, and notifying him also that in four months, he, the Administrator, would come to Ashantee to take away power from him.

3. He states that he has been made angry by this, and it was this which led to his sending his great captains and forces to bring him, Quake Fram, of Denkerah, who dares to take his Elmina fort, &c., and also the Assins and Akims, who are his own slaves, and who have united with the Denkerahs to take power from him.

4. His Majesty further states that, your Honour's restoring him these tribes, *viz.*, Denkerahs, Akims, and Assins, back to their former position as his subjects, and also restoring the Elmina fort and people back in the same manner as they were before, will be the only thing or way to appease him, for he has no quarrel with white men; but should your Honour come in to interfere, as he hears you are, that you have not to blame him, because he will then start himself.

5. That His Majesty having heard of some false information being brought to your Honour respecting your messengers and the white captives, he has requested their attesting this letter with their own signatures, of their being in health.

We have, &c.

For His Majesty,

(Signed)

KOFI KALKAREE.

Linguist YAWOO NANKWI, his  $\times$  mark.

„ AKWESSI APPEAR, his  $\times$  mark.

„ KOFI BUAKI, his  $\times$  mark.

JOSEPH DAWSON, the writer.

FR. RAMSEYER, for himself, his wife, and child.

G. KUHNE.

M. J. BONNAT, Sen.

H. PLANGE.

To testify my being alive.

To His Honour Colonel Robert Wm. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts, &c., on the  
Gold Coast.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Coomassie, March 21, 1873.*

YOUR Honour will find my letter dated 19th December last as a sort of diary informing your Honour everything down to the reading of the letters I brought from you to the King. The bearer of the cane being intelligent, and having been with me every time in my interviews with the King, through good interpreter, will be able to answer your Honour some plain questions.

There has been a letter here, brought by a Court crier nearly two months ago, I have heard, but nobody has been called to open it before now, what for I do not know. Henceforth, I think, your Honour's letter-bearers should not know the contents of the letter, especially if they be Ashantees.

I have not had the chance of communicating with your Honour; the cause will be perceived from my diary letter referred above. I now beg to embrace this chance to return your Honour my humble thanks for having sent that ungrateful Atjiempon ere the Ashantee forces were seen on the frontier. Your Honour could not have acted wiser. By that act your Honour saved me from a great deal of trouble, and, not only that, but also exonerated the Government from being blamed; and it has, I am glad to say, led to a question among the Ashantees, "what for do we go to this war?"

Your Honour will see from my private interview with the King that this invasion has purely risen from the cession of the Elmina Fort and its dependencies, and for which I see no reason, seeing there is no loss sustained in any way by the Kingdom of Ashantee, as the Elminas never succoured in its attacks upon the coast or anywhere else with arms.

I must go no further for fear of being stopped altogether. We are starving: the King's allowance does not reckon 2*d.* per day for each person. I beg to inclose to your Honour a receipt for 30*l.* which must be all in silver coins, as gold coins do not pass here. Silver we can exchange for gold dust. I have also given a small order for 8*l.* to Mr. Dawson. I am in want of stationeries, as I brought but very few sheets of paper, &c., with me.

Trusting this to find your Honour and family in good health

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOS. DAWSON.

His Honour Colonel Robert Wm. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts and Settlements  
on the Gold Coast.

P.S.—Mr. Plange being not allowed to write he sends through me a receipt for 30*l.*

J. D.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Sir,

*Coomassi, December 19, 1872.*

I REGRET very much the having to report to your Honour the sad state of affairs in Coomassi against people under your Honour's protection and rule, viz., Assins, Denkerahs, and Akims. Against these, as I am apparently told by the King Kalkeree, he has war; and his forces left here last Monday, the 9th instant, to invade. I have also heard privately that he had sent the petitioned succour to Amakie, the King of Fort Appolonia, against Birey of Attuanboo, a very loyal British subject.

2 I was only allowed to enter here last Saturday, the 14th instant. The centre force, which is against the Assins, from some cause seem to be slow in their movement. I met the vanguard at Ajabbimsah (about 3½ miles within Coomassi); whereas those against Akim have already sent forty persons, chiefly children and women—only half a dozen young men amongst them.

3. The King could not help broaching out his mind publicly to me at my reception last Saturday when returning to me the compliment. When he came with a few steps to where I was seated to receive him, he came down from his basket and began a dance, when he came just before me making a certain motion, he had a musket handed to him, he did as though he was loading it, wearing for necklace silver bullets, which is a sign of a determination for war. A little while he demanded audience and told me, with very affable face, that he has no war with white men, neither Fantees, but Denkerah, Assins, and Akims, who are his own slaves and who have turned to rob him so greedily he will not allow; he danced a little more and passed away home.

4 True, as the reports circulated on the coast, he seems to have been preparing for this long ago, but he has been waiting for a certain period. That Occra, the King's servant, as he was reported to your Honour, who came with the last messengers, Ossoo, Eddoom and Ossai, was dispatched by the envoys at Cape Coast to convey certain message to the King before my arrival at Coomassie, and although I left him at Eddoomfa when I came on to Dunkevaah to sleep the same day I left Cape Coast, he passed in the night, and travelled, I believe, day and night and conveyed to the King my being on the way coming to him, who then sent a sword-bearer and another man to hasten me on to see him on the following Monday.



These met me on the declivity of Kivissah mountains on Saturday morning of the 7th, about 11 A.M.; their errand was, "He who administers war affairs having heard of his best friend's messenger coming to him, desires us to come and welcome you, and to take you to see him on Monday even dark." I hastened on; I was not allowed to stay more than half-an-hour with the gentlemen at Formannah but passed on to Danpoassi, about three-quarters of an hour's walk from Formannah.

5. On Sunday the 8th, judging the King being very anxious to see me, I was on the way, travelled over an hour, when closed to a second village, Essang Inquanta, another messenger from the King, met me, his errand was the King had gone to perform an annual service at Bantoomals, and finding that he will not have time to receive you desires that you wait at Danpoassi for other messengers who will be coming to-morrow (Monday) to take you and the white men from Fammana, together to see him." I was therefore brought back to Danpoassi again.

6. Early on Monday morning three, captains, a sword-bearer, and four servants with gold plates on their necks, one of whom is a son of the late King, arrived and confirmed the errand of yesterday, and passed to Formannah, and desired me to wait their return on the the next day for going to Coomassie. About 7 A.M. of Tuesday, I was called out with all my people, even my cook was not exempted, to a certain fetish house; there came one man, and presently the Ocra, the servant who passed on to Coomassie. After putting heads together with the headmen of the town a little, I was told that the King having heard of my people complaining for want of food (falsehood) desires that all my people should be distributed to the care of his headmen at Danpoassi to have special care taken of them, that they may be in want of nothing. They must, therefore, be taken by fours to see the respective houses of the headmen, and return back to me. I knew it to be making them prisoners, and told them so. But still I made no resistance, knowing it to be against their national law to hurt messengers in case of war. They were all put into irons or logs directly. After little consideration they brought me back my cook and a boy. I learnt afterwards that the missionaries were all plundered of their property, and that Mr. Plange had been severely beaten and put into irons. They made no attempt upon me, neither on my cane-man. I here concluded a war being declared, and that his forces were being sent out to invade.

7. On Wednesday morning Ossoo Kokoli, who was detained at Essiamman by looking after some loads belonging to the King passing, called to see, and condoled me with the hastening himself onward to see the King about me, and that I am not to mind what has taken place. About three hours after him a messenger arrived with orders from the King to have all my people released to me. The messenger passed on, after acquainting me to tell the Captains at Formannah to come and obey. He returned towards evening to report their coming directly.

8. On Thursday the 12th, twenty-two Fantees and one Akim were brought to pass for Coomassie in logs. The messenger being disappointed by the captains, and seeing no sign of them, ordered the releasement of all my men, called me and gave them to me according to his instructions; and left me to wait the white captives, &c., to go together to Coomassie. The treatment was true, as I heard, against the gentlemen. They were, however, brought in the afternoon to Danpoassi.

9. Being anxious to know the cause of this hostile movement, I prayed for private interview with the King on my arrival, which prayer was answered on Tuesday last, the 17th. I told him that it is known on the coast that he is constantly troubled by his people to attempt an invasion on the coast, which of course will bring disturbance between him and white men; this I pray him, as the friend of his late grand uncle, not to yield to, because I know the white men respect him, and desire always peace with him, as to give free course to trade. I also begged to be intermedial to bring about peace, and get him redressed, if necessary, when he makes known to me what his grievances are. He appeared to have listened to me with interest, but said: "Why were you not sent before; I am going; ready now;" and then began relating his grievances, and although he told me over and over again that he has neither war with the white men nor the Fantees, I was left to infer that it is to disguise, from the grievances he enumerated.

10. "My people," said he, "when they run away from me to the Coast, why they are not sent back to me, if they are my good friends? but what I hear is, 'they have taken hold of the English flag,' consequently, they keep them as in the case of Gennim whom Kwarki the King of Denkerah (here he shook his head with great vexation) has taken. 2. The taking my Elmina Fort, in which I eat (with

great stress) and given to Kwarki, from whose ancestors the King of Ashantee having fought with, took by paying the 1000 piaguans they owed in that fort," (one thousand times 8l. 2s. sterling.) He was very much excited again; I interrupted him, therefore, with the denial of the fort being given to Kwarki, and that I would explain things to him if he would allow me; he told me to hold on. "The fort is bought they say: why, if they wish good understanding with me, they should send a person to inquire of me before. What debt does the King of Elmina, Kobbina Gan owes, that the fort should be taken from him? 3. And the Sierra Leone Governor, who came to take it, not being satisfied with that power on the Coast, sent his gold ring by Attah (Mr. Plange) to say, he takes now the coast, but at the end of four months he would come and take my power also away from me. Auha he cried out, and many of his people about him questioned is he able? He was so very much annoyed that he could hardly keep on his seat. I interrupted him again by saying that I do not believe the Governor sent such message, and prayed him to allow me the opportunity of questioning Mr. Plange before him, which he promised. "No," he went on to say, "do the white men know how to travel to fight? We know it here. No! only war must end this matter." 4. There, Atjiempon, my father, has been bound, hands behind him and his cloth torn to pieces, all gold he wore taken of him and the soldiers have been selling in the Cape Coast market. 5. Yes, because he wants to take away my power, he receives some bad fellow, who has been rambling about here, as a messenger from Gyarman, and has sent Kondoya (Lindzey) to accompany him thither, my own country, yes, and should you not find him what will be it then? No! muskets must be fired on this matter. Thank God, although he was so much excited, when he turned to speak to me personally, he cooled his tone. He then said, "why a person like you was not sent before? it is rather late, you will soon hear. But you, as a messenger, though muskets be firing, are safe."

10. Finding him cooled a little, I undertook to explain the interchange and the cause. Then I questioned his "eating from the Elmina Fort," which is meant the annual stipend, whether he has not been promised with its continuation, and moreover doubled, as I understood. He answered this with a question, "And what become of what was due before?" I answered, an inquiry ought to be made. I observed he was touched, but still I found it was no use to expostulate with him until I have been allowed to open your Honour's letters, because all his attendants about him, with the exception of my landlord, Busoomburootinya, appeared to listen one side and allow no reasoning.

11. He speaks awfully bad of Mr. Plange, and puts him down as the causer of the existing irritation, referring to the taking away his power in four months, telling him in a very disrespectfully manner of the roads to the coast to be closed against him if he, Mr. Plange, was not allowed to cross River Prah with the white captives; and that the Governor had said, with the nail of his thumb to one of his upper front teeth, as though forcing it out, that he will not pay him the amount he asks for the white captives at all, but what he, the Governor, thinks proper; which sign is very disrespectful and vexatious in this and Fantee too. And, lastly, suspecting him very strongly to have misrepresented affairs in Coomassie to the Governor. He then told me to come home my lodging, and wait for his convenient time to read the letters to him and Chiefs.

12. I am sure, your Honour, I have left nothing here unsaid which he mentioned to me as grievance. I beg, therefore, to leave them to your Honour, to draw out your inferences in comparison to what he openly told me, of having no war with the Governor or white men.

13. There being no call made up to Friday the 20th for the reading of the letters I brought, and the antecedent one by a policeman, I talked with my landlord and Ossoo Kokoli, the necessity, which led to their going to the King about it. I was called then about 5 P.M., and Messrs. Ramseyer, Bonnat, and Plange being also called, I was called to read them. The King and people exhibited not the least dissatisfaction on any part of their contents, but the money not being lodged in the hands of his envoys at Cape Coast, which they all at once attributed to Mr. Plange having written to say, the Ashantees being rogues, would not allow the white captives to come to the coast when the money be sent to Coomassie.

14. But I sternly denied the having heard anything more than your Honour desiring the King to act in accordance with the original arrangement; the sending the white men to Cape Coast, and there the money be paid by Mr. Grant, in whose hands the money was already lodged, and that of your Honour having given order

to Mr. Grant to that effect, and that the King's letter states that the envoys should wait at Cape Coast till then.

15. The King here called out Mr. Ramseyer, and told him, "you would have been ere this on the coast, but Mr. Plange has prevented it; a rogue he is, who is the cause of the existing irritation now between me and the coast; on whose head all that happens will fall;" then turned directly to Mr. Plange himself: "You, have I not told you already, that the safety of Ashantee and the countries on the coast are put on a stake by you" (with a pointed finger at him); "you came and told me of my power to be taken at the end of four months," &c., repeating all what he had told me at my private interview with him. But the excitement was here stronger, because most of his Chiefs were present and united in abusing Mr. Plange. I tried many occasions to pacify them, but I found no chance, neither Mr. Plange was allowed to defend himself. He was asked if he is not an Elmina man as he reported? The poor young man being frightened, lowered his position by saying, in addition to his affirmation, that he is consequently a slave of his. Here the King began to explain how the Elminas sent to ask his succour, which led to his sending Akyempon with money, &c., and why he, being Elmina man, came with commission from the Governor of Cape Coast. Is it because there is nobody at Cape Coast to be sent? No; but that you might get a chance to play roguery and many other abuses. We, however, sat down until he asked us to go home for this time. I learnt, afterwards, that he expressed a regret that he was so excited before me, fearing that I would think he was angry with me, and repeated his inquiry why I was not sent before. However, he will see for a chance for me to do the best I can between him and the white men. This I have been told by two of his confidentials.

16. From this day's interview I beg to remark that whatever is communicated from this to the coast is brought, through some other channel, back again to Coomassie, and places the writer in a very awkward position. I do not know which way I shall be able to send you this as the path is closed. I have been privately told that he is thinking to give me one man to accompany my cane-man to bring some communication to your Honour; if so, you will have every information necessary. We are all prisoners here—not, of course, in irons as the Fantee traders and the hammockmen, who were sent to take the white captives to the coast, are.

17. It appears as though the end of Ashantee Power or Kingdom is close at hand. You can hardly meet with an aged man to reason with: still I am hard at work to get chance to expostulate with the King and two of the best of his confidentials at a quiet night's interview. I have reasons to thank God, because he appears to have good feelings for me, notwithstanding attempts being made by some of his people to make him angry because I went and brought Akyempon from Half-Assinee.

18. I do not suppose they have been able yet to muster over 200 Fantees in Ashantee, but there are over 500 Ashantees on the coast, and his people who are going to war—I mean the commons, not the captains—are all murmuring very much. They have not enough muskets; we find three and two to a musket as they pass by, so that we have much in our favour.

I will write again when he makes up his mind at any time to allow communication with your Honour.

I beg to recommend to your Honour's sharp looking-out for the Ashantee forces the following directions: Appolonia, Wassau, Western Denkirah, Assin, and Akim. Pray have an eye on the King of Elmina. He sent private messenger, his own brother, Intekoodji by name, through Assinee by Kreukiaboo, and although Fantees and some Elmina people are in logs here and no way for any communication, he has been dispatched since I arrived to pass by the same way. He brought about 50 dollars to purchase slaves, which by mistake were taken from the person that had the keeping of them when catching the Fantees and plundering their property, but the King has restored them.

Thank God we are all in good health, and beg to remain, &c.,

(Signed)

JOSEPH DAWSON.

His Honour Colonel R. W. Harley, C.B.,  
Administrator of Her Majesty's Forts and  
Settlements on the Gold Coast.

## Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Sir,

Coomassi, December 29, 1872.

I HAVE written the Administrator the state of affairs in Coomassi, which I have not the least doubt he will show to you.

I am glad, however, with the success I have this day met in being able to effect the King's yielding to my becoming intermedial between the two Powers, viz., his and that of the British Government, by communicating his grievances. If I am to rely on his promise he has this evening told me, that will stop commencing hostilities until I obtain no satisfaction for him, but which I am rather afraid he will never get, from the intimation I have in possession of it, viz., the head of Kwarki of Denkirah being sent to him, the Ahkans, *i.e.*, Assins, Denkirahs, Akims, and Wassaus, all being returned to the Kingdom of Ashantee.

I sought for this private interview with him and the most sensible of his confidentials, and I am gratified with having obtained it this evening. I expostulated with them regarding the invasion they make now, and although the King would not stoop to confess the rash and unnatural start made in this invasion, he has acknowledged it by the promise of stopping hostilities until I have communicated with the Governor.

When reasoning with him on the evil effect entailing on the trying of the two Powers, he coolly questioned me, "and what is that? because here in Coomassi, we kill 100 persons in a day for custom, and as the young here are anxious to see something wonderful, he thinks the young on the other (the coast) side feel the same anxiety." What childish idea!

He has drained all his forces; the only Chief kept is the Gevabin Chief, who starts when he the King does. The strongest force is directed against Denkerah, thinking by that, that he can get to Elmina sooner to take his fort back and the head of Kwarke, who asked the Government to reclaim his ancestor's property, the Elmina Fort, for him.

I only regret the being detained here and not knowing how long, because, unless he changes his mind as to send me back with his grievances, he will not allow me to come, until he finds his failure in the invasion; he may then make use of me to bring about peace. I am here almost starving, because he pays but little attention to the Governor's envoys, being checked by his Chiefs for having been too liberal before; and some fellow having reported here that Colonel Foster told him when he was sent to him by the Governor to receive subsistence, said that giving money to him, he may as well throw it into the sea.

January 1, 1873. Having not as yet closed this, may I beg to wish your Honour a happy new year, and many happy returns of the season. Mine has met me in prison.

I shall be very sorry to miss the chance of seeing your Honour ere you leave the coast. Should you be going ere I return, and you want the journal to the Appolonian Mission you can apply to Mrs. Dawson for it, I am writing her to that effect. I would only beg of your Honour to have an eye on placing your humble servant in as favourable position as your Honour can, because I have now made up my mind entirely for the Government, and trust the Lord will make me useful for the good of my country in the hand of the Government. May I beg your Honour's acceptance of one of the pairs of sandals I am in search after for the King of Dahomey. I do not know what will please the Administrator and wife from this, as curiosities, having only here Ashantee pipes and moulded weights for gold.

I have heard of a letter having arrived from the coast since last three days, but he has not yet called me or any one to open. Atjiempon has not yet reached Coomasi, he will come on Monday next I hear. Present my best respects to Colonel Foster.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOS. DAWSON.

The Honourable C. S. Salmon,  
&c. &c. &c.

## Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Your Majesty,

Government House, Cape Coast, November 25, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Majesty's information copy of a Proclamation, which I have issued on my arrival here, announcing my appointment

as Administrator of the Government of the Gold Coast by my Most Gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria.

2. In acquainting your Majesty with my assumption of this Government, I desire to convey to your Majesty that I am animated with the desire that nothing but the most friendly relations should exist between us during my administration, and to assure your Majesty that no effort shall be wanting upon my part to prove to your Majesty that such is the wish I very strongly entertain and earnestly hope may be realised.

3. I desire to express also my best wishes for a continuance of your Majesty's health, and that it may long be spared to promote the prosperity and happiness of your people, by developing the commerce of your great country in the peaceful habits of industry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator.*

His Majesty the King of Ashantee,  
Coomassi.

Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Your Majesty,

*Government House, November 28, 1872.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Majesty's letter of the 9th instant, from Coomassi, received here on the 25th (three days since), and I hasten to assure your Majesty of the gratification it affords me to find that you have allowed the European missionaries with the Commissioner, Mr. Plange, to leave Coomassie for Formannah, on their way to Cape Coast, for which I beg to offer you my warmest thanks.

2. Her Majesty's Government will also receive this intelligence with much satisfaction, and will not fail to appreciate the good faith and friendliness which your Majesty has displayed.

3. As the 1,000*l.* to be paid to your Majesty by the Baste Mission has been already placed in the hands of Mr. Grant, their agent at Cape Coast, in the presence of your Majesty's Envoys in accordance with the terms of the Acting Administrator's letter, dated 25th October last, addressed to your Majesty, I have given an order to that gentleman, under the seal of this Government, for its payment to the envoys on the arrival of the captives at Cape Coast, and they (that is Woosoo Coker Coomah Cotiko, and Quadu) have been requested to remain at Cape Coast until they come down.

4. If your Majesty wanted any additional proof of the good-will of myself and this Government towards you and your subjects, I am sure your Majesty will see how strong it must be from the manner in which your Chiefs and Envoys have been treated while at Cape Coast; and at your request I will send you Atjiempon and his followers under safe conduct to the Prah, in order that he may return to Coomassi; but as he has begged to be allowed to remain here a few days longer to receive his Fetish stool, which he left at Half Assinee, I have consented to his doing so, and as your Majesty also desires that any Ashantees remaining at Elmina should be sent back to Coomassi your Majesty's wishes shall be made known to them, and they shall be told to return.

5. As I have received news that Mr. and Mrs. Ramseyer, with their child, are very sick and weak, I feel sure your Majesty would regret in common with this Government anything serious happening to any of the party while they remain detained by your Majesty, and that you will, therefore, give immediate orders that they may be sent down without any delay to Cape Coast.

With my best wishes for your Majesty's health, I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. W. HARLEY, *Colonel,*  
*Administrator.*

His Majesty the King of Ashantee,  
Coomassi.

P.S.—I send a special interpreter with this despatch, who will make known its contents to your Majesty truly and well, and will bring me back your Majesty's answer with the missionaries, whom I beg your Majesty not to detain.

R. W. H.

*The Earl of Kimberley to Colonel Harley.*

Sir,

Downing Street, May 12, 1873.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 14th ultimo, forwarding a letter from the King of Ashantee, with others from Mr. Dawson, your special messenger to the King, as to the causes which have led to the invasion of the Protectorate by the Ashantees.

I agree with you that the facts reported in these letters show that the invasion was not attributable to any proceedings on your part.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) **KIMBERLEY.**



GOLD COAST.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting Ashantee  
Invasion.

(In continuation of Papers presented July 18, 1873.)  
(C. 804).

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command  
of Her Majesty. 1873.*

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